

LATE APPLICATION CONSIDERATION

NIFA's policy regarding late applications.

Any grant application submitted after the deadline specified in the RFA for a competitive review is rejected unless the applicant provides documentation to establish an extenuating circumstance that prevented timely submission of the application.

What is a late application?

An application submitted or resubmitted after the deadline is late.

How is it determined if an application is late?

- Grants.gov attaches a date and time stamp to the application when its electronically sent to Grants.gov.
- The date and time stamp includes the submission time which is used to determine if an application is on time or late.
- Most NIFA programs have a deadline of 5:00 pm ET. An application is considered on time at 5:00.59 pm ET but it is late at 5:01 pm ET.

What is an extenuating circumstance?

It includes, but is not limited to, a natural disaster, confirmed Grants.gov outage, Grants.gov programming error.

If my application was late due to an extenuating circumstance what should I do?

You should contact the Agency Contact, identified in Part VII of the request for applications (RFA), if you want a late application considered due to an extenuating circumstance. You will need to provide documentation to substantiate your claim of an extenuating circumstance. Once NIFA receives the documentation, NIFA will follow

its review procedures. You will be informed of the results of the review. If a late application is approved for consideration based on an extenuating circumstance, such acceptance is contingent upon the ability to include the application in the competitive review process (e.g., application cannot be included if the review of applications is complete).

Can I appeal a decision not to accept my late application based on an extenuating circumstance?

Yes. If you want to appeal a decision you should contact the Agency Contact, identified in Part VII of the request for applications (RFA), and inform him/her of your decision to appeal and provide any additional documentation you want considered in the appeal process. NIFA will follow its appeal procedures. You will be informed of the results of the appeal. The appeal decision is final; no further consideration will be given.

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.