

# Frequently Asked Questions: Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative

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## QUESTIONS FOR AG2PI FY 2020

### What is the background for starting AG2PI?

The 2018 Farm Bill directed NIFA to establish a new competitive grant program to support research concerning genomes and phenomes of crops and animals of importance to the agriculture sector of the United States. The Farm Bill authorized up to \$40,000,000 in discretionary funding annually for 2019 through 2023. The U.S. Congress appropriated \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2020 for this effort.

### What Is the Intent of AG2PI in FY 2020?

This Request for Applications (RFA) is not intended to support of specific research projects. Collaborative projects must enable genome to phenome collaboration across agricultural crops and animals. This RFA is primarily for **coordination**, where the goals are shared across individual species (e.g., corn, wheat, rice, cattle, swine, poultry).

### How many awards will be made and what is the award size?

AG2PI anticipates making one award for up to \$960,000.

### What types of proposed activities should be included in AG2PI applications?

AG2PI applications must be for coordination projects where each of the communities conduct individual or joint workshops to develop publicly available white papers to identify gaps, needs, collaboration and communication challenges among crops and animals to advance the genome to phenome field. Topics may include phenotyping technologies, transdisciplinary training, genomics, datasets, databases, and software needs, to advance the genome to phenome area. Applications are expected to request

funds mainly for coordination activities. Collaboration and coordination activities must be supported using relevant literature from areas such as the science of team science and are to explicitly incorporate methods for updating best practices during the project. Multi-way partnerships with minority-serving institutions are strongly encouraged. Projects must aim to support development of community data management standard operating procedures for future research activities and full integration of [FAIR](#) standards. Project teams are encouraged to consider how communities can effectively and responsibly develop pathways for rapid dissemination of new findings within the genome to phenome community. Projects are expected to develop and support ongoing updating and dissemination of community agreements on appropriate metrics for measuring improvement of genome to phenome prediction.

**Note:** Research only applications are **NOT** the intent of the program this year and may be returned without review. Applicants with research-only projects should consider the various funding opportunities in the [Agriculture and Food Research Initiative](#).

### **What can funds be used for?**

Examples of suitable use of funds include the cost of meeting organization, meeting facilitators, use of tools to manage virtual/web collaborations, and travel. While most funds are expected to be used for coordination activities some funds can be used to support community needs for research.

Plans for collaboration and coordination should be justified using appropriate literature on collaboration best practices and science of team science and supported with appropriate budget components. Funds for curation, storage, dissemination, and management (including funds for project managers and community coordinators) may also be included.

Applicants should consider including in their budget an administrative project manager at the lead Project Director's institution to facilitate day-to-day operations, planning and strong coordination of team members.

### **What should be included in the management plan?**

Applications must include two different sets of management plans, one for the collaborative team and one for an advisory group as appendices.

- Budgeted Project Management Plan and Timeline
  - Added to the application as an appendix in PDF format.
  - Ensures efficient functioning of the collaborative team.
  - This plan should include an organizational chart, a description of how the project will be governed, intellectual property will be managed, and identification of short-, medium- and long-term metrics that will be used in project evaluation, the expectations for each team member, a mechanism whereby progress metrics can be evaluated, and how the project will

coordinate, complement and/or link to existing programs or projects. The management plan must include a strategy to become sustainable by the end of the project period.

- The administrative timeline should align with the activities in the management plan. Inclusion of milestones to be achieved with clearly identified key personnel involved in each of the objectives during each time segment of the project is particularly helpful.
- Advisory Group Budgeted Plan and Timeline
  - Added to the application as an appendix in PDF format.
  - A budgeted plan and timeline which describes an advisory group of principal stakeholders and scientists relevant to the proposed project to assess and evaluate the quality, potential outcomes, and impacts, and how they could function effectively to support the goals and objectives.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Who should I contact if I have more questions related to AG2PI?**

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