



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

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NIFA - Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities (AERC)

2015 RFA Informational Webinar

Conference Call # 888-844-9904

Access code: 964 93 98

March 11, 2015

Link to recorded webinar: tbd



Welcome to the AERC RFA Informational Webinar

- Program Leaders
 - Robbin Shoemaker
 - Fen Hunt
 - Denis Ebodaghe
 - Jill Auburn
- Program Specialist
 - Jason Boim
 - Lelan Dixon
 - Desiree Rucker



Webinar Outline

- Brief overview of AERC program
 - Grant types and eligibility
 - Overview of specific AERC program areas
 - *Please take note*
 - Points of contact
 - Questions
-
- *Please mute your phone during presentation!*
 - *Please use only your phone OR computer speakers—not both*



2015 AFRI Foundational Program RFA

Agricultural Economics & Rural Communities:

Overview

Letter of Intent (LOI)—NOT used this year.

Proposal/Application Deadline – **April 30, 2015, 5:00 p.m. ET**

Program Funds – Approximately \$15.5 million

Project types – (1) Research Only and (2) Integrated (multi-function)

- Four AERC Programs and Project types
- Research Projects (research only)
 - Economics, Markets and Trade
 - Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
 - Innovation for Rural Entrepreneurs and Communities
- Integrated Projects (research, extension, and/or education)
 - Small and Medium-Sized Farms
 - Innovation for Rural Entrepreneurs and Communities (IREC)
 - NOTE: IREC projects can be either Research only or Integrated



Grant Types and Eligibility

- Standard Grants—support original scientific research or integrated projects
 - \$500,000 max (including indirect costs) for up to 4 years.
- Conference Grants—support scientific meetings.
 - \$50,000 max; does not support salaries or indirect costs.
- Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants
 - (a) New Investigator—available to early career individuals (<5yrs), any institution
 - (b) Strengthening Grants--subject to institutional eligibility conditions
 - Types of Strengthening Grants
 - *Sabbatical Grants*—one year salary, travel and supplies
 - *Seed Grants*—collect preliminary data or perform preliminary research in support of potential future proposals.
 - Strengthening grant eligibility: EPSCoR states, small and mid-sized or minority-serving institutions, (see RFA).
- NIFA strongly encourages partnerships with minority serving institutions
 - Strengthen research, education or extension capacity

Please read RFA—it's all in there!



AERC Programs and Project Types

- Economics, Markets and Trade – *Research only*
 - Structure, function & performance of agricultural sector; Producer & consumer behavior; domestic & trade policy
- Environmental and Natural Resources Economics – *Research only*
 - Advances economic theories/tools/analyses in ecosystem valuation, nonmarket benefits; conservation policy; agro-environmental interaction
- Innovation for Rural Entrepreneurs and Communities – *Research or Integrated*
 - Design, analysis and implementation of strategies to enhance economic opportunities and well-being of rural business and communities
- Small & Medium-Sized Farms – *Integrated only*
 - Design, analysis and implementation of strategies to enhance economic opportunities and well-being of S&M-S farms



Integrated Programs

- Must include Research and one or two other functions:
 - Research:
 - develop new knowledge
 - Education:
 - formal classroom/laboratory instruction and practicum experience
 - Extension:
 - delivers science-based knowledge and informal educational programs to people, enabling them to make practical decisions.

- Eligibility: Project Director must come from public or private college or university, collaborators may be otherwise.

- Additional requirements—see RFA, particularly Part III.



New and Improved for 2015: Innovation for Rural Entrepreneurs and Communities

- Combines two previous integrated programs:
 - Entrepreneurship, Technology and Innovation
 - Rural Communities and Regional Development
 - Now becomes:
 - *Innovation for Rural Entrepreneurs and Communities*
- Benefits from combination:
 - Distinction between previous programs unclear to applicants
 - Adds “research only” option
 - Provides opportunity for foundational social sciences research, e.g., sociology, geography, etc.



Please take note...

- Letter of Intent—*Not* used in 2015
- Application Deadline is absolute: April 30, 2015, 5:00 p.m. ET
 - Submit proposal early to grants.gov to avoid missing deadline
- Ensure that your organization is registered with
 - grants.gov
 - System for Award Management (SAM),
 - Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number
- Budget narrative—Be transparent
- Letters of support—do not use form letters, letters of support should be current, specify the role of the individual or group supporting your endeavor
 - Letters cannot be from project team members
- IRB approval for projects involving human subjects

Refer to RFA, most questions are addressed there



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Links to abstracts of funded projects:

[http://cris.nifa.usda.gov/cgi-](http://cris.nifa.usda.gov/cgi-bin/starfinder/0?path=fastlink1.txt&id=anon&pass=&search=GC=A1601;A1621;A1631;A1641:A1651&format=WEBTITLESG)

[bin/starfinder/0?path=fastlink1.txt&id=anon&pass=&search=GC=A1601;A1621;
A1631;A1641:A1651&format=WEBTITLESG](http://cris.nifa.usda.gov/cgi-bin/starfinder/0?path=fastlink1.txt&id=anon&pass=&search=GC=A1601;A1621;A1631;A1641:A1651&format=WEBTITLESG)