

## 2016 Year in Review

April 17, 2017

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### Message from The Director



*Caroline Crocoll, Division Director*

Dear Colleagues:

USDA NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education, and extension to solve societal challenges. As a part of the NIFA Institute of Youth, Family, and Community, the Division of Family & Consumer Sciences (DFCS) supports and enhances this mission in a variety of critical ways.

As the population grows and diversifies, our quality of life increasingly depends on family well-being and community vitality as a shared priority for all Americans. DFCS programs strengthen families, farms, communities, and the economy by focusing on the human and community dimensions of food and agriculture. Working across NIFA Institutes and the Federal enterprise, the DFCS staff brings you many opportunities for partnerships, effective collaborations, and new resources to support the critical work you do.

Through our partnership in the Alliance for Family & Consumer Sciences, we seek to enhance the visibility and viability of family & consumer sciences to improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities in a diverse and global society. Comprised of 24 FCS-focused associations, honor societies, non-profit organizations, industry, and government groups, the Alliance represents more than 250,000 stakeholders and constituents working to make our families and communities strong.

2016 has been a great and highly productive year for DFCS. I extend much appreciation to the DFCS staff, our NIFA colleagues, and to all of you who do so much to make this nation and this world a better, healthier place.

Best regards-

Caroline E. Crocoll, Ph.D., CFCS

Director-Division of Family & Consumer Sciences

# About Division of Family & Consumer Sciences at NIFA/USDA

Through research, education, and extension, the [Division of Family & Consumer Sciences \(DCFS\)](#) provides resources that support community vitality and strengthen family well-being in partnership with the Land-Grant University and Cooperative Extension System. DCFS's work strengthens families, farms, communities, and the economy by focusing on the human and community aspects of food and agriculture and by addressing priority issues through scientific research and its application, strategic partnership with federal, state, and local agencies, extension education, and preparing the next generation of Family & Consumer Sciences professionals.

DCFS incorporates two broad thematic areas: Family-Well Being and Community Vitality. [Family Well-Being](#) focuses on traditional FCS programs in research, education, and extension including: Child and Family Development; Financial Capability; Adult Development and Aging; Health and Wellness; and Housing and Environmental Health.

Work in the area of [Community Vitality](#) focuses on advancing the socio-economic potential of rural/urban interdependence and addressing the critical needs of people and places through: Workforce Development, Community Resource and Economic Development; Rural Health and Safety; and Urban Extension.

Within the two thematic areas, DCFS seeks also to enhance current and future grantees' capacity to utilize best practices in program development and program performance measurement so that they may be more effective, efficient, and transparent in building evidence-base of research, education and extension activities in the areas of Community Vitality and Family Well-Being. In support of that goal, the Division promotes [research and evaluation](#) knowledge dissemination and capacity development within NIFA and across the Land-Grant system.

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## DFCS Team at a Glance



*From left to right: Beverly Samuel, Brent Elrod, Sylvia Montgomery, Ahlishia Shipley, I'eisha Williams, Caroline Crocoll, Georgette Ashton, Sydney Nowlin, Aida Balsano, and Shaniqua Briggs-Dubose.*

DFCS staff have expertise in a number of integrative, multidisciplinary fields of science, including Family & Consumer Sciences, Economics, Education, Rural Sociology, Psychology, Human Development, Program Development and Evaluation, as well as in application of these sciences in research, education, and extension.

During 2016, DFCS welcomed one new Program Specialist, [Sydney Nowlin](#). Ms. Nowlin provides support to grants programs, partnerships, and stakeholder communication within the community vitality thematic area, as well as assists with DFCS' efforts in the areas of research, program performance measurement, and evaluation.

The Division also saw the departure of Dr. Beth Walter Honadle who retired from NIFA on August 31, 2016.

At the conclusion of 2016, DFCS staff, led by Division Director Dr. Caroline Crocoll, was composed of four (4) National Program Leaders, two (2) Program Specialists, two (2) Program Assistants and one (1) Supervisory Program Assistant.

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## DFCS Portfolio at a Glance

During 2016, the DFCS portfolio was the third largest portfolio at NIFA in terms of grant dollars. At over \$180 million, the portfolio encompassed approximately 13% of NIFA funding. DFCS provided oversight for 10 Knowledge Areas, 36 grants programs, 358 capacity projects, 20 multi-state research groups, 10 interagency agreements, and four (4) States' Plans of Work and Annual Reports. In addition, DFCS staff served as liaisons to 12 Federal/National groups and over 20 FCS Stakeholder entities.

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## DFCS Administered Grant Programs - Highlights

[AgrAbility](#) (a.k.a. Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities) increases the likelihood that farmers with disabilities and their family members who are engaged in production agriculture maintain optimal production and experience enhanced quality of life. The program supports collaboration between the Cooperative Extension System (CES) and private non-profit disability organizations to provide farm safety education, assistive technology solutions, networking, and marketing. In 2016, NIFA invested over [\\$4.1 million to support 20 State AgrAbility Projects and one National project](#).

[Extension Risk Management Education Partnerships \(ERME\)](#) provides U.S. agricultural producers and their families with the knowledge, skills, and tools to make informed risk management decisions and enhance profitability. The program operates through four regional [Extension Risk Management Education Centers, with support from the Digital ERME Center](#). The Centers conduct the ERME Competitive Grants Program which provides funding to addresses agricultural risk in the areas of production, marketing, financial, legal, and human well-being. In 2016, NIFA invested close to [\\$4.5 million through ERME awards to support 62 projects](#).

[Farm Business Management and Benchmarking Program \(FBMB\)](#) provides funds to improve the farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers, and establish and maintain a national, publicly available farm financial management database to support improved farm management. In 2016, NIFA allocated [\\$1.3 million toward FBMB efforts](#).

**New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE) Program** increases the capacity of CES to upgrade the technology needed to deliver science-based educational resources from land-grant and other partner institutions to the public through delivery of a state-of-the-art technology and software applications, high-quality leaders and staff, training for an exceptional CES workforce, legally binding contractual and financial instruments, and comprehensive evaluation, communications, and marketing activities. In 2016 NIFA invested close to \$1.5 million through NTAE.

**Rural Health and Safety Education (RHSE) Program** supports non-formal health education projects that provide individuals and families in rural communities with timely health information to increase motivation for healthy living, promote access to health and educational activities, and provide training for health service volunteers and providers. Projects are tailored to life stages, cultural differences, health literacy, and occupational and environmental circumstances. In 2016, NIFA invested **\$1.4 million in support of RHSE projects.**

**Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program – Community & Rural Development (8.6) Topic Area** provides supports technological innovation in the private sector. SBIR strengthens small businesses as they help meet federal research and development needs, helps small businesses bring their innovations to market, and promotes program participation of women-owned and economically disadvantaged small businesses. In 2016, NIFA invested **\$1.7 million in SBIR Rural Development Topic Area projects.**

**Smith-Lever Special Needs Competitive Grant Program (SLSNCGP)** supports innovative, education-based approaches to addressing emergency preparedness, responses, mitigation, and recovery from natural and human-made disasters. In 2016, NIFA invested **more than \$460,000 in SLSNCGP projects** to respond to needs for Zika preparedness, animal biosecurity, livestock and agriculture risk mitigation, and youth emergency preparedness in general.

**Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification (YFSEC) Program** responds to the need for alignment between youth vocational agricultural program curricula and youth agricultural safety and health standards. Over the past three years, NIFA's efforts in this area have focused on supporting development of a unified approach to a national farm safety education and curricula-certification program for youth. In 2016, NIFA invested **\$300,000 to support Safety in Agriculture for Youth (SAY) project** through the YFSEC program.

**Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative (FADI)** supports the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) through a cooperative agreement to Purdue University for the coordination of disaster education. EDEN's mission is to reduce the impact of disasters through science-based education. EDEN improves the nation's ability to mitigate, prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from natural and human-made disasters. In 2016, NIFA provided more than **\$370,000 to EDEN to help address food and agriculture defense.**

**Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDCs)** link the research and educational outreach capacity from inside and outside universities to help address a wide range of rural development needs. RRDCs receive funding from NIFA and then leverage that funding several times over to offer a vast array of programs. In 2016, NIFA **invested \$950,400 in RRDCs.**

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## Capacity Grants – Activity

NIFA has three primary funding mechanisms: (a) competitive grants; (b) non-competitive grants and agreements; and (c) capacity grants. Capacity grants, formerly known as Formula Grants, are in place to ensure the Land-Grant University System maintains the capacity to conduct research and Extension activities. In 2016, DFCS staff provided administrative and programmatic oversight for **358** capacity projects. Majority of these projects span across one or more of the 10 [DFCS' Knowledge Areas \(KAs: 601, 607, 608, 723, 724, 801-805\)](#). Approximately 40% of capacity projects in DFCS portfolio aligned with more than one KA (some DFCS and others non-DFCS KAs), exemplifying interdisciplinary nature of the work performed through capacity funds. To access, filter, and export data on NIFA funding by DFCS KAs, go to [NIFA Data Gateway](#).

A new DFCS KA for Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery was proposed and received final approval from NIFA. More information will be forthcoming about how the new KA improves program planning in the Plan of Work and reporting in the Annual Accomplishment Report.

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## Program Enhancement Projects

Annually, NIFA funds a small, select group of Program Enhancement Projects put forward by NIFA staff. These projects must provide insight and direction to current programs or helps to delineate future programmatic directions, align with NIFA Strategic Plan, have achievable outputs/outcomes that will make difference, seek and incorporate stakeholder input; be led or co-led by NIFA staff; and be completed within 12 months. In 2016, two DFCS Program Enhancement Projects were approved and provided \$15,000 each toward implementation. The two projects are: [Assessing System Gaps in Extension Education Evaluation Resources](#), and [National Extension Sustainability Strategic Planning](#). Final reports from both projects will be available in 2017.

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## Multi-State Research Groups

Multi-state research program at NIFA enables research on high-priority topics among the State Agricultural Experiment States in partnership with NIFA, the Cooperative Extension Service, and other research institutions and agencies. DFCS staff serve as NIFA liaisons to and provide oversight for [20 multi-state research groups doing work in the areas of family well-being and community vitality](#)

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## Interagency and Cooperative Agreements

In 2016 DFCS continued to promote excellence in research, education, and outreach that fosters family well-being and community-vitality through Interagency and Cooperative Agreements, such as:

1. [Asian American Pacific Islander Resource Center](#) (with USDA Rural Development Office, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, and USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service; \$300,000 invested since 2014);
  2. [Community Assessment & Education to Promote Behavioral Health Planning & Evaluation](#) (with HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; \$7 million to date);
  3. [Healthy Homes Partnership](#) (with Department of Housing and Urban Development; \$250,000 in 2016);
  4. [Local Food Resource Mapping](#), and [Agriculture Marketing Service Training & Technical Assistance](#) (with USDA Agricultural Marketing Service; \$900,000 invested since 2014);
  5. [Military Family Support Programs](#) (with DoD, AF, Army, and DoDEA; \$15.6 million in 2016 alone); and
  6. [Stronger Economies Together](#) (with USDA Rural Development Office; \$280,000 in 2016).
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## Family & Consumer Sciences Education

A considerable amount of synergy exists between NIFA goals, and strategic efforts to increase the number of professionals prepared to enter into FCS educator roles. NIFA's Division of Family & Consumer Sciences supports several [ongoing efforts to promote educator preparation](#) for the next generation of family & consumer sciences professionals. In addition, NIFA provides [professional development information and opportunities](#) for family and consumer sciences faculty, educators, and researchers in the field to assist them in remaining connected to current and emerging resources, colleagues, the profession, and society.

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## Master FCS Volunteer Program

DFCS continued support for the [Master FCS Volunteer Program](#). The program is a national volunteer training and engagement initiative focused specifically on core areas of Extension FCS. The training increases the capacity of Extension volunteers to help people make informed decisions, enhance their quality of life, and strengthen resiliency of their families and communities. Over 30 states have utilized the program in training volunteers, staff, interns, and students. Access all materials online or to obtain a complimentary toolkit for your state, contact Barb Allen, [blallen@montana.edu](mailto:blallen@montana.edu).

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## Involvement with Other Federal and National Partnerships and FCS Stakeholder Groups

Over the course of 2016, DFCS staff interfaced with 13 federal and national groups, as well as 20 FCS stakeholder groups, as USDA/NIFA representatives around issues of importance to family well-being

and community vitality. DFCS involvement with these groups took place in a number of different settings (face-to-face meetings, phone calls, webinars/webcasts, regional and national conferences, and site visits), with DFCS staff contributing as hosts, conveners, facilitators, presenters, members of planning committees, and as USDA/NIFA official liaisons. As a result of the Division's involvement, policy recommendations were made, interagency agreements formed, and opportunities for collaborations and engagement that support Social and Behavioral research, education and Extension were shared.

## **Federal and National Groups**

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Caregiver Workgroup
- Coalition of Organizations for Disaster Education
- Federal Interagency Workgroup on Child Abuse and Neglect
- Financial Literacy Education Commission
- Healthy Homes Interagency Partnership
- Let's Move! Child Care Federal Partner Team
- President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks for Children
- National Health Outreach Conference Planning Committee
- Secretary's Opioids Working Group
- State Energy Extension Partnership
- White House Council on Indoor Air Quality
- White House Taskforce on Resilient Design Construction
- Older Individuals Collaborative

## **FCS Stakeholder Groups**

- Board on Human Sciences
- ESCOP Social Science Subcommittee
- ECOP Civil Discourse Team
- Family & Consumer Sciences Leaders
- Council of Administrators of FCS
- American Association of FCS
- FCS Alliance
- Extension Disaster Education Network
- Regional Rural Development Centers
- National Alliance for Caregiving
- Community Economic Development Leaders

- National Extension Dining with Diabetes Working Group
  - Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America
  - Extension Education Evaluation Topical Interest Group of American Evaluation Association
  - Housing Education and Research Association
  - eXtension Board of Directors
  - Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People
  - National Extension Relationship and Marriage Education Network
  - Robert Wood Johnson, Culture of Health
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## 2016 FCS Annual State Program Leaders Meeting



*Picture from 2016 FCS State Leaders Annual Meeting*

[The 2016 Family & Consumer Sciences Annual State Program Leaders Meeting](#) was held on September 14-15, 2016 during the National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Annual Conference in Big Sky, Montana. Fifty-five State FCS Program Leaders attended the 2-day meeting, which focused on all aspects of health. Each of the four Cooperative Extension Regions provided updates on their efforts in health-related outreach. Resources from the meeting can be seen [here](#).

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## Visiting Scholars

DFCS' Visiting Scholars Program advances collaboration between NIFA and our Land Grant university partners. The program provides an opportunity for faculty and administrators to enhance their growth while working with federal-level colleagues. In 2016, DFCS hosted [Dr. Alison Davis](#), Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Executive Director, Community & Economic Development in Kentucky at the University of Kentucky, from 24 October to 4 November, 2016. Hosted by Brent Elrod, National Program Leader, Dr. Davis met with NIFA program staff and other federal agency representatives to explore collaborative opportunities. In addition, Dr. Davis developed and launched a survey of the Southern Region Community and Resource Development (CRD) programming area to

create a baseline that captures (a) numbers of dedicated full-time employees, (b) how state CRD program are funded, and (c) CRDs' three most successful community development programs. The data will be used to identify pathways for potential expansion of CRD programming in the Southern region.

NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education, and extension and promotes transformative discoveries that solve societal challenges.



The Year in Review is intended to provide useful information to colleagues in the land-grant university system, Cooperative Extension, and stakeholder organizations. If you have any questions about the report, please contact [Sylvia Montgomery](#).