



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
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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



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# USDA – National Institute of Food and Agriculture

## **AFRI Training and New Investigator Grants**

Mallory M. Koenings, PhD, RDN  
Program Specialist  
Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition  
Division of Nutrition



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# National Institute of Food and Agriculture

## Competitive Grants Programs

### ● Training Grants

- Multicultural Scholars
- Higher Education Challenge Grants
- Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields (WAMS) Grants
- Education and Literacy Initiative – Undergraduate Fellowships



### ● Fellowships

- National Needs Fellows
- Education and Literacy Initiative – Doctoral (PreDoc) Fellowships
- Education and Literacy Initiative – Post Doctoral Fellowships



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# TRAINING GRANTS

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- Multicultural Scholars
- Higher Education Challenge Grants
- Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields (WAMS) Grants
- **AFRI** Education and Literacy Initiative – Undergraduate



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# Multicultural Scholars

- Undergraduate scholarships to students from underrepresented groups to pursue and complete **baccalaureate degrees** in the Food, Agricultural, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences, or achieve a **D.V.M.**
- 2-4 years
- \$6,500 /student/year; + \$2,500 /student/year for cost of education allowance
- Student Experiential Learning (SEL) – One-time \$4,000 for each eligible USDA Multicultural Scholar

Award Max: \$200,000  
Contact: Ray Ali

Success Rate: 24%  
[rali@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:rali@nifa.usda.gov)



# Higher Education Challenge Grants

- To improve formal, **baccalaureate or master's degree** level food, agricultural, natural resources, and human sciences education and first **professional degree-level education in veterinary medicine (DVM)**.
  - Curriculum Development, Instructional Delivery Systems and Expanding Student Career Opportunities
  - Faculty preparation and enhancement for teaching.
  - Facilitating Interaction with Other Academic Institutions

Award Max: \$ 750,000

Success Rate: 20%

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Contact: Antonio McLaren [antonio.a.mclaren@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:antonio.a.mclaren@nifa.usda.gov)



# Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields (WAMS) Grants

- Research and extension projects
- **Increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities** from **rural areas** in STEM in the context of food, agricultural, natural resources, and human sciences
- Educational institutions, private organizations, and others



**Award Max: \$ 150,000- \$300,000**  
**Contact: Saleia Afele-Faamuli**

**Success Rate: 20%**  
**[sfaamuli@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:sfaamuli@nifa.usda.gov)**



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# AFRI Undergraduate Fellows

- **Integrated: Research, Education, and Extension** based experiential learning for undergraduates such that upon graduation they may enter the agriculture workforce with exceptional skills.
- Provides opportunities for students from underrepresented and economically disadvantaged groups at minority-serving institutions, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities to obtain **hands-on experience and training at larger universities and USDA laboratories.**

Award Max: \$ 300,000

Success Rate: 13.8%

Contact: Victoria LeBeaux

[undergraduate@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:undergraduate@nifa.usda.gov)

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# FELLOWSHIP GRANTS

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- National Needs Fellows
- **AFRI** Education and Literacy Initiative – Doctoral (PreDoc)
- **AFRI** Education and Literacy Initiative – Post Doctoral

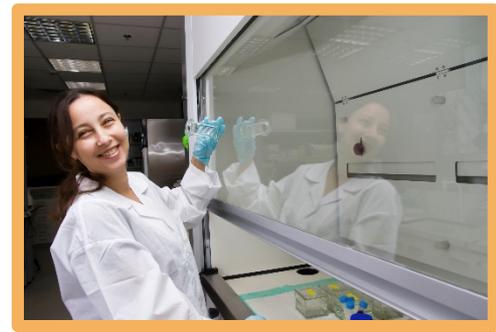


# National Needs Fellows

- Fellowships for **MS & PhD** level students in the following areas:
  - Animal & plant production
  - Forest resources
  - Agricultural educators & communicators
  - Agricultural management & economics
  - Food science & human nutrition
  - Sciences for agricultural biosecurity
  - Training in integrative biosciences for sustainable food & agricultural systems
- MS - \$18,500/student/year, for 2 years
- PhD - \$24,500/student/year, for 3 years
- Special International Study Stipend for current fellows up to \$4,500/MS student and \$8,000 /PhD student

Award Max: \$262,500  
Contact: Ray Ali

Success Rate: 21%  
[rali@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:rali@nifa.usda.gov)



# AFRI Pre-Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellows

- Pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships to prepare the next generation of **research, education, and extension** professionals.
- Pre-Doc -- Technical and functional competence
- Post- Doc -- Research independence and teaching credentials

Pre: \$79,000

Post: \$150,000

Contact: Ray Ali

Success Rate: 17%  
[rali@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:rali@nifa.usda.gov)



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# AGRICULTURE & FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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- **AFRI** Education and Literacy Initiative – Undergraduate
- **AFRI** Education and Literacy Initiative – Doctoral (PreDoc)
- **AFRI** Education and Literacy Initiative – Post Doctoral



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National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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

## Boosting the Ag Industry in the U.S. Virgin Islands

### FEATURED INFORMATION

[RFA List](#)
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### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES SEARCH

Keyword  Programs

### FEATURED BLOG POST





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# RFA List



**USDA** United States Department of Agriculture  
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Search for a Grant

Apply for a Grant

Wait for Notification

Manage a Grant

Close a Grant

Grants Process  
Cycles

Regulations and  
Guidelines

## RFA List

**B**elow is a list of our competitive RFAs. Use the grant search page to learn more about available grant opportunities.

- [Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship \(NNF\) Grants Program](#)
- [Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program - National Integrated Water Quality Program \(NIWQP\)](#)
- [\(Closed\) 2015 - Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Childhood Obesity Prevention Challenge Area](#)
- [1890 Facilities Grants Program \(Renewals\)](#)
- [1890 Institution Teaching, Research and Extension Capacity Building Grants \(CBG\) Program](#)
- [1994 Land-Grant Research Leadership Development Initiative](#)
- [AFRI Foundational: Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities](#)



# Find “education”



File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

× Find:

Previous Next Options ▾ 20 matches

Manage a Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fellowship (NNF) Grants Program</li> </ul>
Close a Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated Research, <b>Education</b>, and Extension Competitive Grants Program - National Integrated Water Quality Program (NIWQP)</li> </ul>
Grants Process Cycles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Closed) 2015 - Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Childhood Obesity Prevention Challenge Area</li> <li>1890 Facilities Grants Program (Renewals)</li> <li>1890 Institution Teaching, Research and Extension Capacity Building Grants (CBG) Program</li> </ul>
Regulations and Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1994 Land-Grant Research Leadership Development Initiative</li> <li>AFRI Foundational: Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities</li> <li>AFRI Foundational: Agriculture Systems and Technology</li> </ul>
Grant Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFRI Foundational: Animal Health and Production and Animal Products</li> <li>AFRI Foundational: Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment</li> </ul>
RFA List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFRI Foundational: Critical Agricultural Research and Extension (CARE)</li> <li>AFRI Foundational: Exploratory Research</li> <li>AFRI Foundational: Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health</li> </ul>
RFA Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFRI Foundational: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products</li> <li>AgrAbility - Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities</li> </ul>
Grants Modernization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Agriculture and Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability and Change Challenge Area</li> <li>Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Food Safety Challenge Area</li> <li>Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Food Security Challenge Area</li> <li>Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences <b>Education</b> and Literacy Initiative</li> <li>Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Foundational Program</li> <li>Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Water for Agriculture Challenge Area</li> <li>Agriculture Risk Management <b>Education</b> Partnerships (ARME) Competitive Grants Program</li> <li>Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions <b>Education</b> Competitive Grants Program (ANNH)</li> <li>Alfalfa and Forage Research Program</li> <li>Army Family Advocacy Program Incident Determination Committee (IDC) Testing</li> </ul>



# RFA – Request for Applications

## **Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative**

### **2016 Request for Applications (RFA)**

#### **Predoctoral Fellowships**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 11, 2016**

#### **Postdoctoral Fellowships**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 11, 2016**

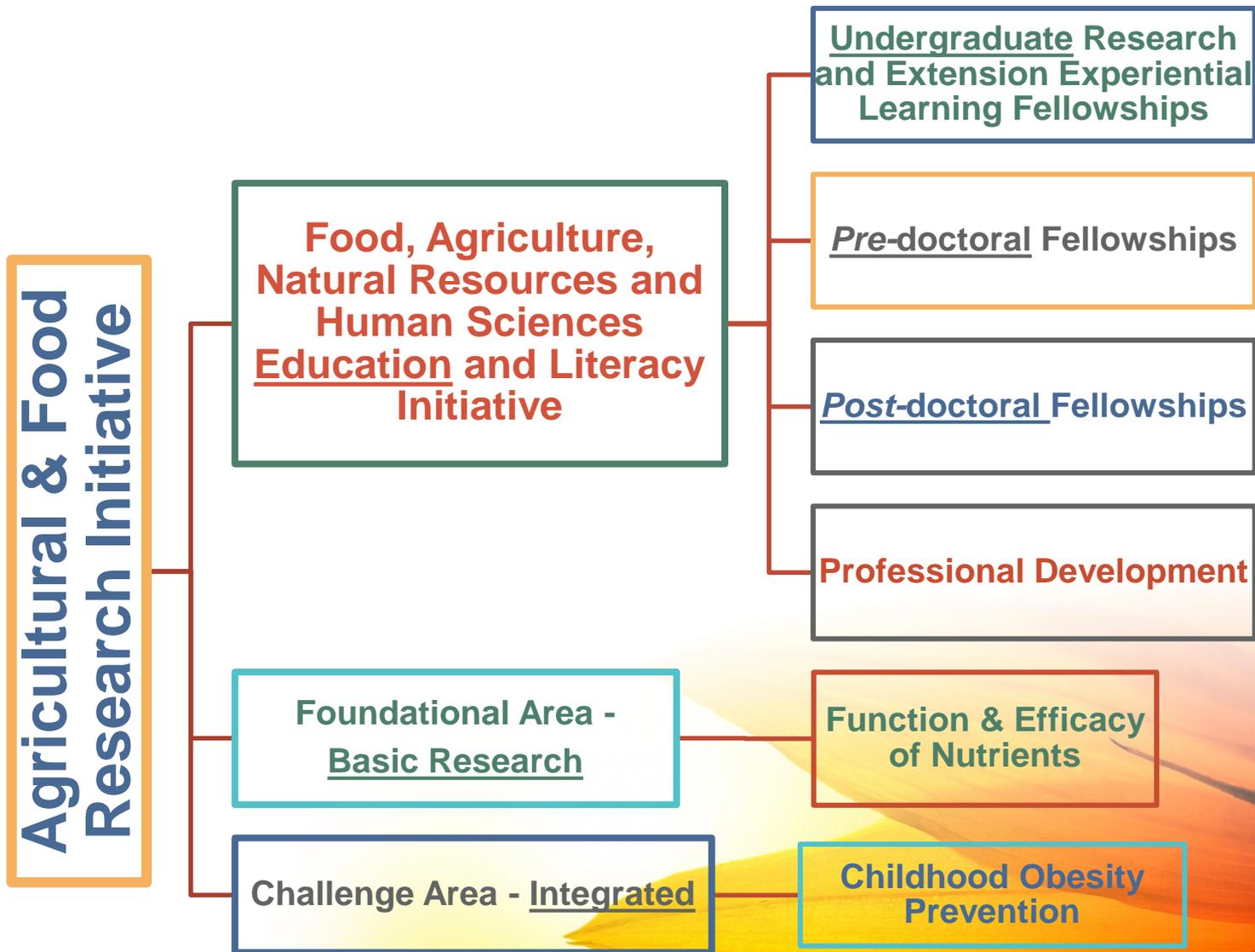
#### **Professional Development Opportunities for Secondary School Teachers**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 18, 2016**

**Research and Extension Experiential Learning for Undergraduate (REEL)**



# AFRI Competitive Grants





# Education and Literacy Initiative

- Seeks talented, highly-motivated **undergraduate, doctoral, and postdoctoral students** that demonstrate remarkable promise and the potential to become exceptional education, extension, and research **professionals in the United States.**
- Promote research and extension **experiential learning** for **undergraduates** such that upon graduation they may enter the agriculture workforce with exceptional skills.
- Develop **technical and academic** competence of **doctoral candidates.**
- Prepare **research** independence and **teaching** credentials of **post-doctoral fellows.**



# Important Definitions

**Undergraduate** – must have completed **at least one full-time semester** at the associate’s or bachelor’s level.

**Doctoral Candidate** – documentation from a) graduate advisor or b) committee or c) institution that you have “advanced to candidacy, as per institutional requirements” by **11 February 2016**.

**Postdoctoral Fellow** – documentation from a) graduate advisor or b) committee or c) institution that you “satisfied all doctoral degree requirements” after **1 January 2013** or before **11 November 2016**.

# Eligibility Criteria

- Mentor's institution:
  - State Agricultural Experiment Stations
  - \*\*\*Colleges and universities (including junior colleges)
  - University research foundations
  - Other research institutions and organizations
  - Federal agencies
  - National laboratories
  - Private organizations or corporations
  - Individuals
  - Any group of  $\geq 2$  of the above
- Applicants must be US citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the United States.





# Scientific Topics & Objectives

## Agriculture & Food Research Initiative

Challenge Areas

Foundational Areas

# Challenge Areas

**Global Food  
Security**

**Water for Agriculture**

**Childhood Obesity  
Prevention**

**Food Safety**

**Sustainable  
Bioenergy**

**Climate Change**



# Foundational Areas

**Plant Health and  
Production and  
Plant Products**

**Animal Health and  
Production and  
Animal Products**

**Food Safety,  
Nutrition, and  
Health**

**Bioenergy, Natural  
Resources, and  
Environment**

**Agriculture  
Systems and  
Technology**

**Agriculture  
Economics and  
Rural Communities**



# Undergraduate Research & Extension Experiential Learning Fellowships – Do's

Success rate: 16%

Funding ~1 out of 6 proposals

Program Code: A7401

\*\*\*Integrated only

Letter of Intent requested

Promote research and extension experiential learning for undergraduates such that upon graduation they may enter the agriculture workforce with exceptional skills.



May...

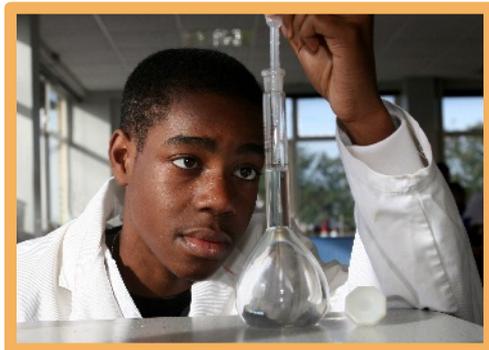
- **\$300,000 total** over 4 years.
- \$1,000/student/year Institutional allowance (in lieu of indirect costs)
- ≤30 undergraduate fellows/ award
- 2 years/fellow

Student support is the majority of the budget (stipends, housing, meals, travel, and laboratory fees)

# AFRI ELI Undergraduate Fellowships – Do not's

May not...

- Charge an application fee
- Charge tuition or include tuition in the budget
- A student stipend may not exceed \$500/week or \$2,000/month
- Submit more than 3 proposals per institution
- Have more than 1 award (A7401) per institution
- Only support undergraduates at your institution. 50% of fellows must be students at another institution.



# AFRI ELI Undergraduate Fellowships – Suggestions

Suggestions...

- Involve first and second year students
- Involve underrepresented students
- Include industry participation
- From **new collaborations or enhance existing partnerships** with:
  - Community colleges
  - Minority-serving institutions
  - Institutions where **research and extension** opportunities are limited





# AFRI ELI Predoctoral Fellowships

**Success rate: 16%**  
**Program Code: A7101**

**Funding ~1 out of 6 proposals**  
**Research, Education, or Extension**  
**Integrated\*\*\***

- Prepare the next generation of scientists through doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships. Funded projects will encompass the AFRI Challenge Area and AFRI Foundational Programs, through well-developed and highly engaged mentoring and training activities.
  - **\$95,000 total** over 2 years.
  - **\$25,000/year** stipend support.
  - **\$19,500/year** tuition, fees, & fringe benefits.
  - **\$3,000/year** Institutional allowance (in lieu of indirect costs).
- Multi/Interdisciplinary Challenge Area proposals are encouraged
- Proposals involving industry participation are encouraged
- Forge mentorships with professionals (academe, industry, government, or others)
- Fellow must be a US citizen, national, or permanent resident

# AFRI ELI Postdoctoral Fellowships

Success rate: 16%

Program Code: A7201

Funding ~1 out of 6 proposals

Research, Education, or Extension  
Integrated\*\*\*

- Prepare the next generation of scientists through doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships. Funded projects will encompass the AFRI Challenge Area and AFRI Foundational Programs, through well-developed and highly engaged mentoring and training activities.
  - **\$152,000 total** over 2 years.
  - **\$3,000/year** Institutional allowance (in lieu of indirect costs).
  - All other costs *except* salary may **NOT** exceed **\$30,000/year**.
- Multi/Interdisciplinary Challenge Area proposals are encouraged
- Proposals involving industry participation are encouraged
- Projects should initiate an **independent scientific program**, rather than extend ongoing projects in the mentor's laboratory.
- Fellow must be a US citizen, national, or permanent resident



# Tips for Success

1. Enter the correct **Program Code**
2. Don't wait until the last minute
3. Follow directions \*\*\*Integrated
4. You are the Project Director (Pre-doc and Post-doc)
5. Successful proposals address all facets of the fellowship:
  - project plan (research, education, & extension)
  - mentoring plan
  - career development plan
  - evaluation plan



# Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health applications comprise ~13% of fellowship awards.

Post-Doctoral Fellow Seminar:

<http://nifa.usda.gov/resource/improving-feeding-practices-childcare-settings-integrated-project-ifs-n-seminar>



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# AGRICULTURE & FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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- **AFRI** New Program – Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educational Professionals (PD-STEP)
- **AFRI** New Investigator Grant Type

# AFRI Competitive Grants

- New Program – Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educational Professionals (PD-STEP)

- Provide immersive learning experiences
- To create and replicate best practices to improve student success outcomes within the food, agricultural natural resources and human sciences.



- New Investigator **Grant Type**

- Challenge Area Programs- Childhood Obesity Prevention
- Foundational Area Programs- Function and Efficacy of Nutrients



# 2016 AFRI Education and Literacy Initiative

New Program – Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educational Professionals (PD-STEP)

Program Code: A7501

Integrated\*\*\*

Contact: Victoria LeBeaux

k-14@nifa.usda.gov

- Provide immersive learning experiences and to create and replicate best practices to improve student success outcomes within the food, agriculture, natural resources and human sciences (FANH).
  - **\$150,000 total** over 3 years.
  - Indirect costs allowed.
  - May not submit more than 3 proposals per institution
  - May not have more than 1 award (A7501) per institution
- Collaboration involving industry and nonprofits.
- Connecting education professionals from low-resource schools to existing USDA/Federal resources.
- Build teachers' skills for integrating FANH into their classes.



# Agriculture & Food Research Initiative

## Challenge Areas

## Foundational Areas

**Global Food  
Security**

**Water for  
Agriculture**

**Childhood Obesity  
Prevention**

**Food Safety**

**Sustainable  
Bioenergy**

**Climate Change**

**Plant Health and Production  
and Plant Products**

**Animal Health and  
Production and Animal  
Products**

**Food Safety,  
Nutrition, and Health**

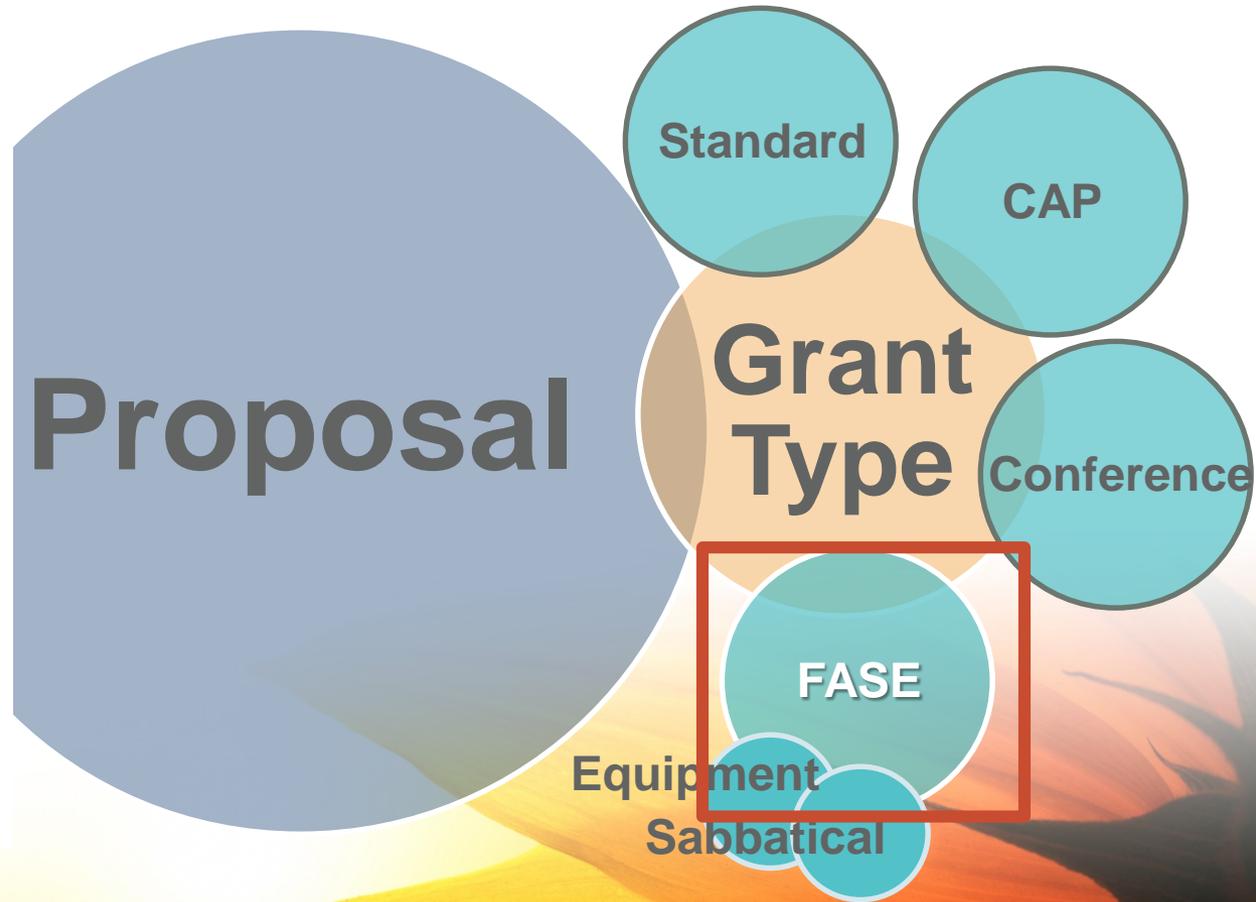
**Bioenergy, Natural  
Resources, and  
Environment**

**Agriculture Systems  
and Technology**

**Agriculture Economics  
and Rural Communities**



# Project Type & Grant Type



# Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grant Types

- Goal: To strengthen science capabilities in research, education, extension, and integrated programs.
- Designed to help institutions develop competitive projects and to attract new scientists and educators into careers in high-priority areas of National need in agriculture, food, and environmental sciences.
- Provide support for **New Investigators**



# NIFA New Investigator Definition



- Beginning his/her career
- Does not have an **extensive** scientific publication record
- <5 years postgraduate, **career-track experience**
- A New Investigator **may not have received competitively awarded Federal research funds**, except pre- or postdoctoral grants or Seed Grants.

# 2015 Childhood Obesity Prevention

		Project and Grant Types Solicited by this RFA										
		Grant Type										
		Standard	CAP	Other (Collaborative)	Conference	New Investigator	Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants <sup>1</sup>					
							Strengthening Grants					
						Sabbatical	Equipment	Seed	Standard	CAP	Conference	
Project Type	Research											
	Education											
	Extension											
	Integrated <sup>2</sup>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

- Colleges and Universities
- 1994 Land-Grant Institutions
- Hispanic-serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities
  - Hispanic-serving Institution **NOT** an 1862
  - Offers accredited agriculture-related degree programs (e.g., associates, bachelors)

RFA Part III. A.

# 2015 Function and Efficacy of Nutrients

Project Type		Project and Grant Types Solicited by this RFA										
		Grant Type										
		Standard	CAP	Other (Collaborative <sup>4</sup> )	Conference	New Investigator	Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants <sup>3</sup>					
							Strengthening Grants					
		Sabbatical	Equipment	Seed	Standard	CAP	Conference					
Project Type	Research	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Education											
	Extension											
	Integrated <sup>5</sup>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

<sup>3</sup> FASE Grants have special eligibility requirements. Refer to Part II, D. 4 for eligibility and additional information.

<sup>4</sup> Note that ONLY Animal Health and Production and Animal Products Program Area (see Part 1, C. 2) is soliciting Collaborative projects in this RFA.

<sup>5</sup> Note that ONLY the Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities Program Area (see Part I, C. 6) and the Critical Agricultural Research and Extension Program Area (see Part I, C. 7) are soliciting Integrated Projects in this RFA.

- State Agricultural Experiment Stations
- Federal agencies
- Colleges and universities (including junior colleges)
- National laboratories
- University research foundations
- Private organizations or corporations
- Other research institutions and organizations
- Any group of ≥2 of the above



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OR CALL THE IMPACTS  
COORDINATOR:  
202-720-6133

## ILLUSTRATE

*to the American people* how research, education, and extension are improving lives.

## REPORT

*to Congress* that NIFA-funded projects are making a difference.

## INFORM

*state and local governments* about the ways their partnership betters their communities.

## COMMUNICATE

*to partners and stakeholders* the opportunities available to educate the next generation.

## ENABLE

USDA *Leadership* to make sound decisions regarding mission priorities.