

Guidance for Voluntary Reporting of National Outcomes Data

The following guidance applies to the FY2014 reporting year, which is the year in which data for FY2013 accomplishments/expenditures are collected.

Background

NIFA is required to report outcomes (“evidence of performance”) to USDA, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Congress in its budget documents. Guidance has been received from USDA and OMB leadership that national outcomes which aggregate data across all states and territories are desired. Meanwhile, NIFA acknowledges that impacts stated on a national scale help better tell the capacity fund story and garner support for continued funding.

What are the National Outcomes & Indicators?

National Outcomes and Indicators have been developed for the Five NIFA Priority Areas (Childhood Obesity, Climate Change, Food Safety, Global Food Security & Hunger, and Sustainable Energy) as well as for the areas of 4H & Youth Development and Family and Consumer Sciences. Three separate documents on the AREERA Webpage advertise what each of the outcomes and associated indicators are for these areas. Here are the direct links to these documents:

[Five Priority Areas](#)

[4H & Youth Development](#)

[Family & Consumer Sciences](#)

Results from FY2012 Annual Reports

The collection of national outcomes data was conducted for the first time via the FY2012 Annual Reports of Accomplishments and Results. Data reported via this tool was completely voluntary, and NIFA performed analysis to identify which indicators for various outcomes contained enough data to be aggregated and reported in the Agency’s budget documents.

It is important to note that the Five Priority areas alone carry a total of 129 possible indicators on which states can voluntary report. Because it is unlikely that a statistically significant number of states will ever report voluntarily on all of the 129 indicators, NIFA has identified seven of the “most adopted” indicators as established by the baseline data collected in the FY12 reports.

Based on the FY12 baseline results explained above, what expectation does NIFA have for states to report on the National Outcomes & Indicators in their FY2013 Annual Reports?

While all indicators listed in the three documents listed above will remain available to voluntarily adopt and report on in the FY2013 reports to NIFA, states are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to focus reporting on the following seven indicators. These indicators will be part of the NIFA budget documents for the next 5 years, and the more states that choose to report against them, the more NIFA will be enabled to report stronger aggregate numbers over time.

Seven Indicators NIFA Encourages States to Report Against:

Childhood Obesity

Outcome 1, Indicator 1.c

Number of children and youth who reported eating more of healthy foods.

Climate Change

Outcome 1, Indicator 4

Number of new crop varieties, animal breed, and genotypes with climate adaptive traits.

Global Food Security & Hunger

Outcome 1, Indicator 4.a

Number of participants adopting best practices and technologies resulting in increased yield, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and/or conservation of resources.

Outcome 2, Indicator 1

Number of new or improved innovations developed for food enterprises.

Food Safety

Outcome 1, Indicator 1

Number of viable technologies developed or modified for the detection and characterization of food supply contamination from foodborne threats.

Sustainable Energy:

Outcome 3, Indicator 2

Number of farmers who adopted a dedicated bioenergy crop.

Outcome 3, Indicator 4

Tons of feedstocks delivered.

How will states report on the above (and/or other) National Outcomes & Indicators?

For the collection of FY2013 data, NIFA will be using GoogleDocs. The POW Business office will make the URLs for the GoogleDoc forms available on the AREERA Webpage in mid-February, 2014. The URLs for the forms will also be available in the POW software system in late February, 2014. Each of the Google forms will contain indicators labeled by the exact same outcome and indicator number labels you see above, so if you match the numbers you see in this document with the number labels listed on the GoogleDoc forms, then that means you will be reporting on one (or more) of the seven national indicators that have been established as part of the NIFA budget documents.