

Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University

FY 2015 Request for Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 15, 2014



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT 1890 LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY AND WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE: This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under **10.205**.

DATES: Applications must be received by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on October 15, 2014**. Comments regarding this request for applications (RFA) are requested within six (6) months from the issuance of this notice. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) seeks your comments about this RFA. We will consider the comments when we develop the next RFA for the program, if applicable, and we'll use them to meet the requirements of section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)(2)). Submit written stakeholder comments by the deadline set forth in the DATES portion of this Notice to: Policy and Oversight Division, Office of Grants and Financial Management (OGFM), NIFA/USDA, Stop 2271, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2271; fax: (202) 401-1804; or e-mail: policy@nifa.usda.gov. (This e-mail address is intended only for receiving comments regarding this RFA and not for requesting information or forms.) In your comments, please state that you are responding to the Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: NIFA requests applications for the Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University (also referred to as the "Evans-Allen Research Program") for fiscal year (FY) **2015** to support continuing agricultural research at colleges eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 417–419, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 321–326 and 328) ("1890 Land-Grant Institutions"), including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University. Funds appropriated under this section shall be used for expenses of conducting agricultural research, printing, disseminating the results of such research, contributing to the retirement of employees subject to the provisions of the Act of March 4, 1940 (54 Stat. 39–40, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 331), administrative planning and direction, and purchase and rental of land and the construction, acquisition, alteration, or repair of buildings necessary for conducting agricultural research.

This RFA is being released prior to the passage of an appropriations act for FY 2015. Enactment of continuing resolutions (CRs) or an appropriations act may affect the availability or level of funding for this program. Subject to any FY 2015 Continuing Resolution, funds will be distributed through grants to the institutions on a quarterly basis. The initial distribution will be in accordance with the amounts allocated in FY 2014. Adjustments will be made to the

allocations for FY 2015 once the FY 2015 appropriations are finalized. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2014 was **\$49,393,697**. The specific distributions are included in Appendix A of this RFA. In FY 2015, subject to the availability of funds and the applicant having met the previous year's reporting requirements, quarterly payments will be issued.

This notice identifies the objectives for the Evans-Allen Research Program projects, the eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for an Evans-Allen Research Program grant.

Table of Contents

PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION.....	5
A. Legislative Authority and Background.....	5
B. Purpose.....	6
PART II—AWARD INFORMATION.....	7
A. Available Funding.....	7
B. Type of Application.....	7
C. Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research.....	7
PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION.....	8
A. Eligible Applicants.....	8
B. Cost Sharing or Matching.....	8
PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION.....	10
A. Electronic Application Package.....	10
B. Content and Form of Application Submission.....	11
C. Submission Dates and Times.....	13
D. Funding Restrictions.....	14
E. Other Submission Requirements.....	14
PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.....	15
A. General.....	15
B. Organizational Management Information.....	15
PART VI—AWARD ADMINISTRATION.....	16
A. General.....	16
B. Award Notice.....	16
C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.....	17
D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements.....	21
PART VII—AGENCY CONTACTS.....	26
PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION.....	26
Appendix A.....	27

PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority and Background

Section 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA), (7 U.S.C. 3222), enacted as Title XIV of Public Law 95–113 (The Food and Agriculture Act of 1977) on Sept. 29, 1977 is also known as the Evans-Allen Research Program. This law provides the basis for Federal funding for agricultural research activities at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University.

The 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University, are eligible for funds appropriated under this Act according to the following formula: Funds up to the total amount made available to all eligible institutions in the fiscal year ending September 30, 1978, under section 2 of the Act of August 4, 1965 (79 Stat.431; 7 U.S.C. 450i), shall be allocated among the eligible institutions in the same proportion as funds made available under section 2 of the Act of August 4, 1965, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1978, are allocated among the eligible institutions. Of the funds in excess of that amount, 20 per cent shall be allotted among eligible institutions in equal proportions; 40 per cent shall be allotted among the eligible institutions in the proportion that the rural population of the State in which each eligible institution is located bears to the total rural population of all the States in which eligible institutions are located, as determined by the last preceding decennial census current at the time each such additional sum is first appropriated; and the balance of 40 per cent shall be allotted among the eligible institutions in the proportion that the farm population of the State in which each eligible institution is located bears to the total farm population of all the States in which the eligible institutions are located, as determined by the last preceding decennial census current at the time each such additional sum is first appropriated. In computing the distribution of the allocated funds, the allotments to Tuskegee University and Alabama A&M University shall be determined as if each institution were in a separate State.

Under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) was required to develop and maintain a public searchable data base for all Federal financial assistance awards, and Federal agencies are required to report specific data elements which will be collected via these applications (e.g., Dun and Bradstreet data Universal Numbering (D-U-N-S®) numbers, legal name of institution, legal address, congressional district). OMB makes this information available at www.usaspending.gov.

Please note that the submission of this application package does not change the following:

- Delegated authorities of the 1890 Research Director
- Availability and use of Section 1445 funds at your institution
- Indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable costs; and
- Matching waiver authority of NIFA for NARETPA section 1445 funds

NIFA prepared draft guidance entitled “National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Federal Assistance Policy Guide.” The draft guidance discusses the statutory and regulatory responsibilities of recipients of Federal funds administered by NIFA. This draft guidance compiles and updates the statutory, regulatory, policy guidance previously distributed to Capacity Grant recipients as Administrative Manuals. The draft NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide also addresses procedures and policies followed by NIFA in the administration of Federal assistance. In other words, the Policy Guide is a single, comprehensive guidance document applicable to NIFA grants, cooperative agreements, endowments, and other financial assistance. NIFA intends to publish a final version of the Policy Guide to reflect any public comments, as well as the requirements of the Agricultural Act of 2014 and USDA's implementation of the Office of Management and Budget “OMB Uniform Guidance: Cost Principles, Audit, and Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards”. When appropriate, NIFA will post the Policy Guide on the NIFA web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/business/managing_grant.html).

Please note that any instructions in this RFA supersede policies and procedures identified in the Policy Guide and/or the prior Administrative Manual for Evans-Allen Cooperative Agricultural Research.

B. Purpose

The purpose of this funding is to support agricultural research activities at 1890 Land-Grant Universities, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University.

PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

Subject to any 2015 Continuing Resolution, funds will be distributed to the institutions on a quarterly basis and according to the amounts allocated in FY 2014. Adjustments will be made to the allocations for FY 2015 once the FY 2015 appropriations are finalized. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2014 was **\$49,393,697**.

Awards issued as a result of this RFA will have designated the Automated Standard Applications for Payment System (ASAP), operated by the Department of Treasury's Financial Management Service, as the payment system for funds. For more information see www.nifa.usda.gov/business/method_of_payment.html.

B. Type of Application

In FY 2015, submit applications to the Evans-Allen Research Program as a “new” application.

C. Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research

Specific research projects funded through Evans-Allen Research and reported through AREERA Plan of Work and Annual Report as well as through specific project reporting are subject to the specific terms and conditions described under this section.

The responsible and ethical conduct of research (RCR) is critical for excellence, as well as public trust, in science and engineering. Consequently, we consider education in RCR essential to the preparation of future scientists. In accordance with sections 2, 3, and 8 of 7 CFR Part 3022, institutions that conduct USDA-funded extramural research must foster an atmosphere conducive to research integrity, bear primary responsibility for prevention and detection of research misconduct, and maintain and effectively communicate and train their staff regarding policies and procedures. In the event an application to NIFA results in an award, the Authorized Representative (AR) assures, through acceptance of the award that the institution will comply with the above requirements. Award recipients shall, upon request, make available to NIFA the policies, procedures, and to support the conduct of the training.

Note that the training referred to herein shall be either on-campus or off-campus training. The general content of the ethics training will, at a minimum, emphasize three key areas of research ethics: authorship and plagiarism, data and research integration, and reporting misconduct. Each institution will be responsible for developing its own training system, as schools will need flexibility to develop training tailored to their specific student needs. Grantees should consider the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) program for RCR (<https://www.citiprogram.org/rcrpage.asp>). Typically this RCR education addresses the topics of: Data Acquisition and Management - collection, accuracy, security, access; Authorship and Publication; Peer Review; Mentor/Trainee Responsibilities; Collaboration; Conflict of Interest; Research Misconduct; Human Subject Research; and Use of Animals in Research.

PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Applications may only be submitted by 1890 Land-Grant Universities, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University, that conduct agricultural research activities in accordance with Section 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and teaching Policy Act of 1077 (NARETPA) (7 U.S.C. 3222): Alabama A&M University; Tuskegee University; University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff; Delaware State University; Florida A&M University; Fort Valley State University; Kentucky State University; Southern University; University of Maryland – Eastern Shore; Alcorn State University; Lincoln University; North Carolina A & T State University; Langston University; South Carolina State University; Tennessee State University; Prairie View A&M University; Virginia State University; and West Virginia State University. Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. Failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of application deadline may result in the application being excluded from consideration or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Section 1449 of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3222d) states that “the State shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources. Such matching funds shall be for an amount equal to not less than ... 100 percent of the formula [grant] funds to be distributed to the eligible institution for fiscal year 2007 and each fiscal year thereafter. ... Notwithstanding [redistributing the funds], the Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement ... above the 50 percent level for any fiscal year for an eligible institution of a State, if the Secretary determines that the State will be unlikely to satisfy the matching requirement.”

Most regulations applicable to National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) awards are housed in Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations. 7 CFR 3419.1 defines “matching funds” as “funds from non-Federal sources made available by the State to the eligible institutions ... [for] programs or activities that fall within the purposes of agricultural research and cooperative extension under sections 1444 and 1445 of NARETPA ... or [for] qualifying educational activities. Matching funds means cash contributions and excludes in-kind matching contributions.” It defines “non-Federal sources” as “funds made available by the State to the eligible institution either through direct appropriation or under any authority (other than authority to charge tuition and fees paid by students) provided by a State to an eligible institution to raise revenue, such as gift acceptance authority or user fees.” Finally, it defines “qualifying educational activities” as “programs that address food and agricultural sciences components of an eligible institution.”

7 CFR 3419.6 states that “The required matching funds for the formula programs shall be used by an eligible institution for agricultural research and extension activities that have been approved in the plan of work required under sections 1444(d) and 1445(c) of the National

Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977...or for...qualifying education activities.”

NIFA may consider and approve matching waiver requests above the 50 percent level. See Part IV, B.4. for instructions about how to request a waiver.

PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Electronic Application Package

Only electronic applications may be submitted via Grants.gov to NIFA in response to this RFA. We urge you to submit early to the Grants.gov system. For an overview of the Grants.gov application process see www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/grant-application-process.html.

New Users of Grants.gov

Prior to preparing an application, we recommend that the Project Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) first contact an Authorized Representative (AR, also referred to as Authorized Organizational Representative or AOR)¹ (see B.,1.,d. of this Part to determine if the organization is prepared to submit electronic applications through Grants.gov. If not (e.g., the institution/organization is new to the electronic grant application process through Grants.gov), **then you must complete the one-time registration process PRIOR to submitting an application. It can take as long as 2 weeks to complete the registration process so it is critical to begin as soon as possible.** In such situations, the AR should go to **“Register” in the top right corner of the Grants.gov web page (or go to www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html) for information on registering the institution/organization with Grants.gov.** Item 2. below mentions the “NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.” Part II., 1. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide contains additional explanatory language regarding the registration process.

Steps to Obtain Application Package Materials

To receive application materials:

1. You must download and install a version of Adobe Reader compatible with Grants.gov to access, complete, and submit applications. For basic system requirements and download instructions, see www.grants.gov/web/grants/support/technical-support/software/adobe-reader-compatibility.html. Grants.gov has a test package that will help you determine whether your current version of Adobe Reader is compatible.
2. To obtain the application package from Grants.gov, go to www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html. Under Step 1 click on “Download a Grant Application Package,” and enter the funding opportunity number **USDA-NIFA-EA1445-004676** in the appropriate box and click “Download Package.” From the search results, click “Download” to access the application package.

The application package contains the “NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.” This guide contains an introduction and general Grants.gov instructions, information about how to use a

¹The Authorized Representative (AR) must have the authority to represent and bind the organization for any agreement (i.e., the individual who is authorized to commit the awardee’s time and other resources to the project, to commit the awardee to comply with the terms and conditions of the award instrument including those set out herein, and to otherwise act for or on behalf of the awardee institution or organization).

Grant Application Package in Grants.gov, and instructions on how to complete the application forms.

If you require assistance to access the application package (e.g., downloading or navigating Adobe forms) **or submitting the application**, refer to resources available on the Grants.gov website (www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-resources.html).

Grants.gov assistance is also available at:

Grants.gov customer support

800-518-4726 toll-free or 606-545-5035

Business Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Closed on [federal holidays](#).

Email: support@grants.gov

Grants.gov iPortal: Top 10 requested help topics (FAQs), searchable knowledge base, self-service ticketing and ticket status, and live web chat (available 7 am - 9 p.m. ET). Get help now!

Have the following information available when contacting Grants.gov:

- Funding opportunity number (FON)
- Name of agency to which you are applying
- Specific area of concern

See www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/electronic.html for additional resources for applying electronically.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

You should prepare electronic applications following Parts V and VI of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. This guide is part of the corresponding application package (see Section A. of this part). The following is **additional information** needed to prepare an application in response to this RFA. **If there is discrepancy between the two documents, the information contained in this RFA is overriding.**

Note the attachment requirements (e.g., PDF) in Part III, Section 3. of the guide. ANY PROPOSALS THAT ARE NON-COMPLIANT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS (e.g., content format, PDF file format, file name restrictions, and no password protected files) WILL BE AT RISK OF BEING EXCLUDED FROM NIFA REVIEW. Partial applications will be excluded from NIFA review. We will accept subsequent submissions of an application until the established deadline in the RFA (see Part V, 2.1 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further information).

Grants.gov provides online tools to assist if you do not own PDF-generating software. You will find PDF conversion software at <http://test.grants.gov/web/grants/support/technical-support/software/pdf-conversion-software.html>.

For any questions related to the preparation of an application, review the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide and the applicable RFA. If assistance is still needed for preparing application forms content, contact:

- Email: electronic@nifa.usda.gov
- Phone: 202-401-5048
- Business hours: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET, excluding federal holidays.

Each grant application must contain a(n):

- “Application for Federal Assistance,” Form SF-424 R&R Cover Sheet
- Key Contacts Form.
- NIFA Supplemental Information Form.

The following is an optional form:

- Attachment Form

The NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide includes instructions for additional forms that are not needed for an application in response to this RFA. Complete and submit only the forms associated with the funding opportunity package and as instructed below.

1. SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 2. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. The following are additional instructions.

- Field 1. Type of Submission** – Check “application.”
- Field 8. Type of Application** – Enter “new.”
- Field 15. Estimated Project Funding** – For item a. enter your institution’s FY 2014 allocation as listed in Appendix A to this announcement.

2. Key Contacts Form

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part VI, 4. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. The following are additional instructions:

- Contact 1 Project Role:** Enter the contact information for the 1890 Research Director.
- Contact 2 Project Role:** Enter the contact information for the 1890 Research Director’s designee, if applicable.
- Contact 3 Project Role:** Enter the contact information for the Business Office Manager/Administrator.
- Contact 4 Project Role:** Enter the contact information for the person responsible for drawdowns.

3. Supplemental Information Form

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part VI, 1. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. The following are additional instructions:

- Field 2. Program to which you are applying.** Enter the program code name (i.e., enter “Evans-Allen (Section 1445)” and the program code (i.e., enter “1445”).
- Field 8. Conflict of Interest List.** Do not attach a conflict of interest list.

4. **Attachment Form**

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part VI, 5. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. The following are additional instructions.

NIFA will use this field to capture all necessary attachments for this submission on the initial SF 424 R&R application [i.e., matching waiver requests (via pdf attachment)].

Matching funds Waiver Request (Optional)

If your institution is applying for a matching funds waiver, prepare a request in PDF format (see Part III, Section 3. of the guide for attachment requirements). Include the following elements in the request:

- (a) a request to waive matching requirements under this RFA;
- (b) a statement of the fiscal year(s) for which the waiver is requested;
- (c) a statement of the exact dollar amount of waiver being requested by fiscal year and how the amount was computed (by matching fund category);
- (d) a statement of why the waiver is requested;
- (e) documentation supporting the need for a waiver (i.e., newspaper articles/clippings or State budgets); and
- (f) the university's efforts to meet future matching needs.

The documentation should include the university's approved budget for the program for both the current and previous budget cycles. Your institution may also submit items such as a statement from the State asserting what portion of the required match amount the State contribution to the institution will cover, a schedule of projected cash flows showing what portion of the matching funds the university will have available or other documents such as letters from State or institution budget personnel or newspaper articles. In requesting the waiver, the institution must consider the availability of all permissible forms of matching in detail.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Instructions for submitting an application are included in Part IV, Section 1.9 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

Applications must be received by Grants.gov by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on October 15, 2014**. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding.

If you have trouble submitting an application to Grants.gov, you should FIRST contact the Grants.gov Help Desk to resolve any problems. Keep a record of any such correspondence. See Part IV, A. for Grants.gov contact information.

We send email correspondence to the AR regarding the status of submitted applications. Therefore, we strongly encourage applicants to provide accurate e-mail addresses, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R Application for Federal Assistance.

If the AR has not received correspondence **from NIFA** regarding a submitted application within 30 days of the established deadline, contact the Agency Contact identified in Part VII of the applicable RFA and request the proposal number assigned to the application.

Failure to do so may result in the application not being processed and funding being held. Once the application has been assigned a proposal number, you should cite this number on all future correspondence.

D. Funding Restrictions

(1) Approved NIFA Evans-Allen Research Projects

Evans-Allen Research Program funds may only be used on approved Evans-Allen Research Program projects.

(2) Indirect Costs and Tuition Remission

In accordance with section 1473 of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3319), indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable as Evans-Allen Research Program formula grant expenditures.

(3) Matching

See Part III, B. for additional information.

(4) Carryover of Funds

Evans-Allen funds are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation; however, funds may be carried over for up to one year after the end of the fiscal year for which they were appropriated. No prior approval is required to carry over funds for one additional year. However, additional carryover requests will not be considered or approved, since no legislative authority is provided to do so.

E. Other Submission Requirements

You should follow the submission requirements noted in Part IV, Section 1.9 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

For information about the **status of a submitted application**, see Part III, Section 6. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. General

NIFA will review submitted documents to determine if all program, financial, and administrative requirements have been met and are current.

B. Organizational Management Information

Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted on a one time basis, with updates on an as needed basis. This requirement is part of the responsibility determination prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA, if such information has not been provided previously under this or another NIFA program. We will provide you forms for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the preaward process. Although an applicant may be eligible, there are factors that may exclude an applicant from receiving federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual involved or a determination that an applicant is not responsible based on submitted organizational management information).

PART VI—AWARD ADMINISTRATION

A. General

All current program and administrative requirements must be met by the eligible institution, before funding will be released. The Capacity Grants Branch, Awards Management Division, OGF, will notify the institutions when all requirements have been met or approved.

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA awarding official shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants. All funds granted by NIFA under this RFA may be used only for the purpose for which they are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, regulations, terms and conditions of the award, applicable federal cost principles, and USDA assistance regulations (parts 3015 and 3019 of 7 CFR).

B. Award Notice

The award document will provide pertinent instructions and information including, at a minimum:

- (1) Legal name and address of performing organization or institution to whom the director has issued an award under the terms of this request for applications;
- (2) Title of project;
- (3) Name(s) and institution(s) of PDs chosen to direct and control approved activities;
- (4) Identifying award number and the Federal Agency Identification Number assigned by NIFA;
- (5) Project period, specifying the amount of time NIFA intends to support the project;
- (6) Total amount of financial assistance approved for the award;
- (7) Legal authority(ies) under which the award is issued;
- (8) Appropriate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number;
- (9) Applicable award terms and conditions (see www.nifa.usda.gov/business/awards/awardterms.html to view NIFA award terms and conditions);
- (10) Approved budget plan for categorizing allocable project funds to accomplish the stated purpose of the award; and
- (11) Other information or provisions deemed necessary by NIFA to carry out its respective awarding activities or to accomplish the purpose of a particular award.

C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Several federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications considered for review and to project grants awarded under this program. These include, but are not limited to, the ones listed below.

Note that the list includes current documents however some of these documents may cease to exist and new ones put in place with the December 26, 2014 implementation of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR Part 200).

2 CFR Part 220—Cost Principles for Educational Institutions (OMB Circular A-21).

2 CFR Part 225—Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments (OMB Circular A-87).

2 CFR Part 230—Cost Principles for Non-profit Organizations (OMB Circular A-122).

7 CFR Part 1, subpart A—USDA implementation of the Freedom of Information Act.

7 CFR Part 3—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-129 regarding debt collection.

7 CFR Part 15, subpart A—USDA implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

7 CFR Part 331 and 9 CFR Part 121—USDA implementation of the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002.

7 CFR Part 3015—USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, implementing OMB directives (i.e., OMB Circular Nos. A-21, A-87, and A-122, now codified at 2 CFR Parts 220, 225 and 230), and incorporating provisions of 31 U.S.C. 6301-6308 (formerly the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, Pub. L. No. 95-224), as well as general policy requirements applicable to recipients of departmental financial assistance.

7 CFR Part 3016—USDA implementation of Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments.

7 CFR Part 3017—USDA implementation of Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement).

7 CFR Part 3018—USDA implementation of Restrictions on Lobbying. Imposes prohibitions and requirements for disclosure and certification related to lobbying on recipients of federal contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and loans.

7 CFR Part 3019—USDA implementation of OMB Circular A-110, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Other Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations (2 CFR Part 215).

7 CFR Part 3021—USDA implementation of Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants).

7 CFR Part 3022—Research Institutions Conducting USDA-Funded Extramural Research; Research Misconduct.

7 CFR Part 3052—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Nonprofit Organizations.

7 CFR Part 3407—USDA procedures to implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

7 CFR 3430—Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Financial Assistance Programs-- General Award Administrative Provisions.

29 U.S.C. 794 (section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and 7 CFR Part 15b (USDA implementation of statute) —prohibiting discrimination based upon physical or mental handicap in federally-assisted programs.

35 U.S.C. 200 et seq. —Bayh Dole Act, controlling allocation of rights to inventions made by employees of small business firms and domestic nonprofit organizations, including universities, in federally-assisted programs (implementing regulations are contained in 37 CFR Part 401).

Administrative Guidelines

NIFA prepared draft guidance entitled “National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Federal Assistance Policy Guide.” The draft guidance discusses the statutory and regulatory responsibilities of recipients of Federal funds administered by NIFA. This draft guidance compiles and updates the statutory, regulatory, policy guidance previously distributed to Capacity Grant recipients as Administrative Manuals. The draft NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide also addresses procedures and policies followed by NIFA in the administration of Federal assistance. In other words, the Policy Guide is a single, comprehensive guidance document applicable to NIFA grants, cooperative agreements, endowments, and other financial assistance. NIFA intends to publish a final version of the Policy Guide to reflect any public comments, as well as the requirements of the Agricultural Act of 2014 and USDA's implementation of the Office of Management and Budget “OMB Uniform Guidance: Cost Principles, Audit, and Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards”. When appropriate, NIFA will post the Policy Guide on the NIFA web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/business/managing_grant.html).

Please note that any instructions in this RFA supersede policies and procedures identified in the Policy Guide and/or the prior Administrative Manual for Evans-Allen Cooperative Agricultural Research.

Requirement for Central Contractor Registration (CCR)

Unless you are exempted from this requirement under 2 CFR 25.110, you as the recipient must maintain the currency of your information in the CCR until you submit the final financial report required under this award or receive the final payment, whichever is later. This requires that you review and update the information at least annually after the initial registration, and more frequently if required by changes in your information or another award term.

In July 2012, the System for Award Management (SAM), a new system that combines eight federal procurement systems, including the CCR, and the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) into one new system, was implemented. The CCR activities are now being conducted through SAM (the CCR website will redirect users to SAM). Those organizations that need to register are to now visit <https://www.sam.gov/sam/>. Those organizations that already have a CCR registration are to visit the SAM website and should note the following:

- You'll create a new SAM User ID and Password.
- Your CCR permissions will be verified via your email account.
- Your CCR registration information (Entity Information) will be waiting for you in SAM.

Requirement for Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Numbers

If you are authorized to make subawards under this award, you:

1. Must notify potential subrecipients that no entity (see definition in paragraph C of this award term) may receive a subaward from you unless the entity has provided its DUNS number to you.
2. May not make a subaward to an entity unless the entity has provided its DUNS number to you.

Definitions - For purposes of this Request for Applications (RFA) and subsequent awards, the following terms are applicable:

1. *Central Contractor Registration (CCR)* means the Federal repository into which an entity must provide information required for the conduct of a business as a recipient. The CCR activities are now being conducted through SAM (see above).
2. *Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number* means the nine-digit number established and assigned by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) to uniquely identify business entities. A DUNS number may be obtained from D&B by telephone (currently 866-705-5711) or the Internet (currently at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).

3. *Entity*, as it is used in this award term, means all of the following, as defined at 2 CFR part 25, subpart C:

- a. A Governmental organization, which is a State, local government, or Indian Tribe;
- b. A foreign public entity;
- c. A domestic or foreign nonprofit organization;
- d. A domestic or foreign for-profit organization; and
- e. A Federal agency, but only as a subrecipient under an award or subaward to a non-Federal entity.

4. *Subaward*:

- a. This term means a legal instrument to provide support for the performance of any portion of the substantive project or program for which you received this award and that you as the recipient award to an eligible subrecipient.
- b. The term does not include your procurement of property and services needed to carry out the project or program (for further explanation, *see* Sec ____.210 of the attachment to OMB Circular A-133, “Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations”).

Federal Agency Identification Number (FAIN)

A FAIN is a unique number federal agencies assign to federal financial assistance awards. NIFA assigns a FAIN to each award and includes it in block 8. of the award document (NIFA-2009). Awardees must document the assigned FAIN on each subaward under the Federal award.

Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research

Please refer to Part II, C. of this RFA for further pertinent information.

Research Misconduct

All research awards issued by NIFA are subject to 7 CFR 3022, “USDA Research Misconduct Regulations for Extramural Research,” (75 FR 49357); USDA’s implementation of the Federal Policy on Research Misconduct published at 65 FR 76260. In accordance with §3022.2, §3022.3 and 3022.8, institutions that conduct extramural research funded by USDA must foster an atmosphere conducive to research integrity, bear primary responsibility for prevention and detection of research misconduct, and are to maintain and effectively communicate, including training, to their staff regarding policies and procedures relating to research misconduct. Grant recipients shall, upon request, make available to NIFA the policies and procedures as well as documentation to support the conduct of the training.

D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

1. Reporting

The Plan of Work Update for FYs 2016-2020 and Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results for FY 2014 are due by April 1, 2015 and should be submitted online through the NIFA Reporting Portal at the web address: <http://portal.nifa.usda.gov/portal>.

The following is a description of project data reporting requirements through the REEport system (located at <http://portal.nifa.usda.gov>) as well as the SF-425 reporting requirements:

Institutions must submit a REEport Project Initiation which includes the Project Description; Project Classification; Assurance Form; and Project Proposal through the REEport System prior to the initiation of each capacity-funded project. The project must undergo a review process and be approved before it is incorporated into the Program of Research.

Each institution shall submit a REEport Progress Report annually for each eligible project. All Progress Reports from institutions are based on the federal fiscal year and shall be submitted by March 1, 2015 for the preceding fiscal year.

A Final Report shall be submitted to NIFA through REEport for each completed or terminated project. Such reports shall be submitted at the same time as are progress reports on active projects and should include a summary of accomplishments for the entire life of the project.

A Financial Report shall be submitted to NIFA through REEport annually for all eligible projects from the preceding fiscal year. A Financial Report is also required for expenditures on all State projects that are to be included in the non-Federal funds and matching funds computation. Reports shall be made on the federal fiscal year basis.

Financial reporting via the SF-425, Federal Financial Report for FY 2015 is due to the Capacity Grants Branch, Awards Management Division, OGF, on December 31, 2015, for the period October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015, and annually thereafter until the award is closed out.

Additional details of annual, final technical and financial reporting requirements are included on the NIFA web site at www.nifa.usda.gov/business/reporting/form_report.html. Instructions for using the REEport system are included on the NIFA web site at www.nifa.usda.gov/business/reeport_imp.html.

2. Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget guidance published in the Federal Register (FR), 75 FR 55663, on September 14, 2010, "Requirements for Federal Funding

Accountability and Transparency Act Implementation,” awardees must comply with the requirements of this award term.

a. Reporting of first-tier subawards

1. **Applicability.** Unless you are exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, you must report each action that obligates \$25,000 or more in Federal funds that does not include Recovery funds (as defined in section 1512(a)(2) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5) for a subaward to an entity (see definitions in paragraph e. of this award term).

2. **Where and when to report.**

i. You must report each obligating action described in paragraph a.1. of this award term to www.fsr.gov.

ii. For subaward information, report no later than the end of the month following the month in which the obligation was made. (For example, if the obligation was made on November 7, 2013, the obligation must be reported by no later than December 31, 2013.)

3. **What to report.** You must report the information about each obligating action that the submission instructions posted at www.fsr.gov specify.

b. Reporting Total Compensation of Recipient Executives

1. **Applicability and what to report.** You must report total compensation for each of your five most highly compensated executives for the preceding completed fiscal year, if—

i. the total Federal funding authorized to date under this award is \$25,000 or more;

ii. in the preceding fiscal year, you received--

(A) 80 percent or more of your annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards); and

(B) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards); and

iii. The public does not have access to information about the compensation of the Executives through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. (To determine if the public has access to the

compensation information, see the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission total compensation filings at www.sec.gov/answers/execomp.htm).

2. Where and when to report. You must report executive total compensation described in paragraph b.1. of this award term:

- i. As part of your registration profile at <https://www.sam.gov/sam/>.
- ii. By the end of the month following the month in which this award is made, and annually thereafter.

c. Reporting of Total Compensation of Subrecipient Executives

1. Applicability and what to report. Unless you are exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, for each first-tier subrecipient under this award, you shall report the names and total compensation of each of the subrecipient's five most highly compensated executives for the subrecipient's preceding completed fiscal year, if--

- i. In the subrecipient's preceding fiscal year, the subrecipient received--
 - (A) 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards); and
 - (B) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts), and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act (and subawards); and
- ii. The public does not have access to information about the compensation of the executives through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. (To determine if the public has access to the compensation information, see the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission total compensation filings at www.sec.gov/answers/execomp.htm).

2. Where and when to report. You must report subrecipient executive total compensation described in paragraph c.1. of this award term:

- i. To the recipient.
- ii. By the end of the month following the month during which you make the subaward. For example, if a subaward is obligated on any date during the month of October of a given year (i.e., between October 1 and 31), you must report any required compensation information of the subrecipient by November 30 of that year.

d. Exemptions

If, in the previous tax year, you had gross income, from all sources, under \$300,000, you are exempt from the requirements to report:

- i. Subawards, and
- ii. The total compensation of the five most highly compensated executives of any subrecipient.

e. Definitions

For purposes of this Request for Applications (RFA) and subsequent awards, the following terms are applicable:

1. Entity means all of the following, as defined in 2 CFR Part 25:
 - i. A Governmental organization, which is a State, local government, or Indian tribe;
 - ii. A foreign public entity;
 - iii. A domestic or foreign nonprofit organization;
 - iv. A domestic or foreign for-profit organization;
 - v. A Federal agency, but only as a subrecipient under an award or subaward to a non- Federal entity.
2. Executive means officers, managing partners, or any other employees in management positions.
3. Subaward:
 - i. This term means a legal instrument to provide support for the performance of any portion of the substantive project or program for which you received this award and that you as the recipient award to an eligible subrecipient.
 - ii. The term does not include your procurement of property and services needed to carry out the project or program (for further explanation, see Sec. ---- .210 of the attachment to OMB Circular A-133, “Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations”).
 - iii. A subaward may be provided through any legal agreement, including an agreement that you or a subrecipient considers a contract.
4. Subrecipient means an entity that:
 - i. Receives a subaward from you (the recipient) under this award; and
 - ii. Is accountable to you for the use of the Federal funds provided by the subaward.
5. Total compensation means the cash and noncash dollar value earned by the executive during the recipient's or subrecipient's preceding fiscal year and includes the following (for more information see 17 CFR 229.402(c)(2)):
 - i. Salary and bonus.

- ii. Awards of stock, stock options, and stock appreciation rights. Use the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes with respect to the fiscal year in accordance with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (Revised 2004) (FAS 123R), Shared Based Payments.
- iii. Earnings for services under non-equity incentive plans. This does not include group life, health, hospitalization or medical reimbursement plans that do not discriminate in favor of executives, and are available generally to all salaried employees.
- iv. Change in pension value. This is the change in present value of defined benefit and actuarial pension plans.
- v. Above-market earnings on deferred compensation which is not tax-qualified.
- vi. Other compensation, if the aggregate value of all such other compensation (e.g. severance, termination payments, value of life insurance paid on behalf of the employee, perquisites or property) for the executive exceeds \$10,000.

PART VII—AGENCY CONTACTS

For questions regarding Evans-Allen Research projects and the Agricultural Research Program:

Dr. Edwin Lewis, Division of Community and Education (DEC), Institute of Youth, Family and Community (IYFC), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Stop 2250, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2250; Telephone: (202) 690-4565; Fax: (202) 690-2469; and E-mail: elewis@nifa.usda.gov.

For questions relating to the completion of the grants.gov forms:

Brenda Barnett, Branch Chief, Capacity Grants, Awards Management Division (AMD), Office of Grants and Financial Management (OGFM), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Stop 2271, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2271; Telephone: (202) 401-6520; Fax: (202) 401-1804; and E-mail: formulagrantsquestions@nifa.usda.gov.

For questions relating to REEport forms and submissions:

Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff (PARS), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Stop 2213, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2213; Telephone: (202) 690-0009; Fax: (202) 690-0634; and E-mail: REEport@nifa.usda.gov.

For questions relating to the 5-Year Plan of Work Update for FYs 2016-2020 or the Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results:

Katelyn Sellers, POW & REEport Business Manager, Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff (PARS), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Stop 2213, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2213; Telephone: (202) 401-5482; Fax: (202) 720-7714; and E-mail: pow@nifa.usda.gov.

PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION

The USDA NIFA home page for the Evans-Allen Research Program is:
www.nifa.usda.gov/business/awards/formula/evansallen.html.

Appendix A

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE				
National Institute of Food and Agriculture				
FY 2014 Distribution to the 1890 Land-grant Institutions				
Tuskegee University, and West Virginia State University *				
Authorized under Public Law 95-113, Section 1445, Evans-Allen Funds				
(Award 2014-33100)				
* Amounts listed below are actual FY 2014 allocations. Adjustments will be made to FY 2015 allocations upon enactment of a FY 2015 Appropriations Act.				
Institution and Location	State	Grant Number	FY 2014 Allocation	FY 2014 Required Match
ALABAMA A & M UNIVERSITY	AL			
Normal, Alabama		2014-33100-08901	\$ 2,683,894	\$ 2,683,894
TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY	AL			
Tuskegee, Alabama		2014-33100-08902	2,664,788	2,664,788
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS - PINE BLUFF	AR			
Pine Bluff, Arkansas		2014-33100-08903	2,314,040	2,314,040
DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY	DE			
Dover, Delaware		2014-33100-08904	1,244,128	1,244,128
FLORIDA A & M UNIVERSITY	FL			
Tallahassee, Florida		2014-33100-08905	2,144,897	2,144,897
FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY	GA			
Fort Valley, Georgia		2014-33100-08906	3,071,170	3,071,170
KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY	KY			
Frankfort, Kentucky		2014-33100-08907	3,666,643	3,666,643
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	LA			
Baton Rouge, Louisiana		2014-33100-08908	2,036,670	2,036,670
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - EASTERN SHORE	MD			
Princess Anne, Maryland		2014-33100-08909	1,553,552	1,553,552
ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY	MS			
Lorman, Mississippi		2014-33100-08910	2,528,547	2,528,547
LINCOLN UNIVERSITY	MO			
Jefferson City, Missouri		2014-33100-08911	3,684,701	3,684,701
NORTH CAROLINA A & T STATE UNIVERSITY	NC			
Greensboro, North Carolina		2014-33100-08912	4,220,752	4,220,752
LANGSTON UNIVERSITY	OK			
Langston, Oklahoma		2014-33100-08913	2,405,251	2,405,251
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY	SC			
Orangeburg, South Carolina		2014-33100-08914	2,274,596	2,274,596
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY	TN			
Nashville, Tennessee		2014-33100-08915	3,384,226	3,384,226
PRAIRIE VIEW A & M UNIVERSITY	TX			
Prairie View, Texas		2014-33100-08916	5,116,915	5,116,915

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE				
National Institute of Food and Agriculture				
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(Award 2014-33100)				
* Amounts listed below are actual FY 2014 allocations. Adjustments will be made to FY 2015 allocations upon enactment of a FY 2015 Appropriations Act.				
Institution and Location	State	Grant Number	FY 2014 Allocation	FY 2014 Required Match
VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY	VA			
Petersburg, Virginia		2014-33100-08917	2,869,724	2,869,724
WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY	WV			
Institute, West Virginia		2014-33100-08919	1,529,203	1,529,203
TOTAL PAYMENTS TO STATES			\$ 49,393,697	\$ 49,393,697
SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDE			1,382,728	
BIOTECH RISK ASSESSMENT			91,260	
CRIS COSTS			0	
FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION			1,617,315	
TOTAL APPROPRIATION			\$ 52,485,000	