



United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

NIFA and the Hispanic-Serving Institutions

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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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HSI Education Grants Program Webinar

Objectives

- Identify NIFA's Priorities
- List NIFA's Available Funding Opportunities
- Discuss HSI's RFA Grant Program
- Stakeholder Input
- Q & A



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NIFA's mission is to lead food and agricultural sciences to create a better future for the Nation and the world by supporting three functions:

- **Research:** to develop the knowledge to address national challenges.
- **Education:** to strengthen schools and universities to train the next generation of scientists, educators, producers, and citizens.
- **Extension:** to bring knowledge gained through research and education to the public.



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NIFA Priorities

- Food Security and Hunger
- Climate Change
- Sustainable Energy
- Childhood Obesity
- Food Safety
- Water Quality



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NIFA Opportunities

- Secondary, 2-Yr. Postsecondary & AITC (SPECA - \$900,000)
- Higher Education Challenge Program (HEC – \$4.5 million)
- AFRI Grant Programs (\$150 million)- diverse disciplines)
- Multicultural Scholars (about \$1 million)
- National Needs Fellowship
- NIFA Pre/Post Doctoral Fellowships (about \$6 million)
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) about \$9 million



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Secondary, 2-Yr. Postsecondary Education Challenge CFDA: 10.226

Goals / Priorities

- **Innovative teaching enhancements** (e.g., curriculum & faculty development...etc.) that improve how faculty deliver academic instruction.
- Emphasis on **encouraging students to transfer** to higher education institutions and complete advanced degrees.

Award Range: up to \$750,000

% Funded: 20%

Applications Due: 4/3/2014

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Secondary, 2-Yr. Postsecondary & AG in K-12 Classroom Education Challenge -- CFDA: 10.226

- **Regular** – up to 50,000 (applicant only)
- **Joint** - up to \$150,000 (applicant + 1 or more partners)
- **LCI** – up to \$ 300,000 (applicant + 2 or more partners)
Applicant retains at least 30%, but no more than 70%;
Partners get no less than 10%

Matching funds required:

- 25% (cash and/or 'in-kind' services...)
- Must be from a non-Federal source; during project period
- Only items similar to what grant would fund

Funding: \$900,000 15-20 awards/year

<http://www.NIFA.usda.gov/fo/educationchallengessecondaryhep.cfm>



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Higher Education Challenge Grant Program (HEC)

Goals / Priorities

- **Innovative teaching enhancements** (e.g., curriculum & faculty development...etc.) that improve how faculty deliver academic instruction.
- Advance faculty development for teaching
- Promote linkages between 2-yr and 4-year institutions
- Increase number and diversity of students in food and ag sciences
- Enhance the quality of education

Award Range: up to \$750,000 % Funded: 20%

Applications Due: 4/10/2014 NPL: Edwin Lewis

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More about HEC

- **Conference Planning** - up to \$30,000
- **Regular** – up to \$150,000 (applicant only)
- **Joint** - up to \$300,000 (applicant + 1 or more partners)
- **Large Scale Comprehensive Initiative (LCI)**– up to \$ 750,000 (applicant + 2 or more partners)
- Applicant retains at least 30%, but no more than 70%; Partners get no less than 10%

Matching funds required:

- 25% (cash and/or 'in-kind' services...)
- Must be from a non-Federal source; during project period
- Only items similar to what grant would fund

Funding: \$4.5 million

10-12 awards/year



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Multicultural Scholars Program

Purpose. Scholarships for students from groups traditionally underrepresented in the food and agricultural sciences to pursue and complete their education at the baccalaureate and/or Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) degree level.

Six Program Areas of Emphasis

- 1) Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.)
- 2) Agro-security Science Training
- 3) Natural Resource Sciences Training
- 4) Human Sciences Training
- 5) Food Science and Human Nutrition
- 6) Agricultural Sciences and Engineering for Bioenergy

Funding = \$1 million per year

- Proposals per year = about 33
- Funding = 21 percent
- **CFDA:** 10.220
- **Contact:** Ray Ali rali@nifa.usda.gov (202)720-2727
- **Website:** <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/multiculturalscholars.cfm>



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National Needs Fellowships

Purpose: Graduate Fellowship training grants

Master's (two-year stipend)

Doctoral levels (three-year stipend)

Targeted Expertise Shortage Areas

- 1) Animal and Plant Production
- 2) Forest Resources
- 3) Agricultural Systems Engineering
- 4) Agricultural Management and Economics
- 5) Food Science and Human Nutrition
- 6) Sciences for Agricultural Biosecurity
- 7) Training in Integrative Biosciences for Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems

Funding = \$2.8 million per year

Proposals per year = about 82

Funding Rate = 25 percent

CFDA: 10.210

Contact: Ray Ali rali@nifa.usda.gov (202)720-2727

Website: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/multiculturalscholars.cfm>



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NIFA Pre-doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships

NIFA Pre-doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships

- **Purpose:** to develop the next generation of leaders who will be actively engaged in agriculture, forestry, and food related research, education, and extension careers. NIFA will provide federal assistance through fellowships to emerging pre-and postdoctoral candidates to accomplish this goal.
- **Priorities:** Research, Education, Extension, or Integrated Projects that are aligned with one of the five AFRI Challenge Areas and/or one of the six AFRI Foundational Areas.
- **Award Provision:** Fellows are required to carry out their projects and training on a full-time basis (i.e. 100% effort).
- **Amount Available:** \$6 million
- **Contact:** Ray Ali rali@nifa.usda.gov (202)720-2727



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Pre-doctoral Program

- **Eligibility:** The individual must have advanced to candidacy, as per institutional requirements, by March 14, 2013, and provide documentation from the graduate advisor or the institution by the application deadline.
- **Intent:** The NIFA Pre-doctoral Fellowship Program intends to support current doctoral students who are at the stage of conducting dissertation research, ultimately leading to completion of the dissertation and respective terminal degree.
 - Pre-doctoral students, inclusive of those with Baccalaureate and/or Masters degrees, who meet the aforementioned criteria, may apply.
- **Budget:** must not exceed \$79,000 total (including institutional allowance) for project periods of up to 2 years.
- **Funding Rate:** 17.6%
- **Contact:** Ray Ali rali@nifa.usda.gov

Tel: (202)720-2727



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Post-doctoral Program

- **Eligibility:** All doctoral degree requirements must be satisfied no earlier than January 1, 2010 and no later than December 14, 2013, and provide documentation from the graduate advisor/graduate committee or the institution by the application deadline.
- **Budget:** must not exceed **\$150,000 total** (including institutional allowance) for project periods of up to 2 years.
- **Funding Rate:** 14.8 percent
- **Contact:** Ray Ali rali@nifa.usda.gov (202)720-2727



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AFRI RFA Release Dates

AFRI will solicit its core program through 7 separate RFAs plus the Fellowship Program RFA.

- 1. FY 2014 Foundational Program** Release date December 2013
- 2. FY 2014 Agricultural and Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability and Change**

No FY 2014 RFA for new awards.

- 3. FY 2014 Food Safety** Release date January 2014
- 4. FY 2014 Food Security** Release date December 2013
- 5. FY 2014 Sustainable Bioenergy** No FY 2014 RFA for new awards
- 6. FY 2014 Childhood Obesity Prevention** Release date January 2014
- 7. FY2014 Water Resources** Release date January 2014

DUE Dates WEB PAGE: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfa_list.html

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/integrated/integrated_topics.html

More information at: http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri_program_deadline_dates.htm



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AFRI Grant Types Summary Table

Project and Grant Types Solicited by foundational Program Area

		Grant Type									
		Standard	CAP	Planning/ Coordination	Conference	Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants ¹					
						New Investigator	Strengthening Grants				
							Sabbatical	Equipment	Seed	Standard	CAP
Project Type	Research	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Education										
	Extension										
	Integrated ²	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	



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AFRI

Strengthening Standard Grants

- Applications that meet the eligibility requirements for Strengthening Grants are eligible for reserved strengthening funds as a Strengthening Standard Grant.
- The eligibility requirements only apply to the lead PD and are not required for co-PD(s) associated with the project.



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AFRI

Strengthening Sabbatical Grants

- Provide an opportunity for faculty to enhance their research, education, and/or extension capabilities by funding sabbatical leaves.
- Collaborative arrangements are encouraged.
- Grants will be limited to one year of salary and funds for travel and supplies, where justified, and are not renewable.
- Contact NPL from Discipline



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Strengthening Equipment Grants

- Designed to strengthen the research, education, and/or extension capacity of institutions by funding the purchase of one major piece of equipment.
- Not intended to replace requests for equipment in individual project applications. Rather, they are intended to help fund items of equipment that will upgrade infrastructure.
- Requests for computer equipment are allowed only if the equipment is to be used in an activity integral to the proposed project. Requests for computer equipment will not be permitted if the equipment will primarily serve as a word processor or perform administrative functions.
- Each request shall be limited to **one major piece of equipment**.
- **COST Range:** \$10,000-\$250,000 and are not renewable.
- The amount of Federal funding requested shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost or \$50,000, whichever is less.
 - Unless a waiver is granted by NIFA using the criteria listed in Part III, C, it is the responsibility of the PD to secure required matching funds with non-Federal funds 13.
- No installation, maintenance, warranty, or insurance expenses may be paid from these grants, nor may these costs be part of the matching funds.
- Indirect costs are not permitted on Equipment Grant awards.
- Contact NPL from Discipline



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Strengthening Seed Grants

- Seed Grants are to provide funds to enable investigators to collect preliminary data or perform other preliminary activities in preparation for applying for future grants from AFRI.
- The grants are not intended to fund stand-alone projects, but rather projects that will lead to further work applicable to one of the AFRI Program Areas.
- Applications proposing an Integrated Project only need to include one of the three functions (research, education, extension) and justify how this Seed Grant will allow the applicant to become competitive for future Integrated funding.
- **Funding:** Limited to a total of \$150,000 (including indirect costs) for two year duration and are not renewable.



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Application Key First Steps

- Congress appropriates \$\$ to address a public need;
- Find & study this ‘need’ in the RFA document
- Address the grant Evaluation Criteria
- Foster collaborations:
 - Involve other academic institutions or employers
- Expand project to address regional or national issue;
 - Can your project be adopted elsewhere?
- Document with ‘outside’ support letters
- Demonstrate how your project is unique, innovative, and will contribute to a solution

Successful Attributes

Demonstrate Innovation

- Strategies truly new to your discipline or location;

Reduce Duplication

- Maximize resources;
- Increase collaboration

- Make it compelling!
- Form non-traditional partnerships
- Show impact on large # of students
- Volunteer to serve on a Peer Panel
- Study successful projects & proposals

More Successful Attributes

Three essential components:

- **Focus**. Projects should focus on improving the quality of academic instruction...Emphasize how students learn
- **Scale**. Projects should address a large number of prospective students or faculty. Demonstrate how others may adopt your particular project to address similar challenges
- **Impact**. Create measurable impacts.



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Application Development

1. Focus your project & consult RFA Priorities and Program Goals
2. Build and document collaborative support
3. Develop innovative concepts; unique
4. Evaluation/Impacts:
 - Distinguish between what you purchase and anticipated educational impacts
(i.e., between *new equipment* vs. *new knowledge*)



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Institute of Youth Families & Communities

Division of Community & Education

- Foster partnerships & collaborative initiatives with an educational focus
- Enhance Minority-Serving Institutions & Underrepresented Students
- Increase the number, quality, and diversity of the next generation of food and agriculture scientists and practitioners

Hispanic-Serving Institutions

CFDA: 10.223

- Projects that prepares underrepresented students, especially Hispanics, to address the USDA priorities
- Projects that implement or recruit for programs in areas of student shortages
- Efficiently deliver academic instruction and could positively impact large number of students



WHAT WE FUND EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES

1. Curricula Design, Materials Development and Library Resources
2. Faculty Preparation and Enhancement for Teaching
3. Instruction Delivery Systems
4. Scientific Instrumentation for Teaching
5. Student Experiential Learning
6. Student Recruitment and Retention

Encouraging in FY 2014 HSI Education Grants Program

- Performance-based Objectives
- Aligning objectives with USDA's Mission
- **Collaboration** with USDA agency
- **EVALUATION**
 - Fund External evaluator/Meta-evaluator
 - A **web page** as part of dissemination
 - Optional supplemental funds for scholarship for an underrepresented student

HSI Project Types

- **Regular-** Proposal for a project where one or more HSIs university or community college will be involved in the execution of the project. Other partners could be invited.
 - **Lasting 2-3 years or 4 years (if requesting one large scholarship)**
 - **Up to \$250,000 total, plus optional scholarship funding**
 - **DEADLINE: MARCH 12, 2014**
- **STEAM-** Proposal in which a group of two or three HSI's, universities or community colleges, form a cooperative arrangement for the purpose of carrying out a common purpose.
 - **Lasting up to 4 years**
 - **\$250,000 a year X 4 years**
 - **DEADLINE: March 20, 2014**
- The statutory time limit for this grant is limited to **five (5) years.**

USDA Agencies

- **Farm Service Agency (FSA)**
- **Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)**
- **Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)**
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**
- **Rural Development Agency (RD)**
- **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)**
- **Economic Research Service (ERS)**
- **Forest Service (FS)**
- **Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyard Administration (GIPSA)**
- **Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)**
- **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)**
- **Risk Management Agency (RMA)**
- **Agricultural Research Service (ARS)**
- **National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)**



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USDA's Mission Critical Occupations

USDA Office of Human Capital Management has identified 20 Mission Critical Occupations (MCO's) in its FY 2008 Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program Plan. Here are some examples:

- General Biological Scientists
- Soil Conservation Specialist
- Soil Conservation Technician
- Forestry Specialist
- Dietician/Nutritionist Specialist
- Consumer Safety Specialist
- Soil Science Specialist
- Veterinary Medical Officer
- Biological Science Technician
- Agricultural Commodity Grader
- Consumer Safety Inspection
- Forestry Technician
- Statistician Specialist
- Food Inspection Specialist
- General Business and Industry

What do I include in my application?

Five Evaluation Factors (Total 100 points)

- **Potential for advancing education quality** 30 points
- **Approach and cooperative linkages** 25 points
- **Institutional commitment and resources** 15 points
- **Key personnel** 20 points
- **Budget and cost-effectiveness** 10 points



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Project Duration Regular & STEAM

- **Regular** projects should be submitted for periods of **24** to **36** months duration. Request 48 months if applying for scholarship funding.
- **STEAM** projects will be funded for periods of up to **four (4) years** based on yearly funding—up to \$250,000/year
 - The statutory time limit for this grant program is limited to **five (5) years**.



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STEAM Projects

SIX Tracks for STEAM Projects

- Plant Science
- Forestry
- Food Science/Food Safety/Nutrition
- Animal Science
- Natural Resources
- Agricultural Systems and Technology



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STEAM Project Expectations

- Recruit, enroll, and support a **minimum of 20 underrepresented students** per collaboration award.
- Student retention of at least 90 percent until graduation
- Work with USDA to develop a plan for Summer Internship placement
- **Place at least 80 percent** of the students in MCOs



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STEAM – More Project Expectations

- All partners receiving funding for students must be HSIs;
- HSIs can only be the lead in one STEAM award, but they can collaborate on as many as TWO other awards;
- Develop a set of activities that will enhance student academic experience;
- Provide students the opportunity to attend a professional meeting;
- Assist students to maintain academic good standing of a 3.0 GPA or higher with a minimum of 15 credit hours a semester;
- Provide assigned Faculty (compensated) mentoring.



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STEAM – More Details

- Include travel to support for 4 students per year to attend conferences.
- Negotiate summer paid internship with USDA/affiliate agency at the end of second, third and fourth year.
- Encourage partnerships, reduce duplication of efforts .
- Encourage Hispanic students to pursue an advanced degree in disciplines supporting USDA and NIFA *Priority Areas*.
- Develop an advisory board to include at least 4 Ph.D. granting institutions



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Stakeholder Input

Submit written stakeholder comments to:

Policy and Oversight Division
Office of Grants and Financial Management
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
USDA; STOP 2299
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-2299

or via e-mail to: Policy@nifa.usda.gov.



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Questions or comments?

Thank you !!!