



AFRI's Food and Agricultural Non-formal Education Priority Area FY2021 Webinar

This webinar will be recorded and posted on:

<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/afri-education-workforce-development>

- We will begin shortly -

Adjust your
Screen View here

Participants
will be muted
during the
webinar

Use chat to send
questions to the
Presenters



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FY2021 AFRI Food and Agricultural Non-formal Education Priority Area

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BIOENERGY, CLIMATE,
AND ENVIRONMENT

FOOD PRODUCTION
AND SUSTAINABILITY

YOUTH, FAMILY,
AND COMMUNITY

FOOD SAFETY
AND NUTRITION

INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMS

USDA NIFA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

February 26th, 2021



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The NIFA logo is positioned in the top right corner of the slide. It features the letters "NIFA" in a white, sans-serif font, set against a background of stylized green hills and a blue sky.

Who are we?

- Lead federal agency providing extramural funding for food and agricultural sciences
- Restructured through the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.
- Mission
 - Agricultural research, education, and extension
- Vision
 - Catalyze transformative discoveries, education, and engagement to address agricultural challenges

Discovery

Translation

Innovation

Solution

NIFA Programs Cover Many Topics



Advanced Technologies

- Bioenergy
- Biotechnology
- Nanotechnology



Animals

- Animal Breeding
- Animal Health
- Animal Production
- Aquaculture



Business and Economics

- Markets and Trade
- Natural Resource Economics
- Small Business



Natural Resources

- Air
- Forests
- Grasslands and Rangelands
- Soil
- Water



Education

- Minority Serving Institutions
- Teaching and Learning
- Workforce Development



Environment

- Climate Change
- Ecosystems
- Invasive Pests and Diseases



Farming and Ranching

- Agricultural Safety
- Agriculture Technology
- Farmer Education
- Organic Agriculture
- Small and Family Farms



People

- Community Vitality
- Family Well-Being
- Youth



Food Science

- Food Quality
- Food Safety



Health

- Nutrition
- Obesity
- Wellness



International

- Global Engagement
- Global Food Security



Plants

- Crop Production
- Pest Management
- Plant Breeding
- Plant Health



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Agriculture and Food Research Initiative's Education
and Workforce Development Priority Areas

QUICK OVERVIEW



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Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Competitive Grants Program

Funds research, education, extension, and integrated grants that address key problems of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of agriculture, including ...



AFRI's Education and Workforce Development

- Seeks to address a projected shortfall of qualified graduates in the agricultural, food, and renewable natural resources sectors of the U.S. economy
- Has four overarching goals:
 - Growing Agricultural Literacy and Workforce Development for the Future (PDAL, ALE)
 - Training or Retraining of Agricultural Workers (AWT)
 - Developing Pathways (FANE & REEU)
 - Advancing Science (Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellows)
- Anticipated available funding: approx. \$45 million per budget year
- Request for Applications
 - <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-education-workforce-development>





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AFRI Farm Bill Priorities



PLANT HEALTH,
PRODUCTION,
AND PLANT
PRODUCTS



ANIMAL HEALTH,
PRODUCTION,
AND ANIMAL
PRODUCTS



FOOD SAFETY,
NUTRITION, AND
HEALTH



BIOENERGY,
NATURAL
RESOURCES, AND
ENVIRONMENT



AGRICULTURE
SYSTEMS AND
TECHNOLOGY



AGRICULTURE
ECONOMICS AND
RURAL
COMMUNITIES

EWD projects must support at least one priority area.

FY2021 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Education and Workforce Development (EWD) Priority Areas

- Food and Agriculture Non-Formal Education (FANE & CEEY, A7801)
- Professional Development for Agricultural Literacy (PDAL, A7501)
- Agricultural Workforce Training (AWT, A7601)
- Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU, A7401)
- Pre-doctoral Fellowships (A7101)
- Postdoctoral Fellowships (A7201)
- Agricultural Literacy Evaluation (ALE & OCPD, A7702) *only in FY2021*



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Purpose of Food and Agricultural Non-Formal Education Priority Area (A7801), FANE

FANE: Support content development and activities for **non-formal education to foster development of technology-savvy youth**.

- Examples: data science, artificial intelligence, automation, robotics, gene editing, and biotechnology

Projects must develop activities that cultivate interest and competencies in **STEM and in food and agricultural sciences** and support at least one of the **six Farm Bill Priority areas of AFRI**.



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Purpose of Food and Agricultural Non-Formal Education Priority Area (A7801), CEEY

CEEY: Applications are solicited for a project that **promotes non-formal educational civic engagement experiences for 4-H youth in grades 10-12th (15-19 years old)** such that participants create positive social change in their communities.

A single grant will be awarded to an institution to **coordinate and execute the delivery of the annual National 4-H Conference** in consultation with USDA NIFA program staff.



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AFRI EWD Food and Agricultural Non-formal Education
(FANE/CEEY) Priority Area (A7801)

PROGRAM GUIDANCE



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Eligibility



Eligible Applicants for Single Function Projects



Single Function

Project Type:

Education

Extension

- State Agricultural Experiment Stations
- Colleges or universities, including junior colleges offering associate degrees or higher
- University research foundations
- Other research institutions or organizations
- Federal agencies
- National laboratories
- Private organizations or corporations
- U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents
- Any group consisting of two or more entities identified above



Eligible Applicants for **INTEGRATED** Projects

RFA
Pages
14 & 30



4-year Colleges and
Universities



2 & 4 year 1994
Land-Grant Institutions



2 & 4 year Hispanic-
Serving Agricultural
Colleges and
Universities



Grant Types

Standard

- Everyone eligible to apply

Strengthening Standard

- Minority-Serving Institutions (>50% minority)
- Small & Midsize Institutions (<17,500 students)
- EPSCOR States

No Equipment Grants Offered

Program Area Priority

Food and Agricultural Non-formal Education (FANE) applications must address the following:

- Develop **content and activities to enhance youth's understanding** of gene editing, biotechnology, data science, artificial intelligence, robotics, automation, and other technologies that enhance the food and agricultural enterprise and prepares them to help meet the needs of the future workforce through enhanced non-formal education modules.
- Develop **outreach materials** that clearly communicate the demonstrated benefits of agricultural technologies and biotechnology.
- Should complement and build upon programs that have successfully **demonstrated positive youth development strategies and outcomes** (i.e. 4-H programming, Agriculture in the Classroom, FDA's Agricultural Biotechnology Education and Outreach Initiative, etc.).
- **Involve youth in the design, execution, and evaluation of activities** that lead to the development of consumer-friendly content that builds public confidence in the safe use of biotechnology in agriculture and the food system.

Program Area Priority Cont.

Civic Engagement Experience for Youth (CEEY) applications must address the following:

- Develop, organize, and execute the **National 4-H Conference** on an annual basis.
- Provide a **clearinghouse** for National 4-H Conference planning outputs, data, and documents as well as products and outputs of FANE funded projects.
- Conduct a **formal assessment** of the National 4-H Conference and its impact on youth that produces curricula, trainings, and other offerings to be used in future conferences and events.
- Enhance **access to participation** in National 4-H Conference to **underrepresented youth and communities** by utilizing at least 25% of the grant funds to support attendance costs of youth from these communities.
- **Connect participants** with 4-H leaders, youth development practitioners, Cooperative Extension faculty, land-grant university administrators, government officials, researchers, policy-makers, 4-H alum, business leaders and other partners.



Cost Share or Matching

- Matching: ONLY required if project is commodity specific and not of national scope
- Matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.



Budgeting: FANE Basics

- **No Equipment Only Grants**
- What can go in the budget?
 - Participant stipends and travel
 - Provider personnel salaries
 - Software
 - Curricula
- Total project budgets must not exceed \$750,000 total per project for project periods of three or four years.

Budgeting: CEEY Basics

- **No Equipment Only Grants**
- What can go in the budget?
 - Youth cost of attendance and subsistence (travel, housing, meals)
 - Speaker honorariums
 - Provider personnel salaries
 - Event planning supplies
 - Facilitator and staff training
 - Evaluation
- Total project budgets must not exceed \$1,000,000 total per project for project periods of four or five years.
- **At least 25% of the grant funds need to support attendance costs of youth from underrepresented communities.**

The Request for Applications (RFA)



FANE/CEEY's RFA is available online at: <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-education-workforce-development>

Applications are due 5pm (EST) Tuesday, **May 6, 2021**, submitted through Grants.gov

Proposals per Institution: No Limit

FANE: \$750,000 total per project for project periods of three or four years.

CEEY: \$1,000,000 total per project for project periods of four or five years.

- CEEY anticipates to make up to 1 award.



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AFRI EWD Food and Agricultural Non-formal Education (FANE/CEEY) Program

HOW TO APPLY



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Step 1: Read the Request for Applications

WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV



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ABOUT TOOLS DATA GATEWAY BUDGET & LEGISLATION CONTACT



TOPICS

PROGRAMS

GRANTS

NEWSROOM

IMPACTS

RESOURCES





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Step 1: Read the Request for Applications Cont.

<https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-education-workforce-development>

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Education and Workforce Development

Program: [Agriculture and Food Research Initiative \(AFRI\)](#) | [AFRI Education and Workforce Development](#) | [Educational Scholarship Programs](#) | [Plant Breeding, Genetics & Genomics Programs](#) | [Weed Science](#) | [Animal Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics](#) | [Plant Health and Production and Plant Products Program Area](#) | [Animal Reproduction](#) | [Animal Health](#) | [Organic Agriculture Program](#)

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Education and Workforce Development (EWD) focuses on developing the next generation of research, education, and extension professionals in the food and agricultural sciences. In FY 2021, EWD invites applications in seven areas: agricultural workforce training; professional development for agricultural literacy; training of undergraduate students in research and extension; fellowships for predoctoral candidates; fellowships for postdoctoral scholars, a new program for food and agricultural non-formal education, and a FY 2021-only program for evaluation of NIFA's agricultural literacy and workforce development portfolio. See EWD Request for Applications for specific details.

APPLY FOR GRANT 

VIEW RFA

Who is Eligible to Apply: 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, For-profit Organizations Other Than Small Businesses, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Individuals, Native American Tribal Orgs, not Federally recognized Tribal Governments, Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS status, other than Institutions of Higher Ed, Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) IRS status, other than Institutions of Higher Ed, Other or Additional Information (See below), Private Institutions of Higher Ed, Small Business, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, State Controlled Institutions of Higher Ed



Documents in Part IV – C of the RFA

USDA United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture

HOME > RESOURCES > INSTRUCTIONS > AFRI REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS RESOURCES

AFRI Request for Applications Resources

Friday, July 17, 2020

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) streamlined the content of its Requests for Applications (RFA). In lieu of including long sections of general information in every RFA, the RFAs contain a reference link to this resources page. Applicants must review the relevant information and application guidance in the links below carefully in order to prepare a complete application. Failure to comply with this guidance may result in return of applications without review.

AWARD INFORMATION

- AFRI Grant Types
- AFRI Project Types

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

- Table 1. Most Successful Institutions
- Table 2. Least Successful Institutions
- Figure 1. Flow Chart for Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) - Strengthening Grant Eligibility

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

- AFRI Letter of Intent Instructions (only relevant to specific program areas that require a letter of intent; see RFAs for more information)
- FY 2020 Education and Workforce Development RFA Additional Information for Part IV, C
- FY 2021-2022 Foundational and Applied Science RFA Additional Information for Part IV, C
- FY 2019 Sustainable Agricultural Systems RFA Additional Information for Part IV, C
- Data Management Plan
 - Data Management Plan Instructions
 - Frequently Asked Questions about Data Management Plans
- NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide Location

APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

- AFRI Review Criteria

OTHER INFORMATION

Prospective applicants should review each RFA to explore all the opportunities available to them.

- [AFRI Requests for Applications](#)

Attachment

- [AFRI Grant Types](#) (223.69 KB)
- [AFRI Letter of Intent Instructions](#) (188.33 KB)
- [AFRI Project Types](#) (34.49 KB)
- [Table 1 Most Successful Institutions](#) (150.87 KB)
- [Table 2 Least Successful Institutions](#) (132.79 KB)
- [FASE Strengthening Grant Eligibility Flow Chart](#) (124.78 KB)
- [AFRI SAS RFA Additional Information for Part IV C](#) (278.8 KB)
- [2021-2022 Foundational and Applied Science RFA Additional Information for Part IV, C](#) (340.29 KB)
- [AFRI Review Criteria](#) (264.26 KB)
- [AFRI EWD RFA Additional Information for Part-IV-C](#) (680.08 KB)

Resource Type: [Instructions](#)

OTHER INFORMATION

Prospective applicants should review each RFA to explore all the opportunities available to them.

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- [AFRI EWD RFA Additional Information for Part-IV-C](#) (680.08 KB)

Resource Type: [Instructions](#)

The following details Part IV, C of the Education and Workforce Development Request for Applications for FY 2021 and FY 2022

January 19, 2021: Corrected predoctoral academic standing requirement year (page 58).

Note that the required content and forms for applications vary by the program area priority described in the RFA. Along with the information on this first page, see the appropriate program area priority section for relevant details:

C. Content and Form of Application Submission	1
Agricultural Workforce Training (AWT) Grants	2
Food and Agriculture Non-formal Education (FANE)	13
Professional Development for Agricultural Literacy (PDAL)	27
Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU).....	38
Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellowships	52
Agricultural Literacy and Workforce Development Evaluation	66





Application Details

RFA: Part IV-
C linked
document

- Application documents must be in **Portable Document Format (PDF) to be accepted by NIFA**, including your narrative and budget justifications.
 - **Grants.gov may allow other formats, but NIFA does not**
 - **Do not use third-party PDF builders**
 - **Pay special attention to Part IV-C and the 2021-2022 EWD RFA**
- Project Narrative is **10 page limit** and will be strictly enforced
 - **Single Spaced**
 - 12 point Times New Roman font
 - Includes text, figures and tables
 - Tables may be single spaced



Project Narrative - FANE

RFA: Part
IV-C linked
document

- Describe within 10 pages:
 - **Overview & Justification:** Description of objectives, justify the need
 - **Extension Environment:** Location, who is involved, key personnel, partnerships, host sites
 - **Approach:** Youth involvement, outreach materials development, plan of operation and methodology
 - **Project Evaluation & Reporting:** Timeline, approach for tracking, Youth-centered learning outcomes
 - **Expected Outputs:** Number of products, underrepresented youth, youth participants, indirect youth served
 - *Expected Outputs table does not count against the 10-page limit of the Project Narrative.*
- **Applications exceeding the page limitation will be returned without review.**



Project Narrative - CEEY

RFA: Part IV-
C linked
document

- Describe within 10 pages:
 - **Overview:** Statement, activities taking place
 - **Objectives and Outcomes:** Objectives, goals, and outcomes
 - **Approach:** Description of activities, mandatory activity, pitfalls, evaluation plan
 - **Personnel and Resources :** Key project personnel involvement, institutional resources and facilities, personnel needs, collaborating organizations, and transferability
 - **Expected Outputs:** Number of underrepresented youth, youth participants
 - *Expected Outputs table does not count against the 10-page limit of the Project Narrative.*
- **Applications exceeding the page limitation will be returned without review.**



FANE and CEEY



Both FANE and CEEY should include:

- **Bibliography & References Cited** – No Page Limit
- **Facilities & Other Resources** – No Page Limit
- **Equipment** – No Page Limit

Pay special attention to Part IV-C and the 2021-2022 EWD RFA

- <https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/AFRI-EWD-RFA-Additional-Information-for-Part-IV-C-011921-508.pdf>



Other Attachments (FANE/CEEY)

- **Key Personnel Roles** – 2 Page Limit
- **Logic Model** – 2 Page Limit (Required for all integrated project applications)
- **Management Plan** – 3 Page Limit (Required for all integrated project applications)
- **Data Management Plan** – 2 Page Limit
- **Documentation of Collaboration** – No Page limit
- **Minority-Serving Institution Documentation**
- **Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants**



Notes: Grants.Gov

First-Time Applicants: Be Advised:

Grants.gov requires you to have a DUNS and SAM identification. Getting these credentials may take a few months.

If this is your first time applying for a federal grant, make sure your institution is capable a submitting through Grants.gov.

Also, make sure you have the ability to save and create documents as Adobe PDFs. NIFA systems will not process other documents.

For technical assistance contact grants.gov applicant support. **Don't wait until the week applications are due!!**



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AFRI EWD Food and Agricultural Non-formal Education (FANE/CEEY)
Program

PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCESS

Evaluation Criteria (FANE/CEEY)

- Merit of the Application for Science
 - Objectives, approach, data management, involvement of youth in design, extension leads, impact
- Qualifications of Project Personnel, Adequacy of Facilities, and Project Management
 - Roles of key personnel, Institutional capacity, personnel competence, clear plan for project management
 - **NOTE: CEEY** - *a clear plan is articulated for the evaluation and formal assessment of the National 4-H Conference and its impact on youth that produces curricula, trainings, and other offerings to be used in future conferences and events.*
- Project Relevance
 - Supportive of FANE/CEEY goals, methods for evaluating success, sustainability, stakeholder involvement.



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Ten things you should consider while writing a proposal

GRANT WRITING TIPS

1. Find the right program for you and your idea

- ◆ Main purpose of program (funding priorities) – does idea fit in mainstream or on the fringe?
- ◆ Don't waste time applying to the wrong program... square pegs don't fit in round holes!
- ◆ Eligibility restrictions ?

2A. Assemble an Effective Team and Develop the Proposal Together

- ◆ Include ALL Expertise necessary to complete the project.
- ◆ Don't start writing until all team members are identified.
- ◆ Share responsibility of writing but edit into a single voice.

2B. Assemble an Effective Team and Develop the Proposal Together

- ◆ Who will be responsible for project activities?
- ◆ If the project involves extension activities:
 - ◆ Who are the stakeholders?
 - ◆ What roles will they play in project development and implementation?
- ◆ Who will evaluate the project?

3. Become a “student” of the RFA

- ◆ Understand the main goals of the program
- ◆ Understand the instructions outlined in the RFA on how to assemble the proposal
- ◆ **Read the RFA !!!**

4. Develop a timeline for proposal preparation

- ◆ Develop timeline that allows for completion of proposal
 - ◆ 2 weeks before submission deadline
- ◆ If you rush preparation of the proposal, it will show
 - ◆ Reviewers will notice and not be kind

5. Understand criteria for evaluating proposals

- ◆ RFA normally contains the criteria that will be used by reviewers to evaluate your proposal
- ◆ Understand these criteria BEFORE you begin preparing your proposal - provides better understanding of where to put greatest efforts during proposal preparation

6. Understand review process and reviewers

- ◆ Reviewer may be assigned 10 to 20 proposals
- ◆ Following directions in RFA helps reviewers
 - ◆ not doing so makes them work harder than needed
- ◆ Preparing proposal logically and clearly helps reviewers
 - ◆ not doing so makes them work harder than needed

7. Write the proposal logically and clearly

- ◆ Organize proposal according to outline in RFA or evaluation criteria, whichever is most logical
- ◆ Following the prescribed format makes reviewers happy and more generous
- ◆ **Do not make reviewers work harder**

8. Prepare budget with a strong justification

- ◆ Unreasonable budgets hurt proposals – create skeptics within reviewer ranks
- ◆ Keep budgets within guidelines in the RFA – they are judged on degree of reasonableness
- ◆ Being very under budget does not increase your chances!!

9. Obtain critical input from experienced and successful colleagues

Someone who....

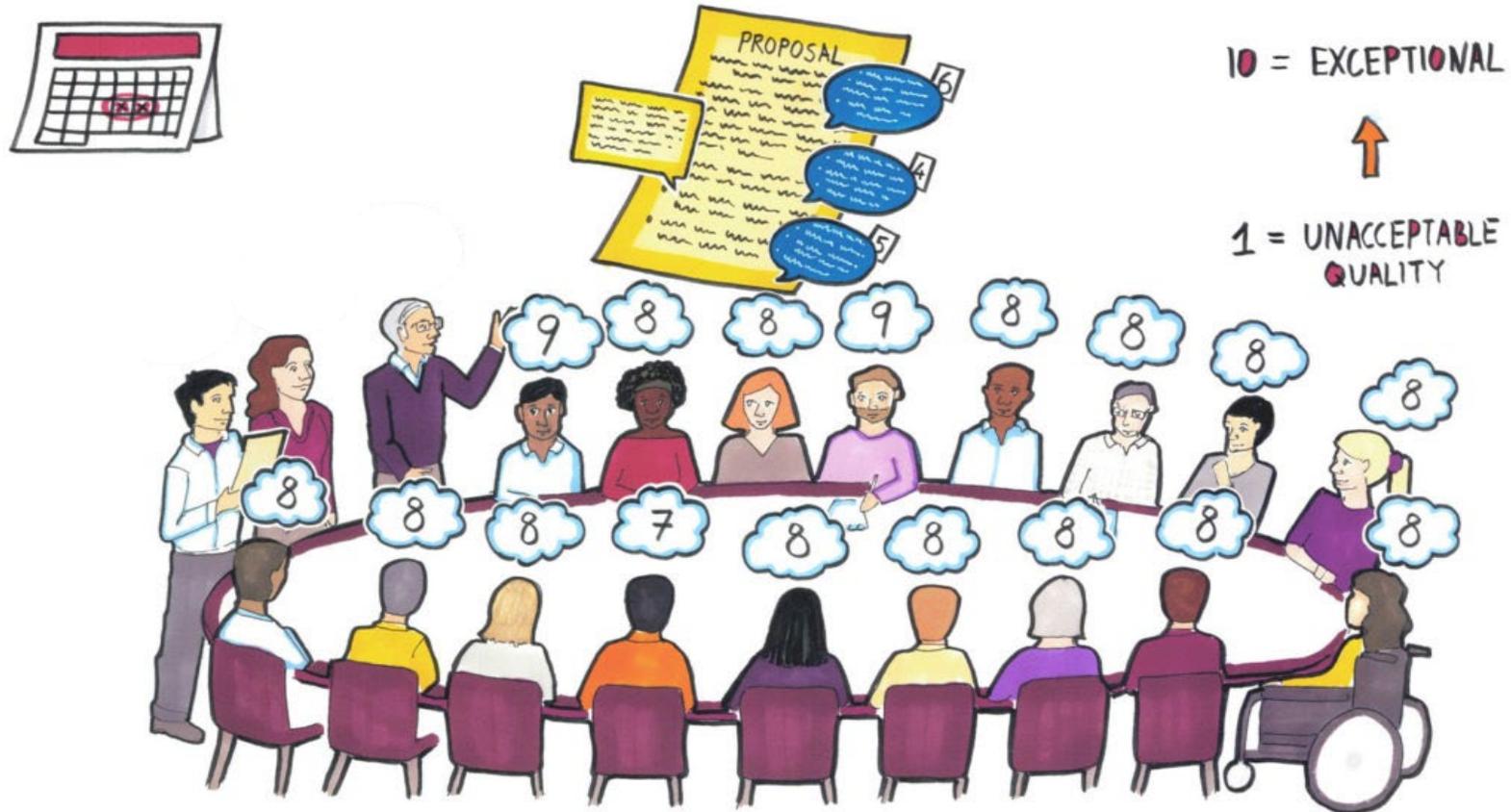
- ◆ Talks frankly, bluntly and clearly – don't want someone who beats around the bush
- ◆ Has little sympathy for your ego
- ◆ Has been successful in obtaining grants
- ◆ Is unfamiliar with what you propose to do

10. Allow time for institutional administrative requirements

Submit on time

- ◆ All Documents must be in PDF
- ◆ 5:00 pm Eastern Time
- ◆ A deadline is a deadline is a deadline !

How are Proposals Reviewed?





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Successful Proposals

- Excite the reviewers
- Excite the reviewers!!!!
- Are easy to read and understand
- Have clear rationale & objectives that fit program priorities
- Clear budget and goals
- Address potential pitfalls, including short-comings and alternative plans

<https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/general-grant-writing-tips-success>



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Reasons for Lower Ratings

- Project of little or no relevance to NIFA mission and/or program priorities
- Poorly written, unclear objectives or hypotheses, spelling errors or typos
- Not innovative, little new information gained
- Not as exciting as other proposals (*i.e.*, worth funding, but ran out of funds)

Timeline of Competitive Programs



On average, a competitive proposal takes about 6-9 months from RFA release to an award being made to an institution

We will keep you updated as much as possible, but please be patient.



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What to Do if You Have Questions?



Contact the
Program Staff!!!





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Other AFRI EWD program areas

Program Area Priority	Program Area Priority Contact
Professional Development for Agricultural Literacy (PDAL) Grants	Dr. Carlos Ortiz, (202) 445-5594 or carlos.ortiz@usda.gov
Agricultural Workforce Training (AWT) Grants	Dr. Carlos Ortiz, (202) 445-5594 or carlos.ortiz@usda.gov
Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU)	Dr. Ray Ali, (816) 926-1453 or nifa-education@usda.gov
Predocctoral Fellowships	Dr. Ray Ali, (816) 926-1453 or nifafellows@usda.gov
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Dr. Ray Ali, (816) 926-1453 or nifafellows@usda.gov
Agricultural Literacy and Workforce Development Evaluation	Dr. Carlos Ortiz, (202) 445-5594 or carlos.ortiz@usda.gov



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The logo for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), featuring the letters "NIFA" in a large, white, sans-serif font against a green background with a stylized white outline of a mountain range.

Education and Workforce Development Program Area

The information presented here is for FY2021 AFRI EWD FANE Priority Area. Please consult the Request for Applications for full program priority area details:

- [AFRI - Education and Workforce Development RFA](#)

AFRI FAQs:

- AFRI New Investigator FAQs: [AFRI Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement \(FASE\) Grants for New Investigators FAQs](#)
- AFRI General FAQs: [AFRI Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
- AFRI FASE FAQs: [AFRI / FASE - Frequently Asked Questions](#)



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