

USDA-NIFA
Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields Program
(WAMS)
CFDA 10.318

Purpose:	WAMS supports research and Extension projects that increase the participation of women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in STEM fields. WAMS projects are purposed to improve the economic health and viability of rural communities by developing research and Extension initiatives that focus on new and emerging employment opportunities in STEM occupations.
Program Goal:	The purpose of this program is support research and Extension projects that increase the participation of women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in STEM fields. NIFA intends this program to address educational needs, as determined by each institution, within broadly defined area of food and agricultural sciences and related disciplines.
Eligibility/ Academic focus:	Eligible applicants are: (a) State agricultural experiment stations; (b) colleges and universities; (c) university research foundations; (d) other research institutions and organizations; (e) Federal agencies; (f) national laboratories; (g) private organizations or corporations; (h) individuals; or (i) any group consisting of two or more of the entities described in subparagraphs (a) through (h). Priority will be given to eligible institutions that carry out continuing programs funded by the Secretary.
Funding:	FY 2016 Funding ~ \$400,000 Regular Grant – up to \$100,000
RFA Posted/ App. Deadline	Proposed Publishing Date: February 29, 2016 Application Deadline: April 7, 2016
CFDA:	10.318
Priority Areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural & Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability and Change • Food Security and Hunger • Food Safety • Water for Agriculture • Childhood Obesity Prevention; and, • Sustainable Bioenergy.
Evaluation	Individual Grant Evaluation is required on the WAMS RFA
Stake Holder Input	Only Regular Grants requesting up to \$100,000 in the FY 2016 WAMS RFA.
Selected Abstracts:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This project from the University of Maryland seeks to develop an interactive web portal to simplify data entry for bees colony health metrics. To help reduce colony losses of remote commercial beekeepers, the last migratory farmers in the United States, it's proposed to build an accessible web portal for these remote stakeholders.</i> • <i>This project from the University of Tennessee supports an innovative summer camp to (1) expose and recruit females from rural communities to post-secondary education and/or careers in agriculture and natural resources STEM disciplines; (2) cultivate a climate that is free of gender biases and stereotypes in STEM disciplines; (3) and ultimately, enhance female faculty collaboration to further improve educational, research, and outreach efforts.</i>
Legislative Authority:	Section 7209 of the Agricultural Act of 2016. (Pub. L. 110-246). (7 U.S. C. section 5925 (e) (49).
Contact:	Dr. Saleia Afele-Faamuli, (202) 720 0384, sfaamuli@nifa.usda.gov Dr. Joyce Parker, (202) 401 4512, joyce.parker@nifa.usda.gov
Web Page:	http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/women-and-minorities-science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics-fields