

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. I hope this finds you well, my name is Michael Silas and I am a program specialist that the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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Today I want to talk to you about our program, Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

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So first and foremost, let's talk about eligibility. So these are the different entities that are eligible to actually apply for the WAMS grant program.

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First you have state agricultural experimentation stations, second colleges and universities, third university research foundations, fourth other research institutions and organizations, fifth federal agencies.

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Sixth we have national laboratories, seventh private organizations, and lastly, corporations and individuals. So if you belong to any of those designations, you are eligible to apply to the WAMS grant program.

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So typically, people will apply to WAMS because they desire to increase the amount of women and minorities.

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This program is K through 14 so it doesn't stop at high school. It goes through the first two years of university experiences for students.

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So the request for applications and I just really want to stress this. Is available at nifa.usda.gov for your convenience. I have also included the link that goes directly to the WAMS page.

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So you can go there and you can actually view the RFA for any criteria and answers to any questions you may have about the program.

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So applications are due Wednesday, March 28 2018 at 5:00 PM. If they are submitted after this, they will not be accepted, so make sure you adhere to the deadline.

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Total funding available for fiscal year 2018 is \$400,000 and that is not per grant that is cumulatively that is the entire amount for the grant program.

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Point of clarification. The most the grant can be awarded is \$100,000 per grant.

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So Grants.gov is how you go about submitting your application. So these are a few very, very important points, but I just want to

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Restate. Make sure that you have a DUNS and SAM identification, it can take a little while to get both of those. So if you're planning on applying for WAMS, do not

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procrastinate on this, they can take a little while to get what you need to even apply. So the sooner you get that process started the better.

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If this is your first time apply for federal grant, make sure that you are capable of submitting an application for grants.

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So you can go there for more information. Also, make sure that you have software that will allow you to save and create documents as Adobe PDF. Do not submit Microsoft documents or any other file format. Make sure that is a PDF.

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Once again, do not wait until the last minute, because it is a very time intensive work can be a very time intensive process to get everything that you need to apply for this grant.

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Program details. So these are our different educational need areas for fiscal year 2018: a.) curriculum design materials development and library resources, b.) faculty preparation and enhancement of teaching.

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c.) instruction delivery systems d.) scientific instrumentation for teaching and research e.) student experiential learning and f.) student recruitment, retention and educational equity, including the provision of student financial assistance.

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So here is a bit more of an in depth look at each of the individual educational need areas. So you can just look at each and every one of these and get a better idea of what they consist

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Of. The applied project option is something that you can do in addition to or instead of the educational need areas, but just please keep in mind that your project needs to adhere to one or both of these.

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So these are the different apply a project options. It can be a study in the food, agriculture, natural resources and human sciences.

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That includes projects that identify control factors that influence consumer demand for ag products, applied research, support systems and instances of establishing

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Centralized Support Systems to serve clientele that may not be able to afford or does not have access to the need support. Another example is technology based information delivery systems

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Which deliver the benefits of food and ag sciences to producers and consumers. And lastly, other applied research and community development applications. These are projects that are designed to provide any needed and enhancements to the capacity of different institutions.

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So these are the different project types

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that are applicable for the WAMS grant. First and foremost, we have education and teaching projects. Secondly, we have extension projects there. We have research projects. And lastly, we have a combination of India have after mentioned three

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So for fiscal year 2018 the WAMS grant program will only accept regular grant proposals.

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And the grant period may range from 24 to 36 months to three years, while it was formerly it was one to three years.

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The number of awards will depend on the number of applications that are recommended for funding and as I stated earlier an applicant may request up to \$100,000 and that's the total amount, not yearly. So the total amount throughout the duration of the grant.

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So these are our proposal submission limits: one application per institution. If you've been awarded a grant

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in the past, you may still apply for WAMS FY2018.

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So funding restrictions and indirect costs are limited to 30% of the total federal funds provided but cannot be used for the construction

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Of a new building or facility or the acquisition expansion remodeling or alteration of an existing building or facility.

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You may not use grant funds to renovate or refurbish research, education or extension space. And lastly statutory language or agency policy limits

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The maximum potential of the funding period and you can learn more about these restrictions, excuse me, and others, in the WAMS RFA

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So some entities do not have to worry about matching and these entities include any governmental research agencies of the USDA, different land grant institutions, HSIs

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that have colleges of agriculture.

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Insular area schools etc. and there is a full list in the WAMS RFA. And please make sure to look at that for any eligibility questions that you may have.

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Once again, make sure that the application is in PDF format.

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If it's not a PDF format, it will not be accepted. So just make sure to keep that in mind. And also make sure to keep in mind to use the program code which is WAMS. If you've applied a previously it was WAM, but now it is WAMS for fiscal year 2018.

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So just a few more last minute tips.

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Have the same that throughout the presentation, but just one last time. Do not wait till the last minute to submit any documentation. Technical assistance that you need will be provided by people at grants.gov. If you are not

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trying to apply for WAMS this year, you can serve as a reviewer. And if you would like to serve as a reviewer. You can email me at michael.silas@usda.nifa.gov.

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So here is my contact information and the contact information for WAMS national program leader, Dr. Victoria LeBeaux so if you have questions, feel free to reach out to either of us.

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This provides guidance for applying and to the ins and outs of the program. So if you have any questions please resort to the RFA first. If you still cannot find an answer to your question, please feel free to contact Dr. LeBeaux or myself.

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With that being said, thank you very much and I look forward to talking to you further.