McIntire-Stennis (M-S) Cooperative Forestry Research Program – Capacity RFA

FY 2017 Request for Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 15, 2016

United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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

MCINTIRE-STENNIS (M-S) COOPERATIVE FORESTRY RESEARCH PROGRAM

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE: This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under **10.202**.

DATES: Applications must be received by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time** on **September 15, 2016**. Comments regarding this request for applications (RFA) are requested within six 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 all comments when we develop the next RFA for the program, if applicable, and we will use the input to meet the requirements of section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) (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@nifa.usda.gov. This email address is intended only for receiving comments regarding this RFA and not for requesting information or forms. In your comments, state that you are responding to the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: NIFA requests applications for the McIntire-Stennis (M-S) Cooperative Forestry Research Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 to assist all states in carrying out a program of state forestry research at state forestry schools and colleges and developing a trained pool of forest scientists capable of conducting needed forestry research, which should include mandated forestry research areas: 1) reforestation and management of land for the production of crops of timber and other related products of the forest; 2) management of forest and related watershed lands to improve conditions of water flow and to protect resources against floods and erosion; 3) management of forest and related rangeland for production of forage for domestic livestock and game and improvement of food and habitat for wildlife; 4) management of forest lands for outdoor recreation; 5) protection of forest land and resources against fire, insects, diseases, or other destructive agents; 6) utilization of wood and other forest products; 7) development of sound policies for the management of forest lands and the harvesting and marketing of forest products; and such other studies as may be necessary to obtain the fullest and most effective use of forest resources.

Additionally, M-S funds should be allocated to the following high priority issues: 1) science of integration (ecosystem or landscape approaches including interdisciplinary multi-state projects); 2) forest ecosystem services; 3) human attitudes and behaviors; 4) conflict, uncertainty, and

decision-making; 5) technological advancements (biotechnology, nanotechnology and geospatial technology), productivity, and forest applications; and 6) urban ecosystems.

Each proposed research project must align with one or more of the seven mandated forestry research areas as defined by the McIntire-Stennis legislation. For additional information please go to Part I, B.

This RFA is being released prior to the passage of the FY 2017 appropriations bill. Enactment of continuing resolutions (CR) or an appropriations act may affect the availability or level of funding for this program. Subject to any 2017 CR, NIFA will distribute funds to the institutions quarterly and according to the amounts allocated in FY 2016. We will make adjustments to the allocations for FY 2017 once the FY 2017 appropriations are finalized. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2016 was **$31,920,685**. Institutions will receive grant funds quarterly. Appendix A of this RFA includes specific distributions. NIFA will issue FY 2017 quarterly payments subject to the availability of funds and the applicant having met the previous year's reporting requirements. Part III, B, identifies if matching is a requirement and, if so, you should pay particular attention to the matching instructions included in Part IV, B, 4.

This notice identifies the objectives for M-S project/program, the eligibility criteria for projects/program and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions you need to apply for a M-S grant.

What's new for 2017?

Based in part on stakeholder feedback, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) examined its processes to look for better ways to serve its community. As a result, NIFA has been and is releasing **Request for Applications (RFA)** for most of the FY 2017 Capacity funding programs during late June through mid-July 2016. This will allow NIFA to move funds as soon as they are made available to the agency. Most of the applications for these recently released RFAs will be due during August through September 2016, approximately 30-60 days after NIFA's release of the RFA. Please refer to the specific RFA for the exact deadline.

While NIFA awaits the passage of the FY 2017 budget, NIFA will fund capacity grants at a slightly reduced FY 2016 level. The pending budget affects the availability and/or level of funding for some or all of these programs. Once appropriations for the year are finalized, adjustments will be made to the FY 2017 allocations articulated in the Capacity RFAs based on the full year amount of funds available for each program.

Also, a couple of new changes in the RFAs are highlighted:

- **Felony Convictions or Tax Delinquent Status- -** See Part V, Section 4.12. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for instructions regarding mandatory Felony Convictions or Tax Delinquent Status. For Capacity programs, this mandatory information must be included in the Attachment Form.

- **ALL SF-425 financial reports** for the awards (not the project financial reports that are submitted in REEport), whether annual or final, will be due **Dec. 31 each year**. Most programs already have this requirement, but it was decided that all programs will follow this practice. This will take effect for the FY 2017 awards and everyone will notice a reminder around the September 30, 2017 time frame. SF-425 reports for FY 2017 capacity awards will be completed in the ezFedGrants portal instead of being emailed to the NIFA Awards Management Branch as they are currently. Detailed instructions on submitting SF-425s in the ezFedGrants portal will be provided to capacity award recipients as they become available.

- **ezFedGrants** --NIFA will publish RFAs and applicants will apply as we have been doing all along – NIFA will post directly into Grants.gov, send the information to applicants, and they will apply.
    - What will be different is how NIFA pulls the applications and processes the awards. NIFA will pull the applications after we go live with ezFedGrants, pulling directly into the new ezFedGrants system. The current expectation is that we will go live no later than December. NIFA will be prepared to allocate FY 2017 funds in ezFedGrants come the beginning of the Fiscal Year 2017.

- **Matching Funds**--If matching funds are required as specified under Part III, B. Cost-Sharing or Matching, the matching is an eligibility criteria and you must include the non-federal source documentation with the application. We will consider this documentation

when ascertaining final matching requirements or in determining if required matching can be waived. NIFA retains the right to make final determinations regarding matching requirements.

- The matching documentation must include the non-federal sources (specify whether the source is 3rd party, cash, in-kind, state or non-state, county or non-tax and the amount for each source) and amount of all matching support including matching from outside the applicant institution and place that information in PDF format (see Part III, Section 3. of the guide for attachment requirements) and include as a separate attachment to the Attachment Form.
- Establish the value of applicant contributions in accordance with applicable cost principles. Refer to 2 CFR Part 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards", for further guidance and other requirements relating to matching and allowable costs.

- **FY 2016 Appropriations Act Funding under Grants and Cooperative Agreements with Entities Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements—**Public Law 114-113 prevents the Federal Government from making grants or cooperative agreements to entities requiring employees or contractors to sign nondisclosure agreements or statements prohibiting them from reporting waste, fraud or abuse to an investigative or law enforcement representative of the Federal Government. Information related to the questions on this and other assurances on the SF-424 R&R Cover Sheet form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 2. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. See Section 2.18 of the NIFA Application Guide which provides that the applicant's electronic signature on the SF-424 affirms its agreement with Federal representations and assurances (e.g., Prohibition against FY 2016 Appropriations Act Funding under Grants and Cooperative Agreements with Entities Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements…)

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PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority and Background

The McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Act, Pub. L. 87-788 (76 Stat.806, 16 U.S.C. 582a, et seq.), was signed into law on October 10, 1962. This law provides the basis for Federal funding in forestry research and graduate education programs at State-certified schools of forestry in the United States. Forestry Research is defined as: reforestation and management of land for the production of crops of timber and other related products of the forest; management of forest and related watershed land to improve conditions of water flow and to protect resources against floods and erosion; management of forest and related rangeland for production of forage for domestic livestock and game and improvement of food and habitat for wildlife; management of forest lands for outdoor recreation; protection of forest land and resources against fire, insects, disease, or other destructive agents; utilization of wood and other forest products; development of sound policies for the management of forest lands and marketing of forest products; and such other studies as may be necessary to obtain the fullest and most effective use of forest resources.

Section 7412 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amended section 2 of the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act (16 U.S.C. 582a-1) to include the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions and made this change effective October 1, 2008. USDA contacted the Governor of each state in which an eligible 1890 Land-Grant Institution is located and provided notification about the legislative changes. USDA has received from the Governor's Designee the names of the M-S certified institutions and the proportionate amount of the state's M-S funding that is to be allocated to each.

Funding is provided to the States through a formula-based allocation process which depends on several factors. First, a base amount (approximately $25,000) is allocated to each State; however, this base amount is excluded from the formula. The balance of funding to each State is determined through a ranking process and dependent upon the following three factors:

1) forty percent of the remaining balance is allocated based on the area of non-Federal commercial forest land; 2) forty percent is allocated based upon the volume of timber cut annually from stock; and 3) twenty percent is allocated based on the total expenditures for forestry research from non-federal sources. Funds are then distributed to the eligible State-certified Institutions within the State as determined by the Governor's designee.

The USDA NIFA home page for the McIntire-Stennis is: https://nifa.usda.gov/program/mcintire-stennis-capacity-grant.

B. Purpose

The purpose of this funding is to increase forestry research in the production, utilization, and protection of forestland; to train future forestry scientists; and to involve other disciplines in forestry research. The eligible forestry research mandated areas as defined by the McIntire-Stennis legislation are: 1) reforestation and management of land for the production of crops of

timber and other related products of the forest; 2) management of forest and related watershed lands to improve conditions of water flow and to protect resources against floods and erosion; 3) management of forest and related rangeland for production of forage for domestic livestock and game and improvement of food and habitat for wildlife; 4) management of forest lands for outdoor recreation; 5) protection of forest land and resources against fire, insects, diseases, or other destructive agents; 6) utilization of wood and other forest products; 7) development of sound policies for the management of forest lands and the harvesting and marketing of forest products; and such other studies as may be necessary to obtain the fullest and most effective use of forest resources. All research projects submitted to NIFA must fall in one or more of the seven forestry research mandated areas listed above.

In addition to the eligible forestry research mandated areas described above, FY 2017 funding should also address the high priority issues described in the current M-S Strategic Plan: "Sustaining Healthy and Productive Forests: An Investment in America's Competitive Position in the Global Marketplace": 1) science of integration; 2) forest ecosystem services; 3) human attitudes and behaviors; 4) conflict, uncertainty, and decision-making; 5) technological advancements, productivity, and forest applications; 6) agroforestry and 7) urban ecosystems and NIFA's societal challenge on Changing Climate. The M-S Strategic Plan can be accessed as follows:
www.naufrp.org/pdf/M-S%20Plan.pdf.

PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

Subject to any 2017 CR, NIFA will distribute funds to the institutions quarterly and according to the amounts allocated in FY 2016. NIFA will make adjustments to the allocations for FY 2017 once the FY 2017 appropriations are finalized. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2016 was **$31,920,685**.

The Automated Standard Applications for Payment System (ASAP), operated by the Department of Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service, will be the payment system for all NIFA grant awards. For more information, see https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsservices/gov/pmt/asap/asap_home.htm.

B. Type of Application

In FY 2017, submit applications to the M-S Program as a "new" application.

C. Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research

In accordance with sections 2, 3, and 8 of 2 CFR Part 422, 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 documentation to support the conduct of the training. See http://nifa.usda.gov/responsible-and-ethical-conduct-research for more information.

PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Applications may only be submitted by State-certified Schools of Forestry as stipulated in accordance with Section 2 of P. L. 87-788, McIntire-Stennis Act: Auburn University; Alabama A&M University; Tuskegee University; University of Alaska; American Samoa Community College; Northern Arizona University; University of Arizona; University of Arkansas; California Polytechnic State University; California State University, Humboldt; University of California; Colorado State University; Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (New Haven); University of Connecticut; University of Delaware; Delaware State University; University of Florida; Florida A&M University, Fort Valley State University; University of Georgia; University of Guam; University of Hawaii; University of Idaho; Southern Illinois University; University of Illinois; Purdue University; Iowa State University; Kansas State University; University of Kentucky; Kentucky State University; Louisiana State University; Louisiana Tech University; Southern University and A&M College; University of Maine; University of Maryland (College Park); University of Maryland (Eastern Shore), University of Massachusetts; Michigan State University; Michigan Technological University; University of Michigan; University of Minnesota; Alcorn State University; Mississippi State University; Lincoln University; University of Missouri; University of Montana; University of Nebraska; University of Nevada; University of New Hampshire; Rutgers State University; New Mexico State University; Cornell University; State University of New York; North Carolina State University; North Dakota State University; Central State University, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center; Oklahoma State University; Oregon State University; Pennsylvania State University; University of Puerto Rico; University of Rhode Island; Clemson University; South Dakota State University; University of Tennessee; Tennessee State University; Stephen F. Austin State University; Texas A&M University; Utah State Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Vermont; College of the Virgin Islands; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Virginia State University; Washington State University; University of Washington; West Virginia University; West Virginia State University; University of Wisconsin; University of Wyoming.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided the subcontracts 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 have been reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Capacity grant recipients are to provide matching (see Part IV, B. 4.), either cash or in-kind, on a dollar-for-dollar basis on all Federal funds allotted. Eligible institutions located in insular areas (i.e., American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) are not required to match if the allocation is below $200,000. Grantees must identify the source of matching (i.e. State, County, non-tax, etc.). The source and amount of costs and/or the value of third-party in-kind contributions proposed by the applicant to meet a matching or cost

sharing requirement must be identified in the application budget. Allowing of costs for cost sharing and matching purposes is determined by the applicable cost principles (2 CFR 200).

PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Electronic Application Package

Submit only electronic applications via Grants.gov to NIFA in response to this RFA.
We urge you to submit early to the Grants.gov system. For information about the pre-award phase of the grant lifecycle, see http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants/grants-101/pre-award-phase.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] 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), you must complete the one-time registration process **PRIOR** to submitting an application. The registration process can take as long as two weeks to complete. It is, therefore, critical to begin the process as soon as possible. To register, the AR should select **"Register" in the top right corner of the Grants.gov web page (or go to** http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html**).**

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 http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html. Grants.gov has a test package that will help you determine whether your version of Adobe Reader is compatible.

2. To obtain the application package from Grants.gov, go to http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/download-application-package.html and enter the funding opportunity number:

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-MSCFR-005886

in the appropriate box and click "Download Package." From the search results, click "Download" to access the application package. A Grant Application Package is tied to a particular funding opportunity. Applications must be submitted ONLY to the particular funding opportunity to which the Grant Application Package is associated. The application package also contains the "NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide." This guide contains an

[1]The 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).

introduction and general Grants.gov instructions, additional information about the Grants.gov registration process, information about how to use a 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 (http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.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 (see https://grants-portal.psc.gov/Welcome.aspx?pt=Grants): Top 10 requested help topics (FAQs), searchable knowledge base, self-service ticketing and ticket status, and live web chat (available 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. Eastern Time).

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

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 **additional information is** needed to prepare an application for 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).

For any questions related to the preparation of an application, review the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide and the applicable RFA. If you need further assistance, contact:

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

Each grant application must contain the following:

- "Application for Federal Assistance," Form SF-424 R&R Cover Sheet
- Key Contacts Form
- NIFA Supplemental Information 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. <u>SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet</u>

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

a. Field 1. Type of Submission – Check "Application"

b. Field 8. Type of Application – Enter "new"

c. Field 15. Estimated Project Funding – For item a, enter your institution's FY 2017 allocation as listed in Appendix A to this announcement

d. Field 17. Complete Certification - See Part V, Section 2.18 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for the required certifications and assurances (e.g., Prohibition Against Entities Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements)

2. <u>Key Contacts Form</u>

Information related to the questions on this form is available in Part VI, 4 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

a. Contact 1 Project Role: Enter the contact information for the A-TR.

b. Contact 2 Project Role: Enter the contact information for the A-TR's designee, if applicable.

c. Contact 3 Project Role: Enter the contact information for the Business Office Manager/Administrator for this program.

d. Contact 4 Project Role: Enter the contact information for the person responsible for Drawdowns.

3. <u>Supplemental Information Form</u>

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

a. Field 2. Program to which you are applying. Enter the program code name (i.e., enter "**McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research**") and the program code (i.e., enter "**MSCFR**").

b. Field 8. Conflict of Interest List. Do not attach a conflict of interest list.

4. <u>Attachment Form</u>

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

a. **Felony Convictions or Tax Delinquent Status -** See Part V, Section 4.12. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for instructions regarding mandatory Felony Convictions or Tax Delinquent Status. For Capacity programs, this mandatory information must be included in the Attachment Form.

b. **Matching Funds -** If matching funds are required as specified under Part III, B. Cost-Sharing or Matching, the matching is an eligibility criteria and you must include the source documentation with the application. We will consider this documentation when ascertaining final matching requirements or in determining if required matching can be waived. NIFA retains the right to make final determinations regarding matching requirements.

   The matching documentation is to include the non-federal sources (specify whether the source is third party, cash, in-kind, state or non-state, county or non-tax and the amount for each source) and amount of all matching support including matching from outside the applicant institution and place that information in PDF format (see Part III, Section 3. of the guide for attachment requirements) and include as a separate attachment to the Attachment Form.

Establish the value of applicant contributions in accordance with applicable cost principles. Refer to 2 CFR Part 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards", for further guidance and other requirements relating to matching and allowable costs.

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 p.m. Eastern Time** on **September 15, 2016**. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding.

In case of 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.

Once NIFA accepts your application, you may check the status of your application in the ezFedGrants portal or by looking in Grants.gov. NIFA will provide information on how to access ezFedGrants at a later date.

If you are not able to validate that NIFA received your application September 30**,** contact the Agency Administrative Contact identified in Part VII of this 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 an application number, you should cite this number on all future inquires until an award number is assigned.**

D. Funding Restrictions

(1) Approved M-S Projects
M-S federal funding must be used on approved M-S 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 M-S formula grant expenditures.

(3) Matching
See Part III, B. for additional information.

(4) Carryover of Funds
M-S 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, no additional carryover requests may be considered or approved, as no legislative authority to do so is provided.

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.

Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM) – each applicant (unless excepted under 2 CFR § 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the federal awarding agency under 2 CFR § 25.110(d)) is required to:

- (i) be registered in SAM before submitting its application;
- (ii) provide a valid DUNS number in its application; and
- (iii) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency.

If you have not complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements you may be considered unqualified to receive an award.

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 as-needed. 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 the forms to fulfill these requirements as part of the pre-award 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

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA awarding official shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants.

B. Award Notice

The notice of federal award is the authorizing document. The award document contains award provisions and other pertinent information. See Notice of Award section at http://nifa.usda.gov/wait-notification for further details.

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 may include, but are not limited to, those listed at http://nifa.usda.gov/federal-regulations.

NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide—a compendium of basic NIFA policies and procedures that apply to all NIFA awards, unless there are statutory, regulatory, or award-specific requirements to the contrary, is available at http://nifa.usda.gov/policy-guide.

Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research

Refer to Part II, C for more information.

D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

The following is a description of project data reporting requirements through the REEport system (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 (POR). Please use the "Essentials of a McIntire-Stennis Proposal" guideline document to assist you in the development of your project proposal. The guideline can be found at http://nifa.usda.gov/resource/mcintire-stennis-project-proposal-essentials.
- Each institution must submit a REEport Progress Report annually for each eligible project. All Progress Reports are based on the federal fiscal year and must be submitted by March 1, 2017, for the preceding fiscal year.
- A Final Report must be submitted to NIFA through REEport for each completed or terminated project. Such reports must 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 Project Financial Report must be submitted to NIFA through REEport annually for all eligible projects from the preceding fiscal year. A Project 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 2017 is due to the ezFedGrants portal, on Dec. 31, 2017, for the period Oct.1, 2016, through September 30, 2017, and annually thereafter until the award is closed out. Information on how to access the ezFedGrants portal will be provided directly to the grant recipient prior to the due date.
- Each institution must submit a Program of Research (POR) in order to receive funding. POR must contain at least one project and projects must be up to date with their latest progress report. Specific instructions to submit a POR can be found at: https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/program-research-instructions

See http://nifa.usda.gov/program/mcintire-stennis-capacity-grant for additional details of annual, final technical, and financial reporting requirements. Instructions for using the REEport system are included on the NIFA web site at http://nifa.usda.gov/reeport-resources-land-grant-partners.

PART VII—AGENCY CONTACT

For questions regarding M-S projects/program, please contact Dr. Catalino Blanche, National Program Leader, Forest Biology, Institute of Bioenergy, Climate and Environment – Division of Environmental Systems, NIFA/USDA, Stop 2210, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2210; Telephone: (202) 401-4190; Fax: (202) 401-1706; E-mail: cblanche@nifa.usda.gov.

For administrative questions relating to the completion of the grants.gov forms please contact Brenda Barnett or Allison Owens, OGFM, NIFA/USDA, Stop 2271, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2271; Telephone: (202) 401-6520; Fax: (202) 401-1804; Email formulagrantquestions@nifa.usda.gov.

For questions relating to REEport forms and submissions, please contact the Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff; Telephone: (202) 690-0009; Fax: (202) 690-0634; email electronic@nifa.usda.gov or reeport@nifa.usda.gov.

PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION

The USDA NIFA home page for the M-S program is: http://nifa.usda.gov/program/mcintire-stennis-capacity-grant

Appendix A

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

FY 2017 Distribution of Funds to Eligible State Institutions or Institutional Units Authorized Under the Cooperative Forestry Research (McIntire-Stennis) Act, October 10, 1962 (Award # 2017-32100)

Appendix A

Institution	State	Grant Number	FY 2017 Allocation	FY 2017 Required Match
ALABAMA, Auburn - Auburn University	AL	2017-32100-06001	$ 428,807	$ 428,807
ALABAMA, Normal - Alabama A&M University	AL	2017-32100-08901	321,605	321,605
ALABAMA, Tuskegee - Tuskegee University	AL	2017-32100-08902	321,605	321,605
ALASKA, Fairbanks - University of Alaska	AK	2017-32100-06002	578,949	578,949
AMERICAN SAMOA, Pago Pago - American Samoa Community College	AS	2017-32100-06003	44,791	0
ARIZONA, Flagstaff - Northern Arizona University	AZ	2017-32100-06014	166,208	166,208
ARIZONA, Tucson - University of Arizona	AZ	2017-32100-06004	166,207	166,207
ARKANSAS, Fayetteville - Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Arkansas	AR	2017-32100-06005	989,840	989,840
CALIFORNIA, San Luis Obispo - California Polytechnic State University	CA	2017-32100-06283	129,986	129,986
CALIFORNIA, Arcata - California State University, Humboldt	CA	2017-32100-06282	129,986	129,986
CALIFORNIA, Berkeley - University of California	CA	2017-32100-06006	606,601	606,601
COLORADO, Fort Collins - Colorado State University	CO	2017-32100-06008	352,959	352,959
CONNECTICUT, New Haven - Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station	CT	2017-32100-07609	326,353	326,353
CONNECTICUT, Storrs - Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Connecticut	CT	2017-32100-06009	108,784	108,784
DELAWARE, Newark - University of Delaware, Agricultural Experiment Station	DE	2017-32100-06010	113,162	113,162
DELAWARE, Dover - Delaware State University	DE	2017-32100-08904	75,441	75,441
FLORIDA, Gainesville - Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Florida	FL	2017-32100-06012	724,445	724,445
FLORIDA, Tallahassee - Florida A&M University	FL	2017-32100-08905	80,494	80,494
GEORGIA, Athens - School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia	GA	2017-32100-06013	1,020,287	1,020,287
GEORGIA, Fort Valley - Fort Valley State University	GA	2017-32100-08906	113,365	113,365
GUAM, Agana - University of Guam	GU	2017-32100-06057	106,425	0
HAWAII, Honolulu - University of Hawaii Systems	HI	2017-32100-06015	291,326	291,326
IDAHO, Moscow - University of Idaho	ID	2017-32100-06016	599,494	599,494
ILLINOIS, Carbondale - Southern Illinois University	IL	2017-32100-06043	268,930	268,930
ILLINOIS, Urbana - University of Illinois	IL	2017-32100-06017	268,931	268,931
INDIANA, Lafayette - Purdue University	IN	2017-32100-06018	640,583	640,583
IOWA, Ames - Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station, Iowa State University	IA	2017-32100-06019	476,227	476,227
KANSAS, Manhattan - Kansas State University	KS	2017-32100-06020	311,871	311,871
KENTUCKY, Lexington - Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Kentucky	KY	2017-32100-06021	631,810	631,810
KENTUCKY, Frankfort - Kentucky State University	KY	2017-32100-08907	111,496	111,496
LOUISIANA, Baton Rouge - Louisiana State University, School of Forestry	LA	2017-32100-06022	583,497	583,497
LOUISIANA, Ruston - School of Forestry, Louisiana Tech University	LA	2017-32100-06052	250,070	250,070
LOUISIANA, Baton Rouge - Southern University and A&M College	LA	2017-32100-08908	176,817	176,817
MAINE, Orono - University of Maine	ME	2017-32100-06023	887,118	887,118
MARYLAND, College Park - University of Maryland	MD	2017-32100-06024	261,453	261,453
MARYLAND, Eastern Shore-University of Maryland	MD	2017-32100-08909	112,051	112,051
MASSACHUSETTS, Amherst - University of Massachusetts	MA	2017-32100-06025	455,682	455,682
MICHIGAN, East Lansing - Michigan State University	MI	2017-32100-06026	309,403	309,403
MICHIGAN, Houghton - Michigan Technological University	MI	2017-32100-06098	309,402	309,402
MICHIGAN, Ann Arbor - University of Michigan	MI	2017-32100-06099	309,402	309,402
MINNESOTA, St. Paul - Regents of the University of Minnesota	MN	2017-32100-06027	866,573	866,573
MISSISSIPPI, Mississippi State - Mississippi State University	MS	2017-32100-06028	841,179	841,179
MISSISSIPPI, Alcorn State - Alcorn State University	MS	2017-32100-08910	210,295	210,295
MISSOURI, Columbia - School of Forestry, The Curators of the University of Missouri	MO	2017-32100-06029	631,995	631,995
MISSOURI, Jefferson City - Lincoln University	MO	2017-32100-08911	70,222	70,222
MONTANA, Missoula - University of Montana System, Forestry and Conservation Experiment Station	MT	2017-32100-06100	681,672	681,672
NEBRASKA, Lincoln - University of Nebraska	NE	2017-32100-06031	250,237	250,237
NEVADA, Reno - University of Nevada, Mac C. Fleischmann College of Agriculture	NV	2017-32100-06032	126,970	126,970
NEW HAMPSHIRE, Durham - University System of New Hampshire	NH	2017-32100-06033	496,771	496,771
NEW JERSEY, New Brunswick - Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Agricultural Experiment Station	NJ	2017-32100-06034	414,593	414,593
NEW MEXICO, Las Cruces - New Mexico State University	NM	2017-32100-06035	270,781	270,781
NEW YORK, Ithaca - New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University	NY	2017-32100-06036	232,052	232,052
NEW YORK, Syracuse - The Research Foundation of the State University of New York	NY	2017-32100-06102	696,155	696,155
NORTH CAROLINA, Raleigh - North Carolina State University	NC	2017-32100-06037	1,092,562	1,092,562
NORTH DAKOTA, Fargo - North Dakota State University of Agriculture and Applied Sciences	ND	2017-32100-06038	209,147	209,147

OHIO, Wooster - Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center	OH	2017-32100-06039	518,352	518,352
OHIO, Wilberfoce - Central State University	OH	2017-32100-00416	101,686	101,686
OKLAHOMA, Stillwater - Oklahoma State University	OK	2017-32100-06040	558,404	558,404
OREGON, Corvallis - Oregon State University	OR	2017-32100-04128	1,113,108	1,113,108
PENNSYLVANIA, University Park - Agricultural Experiment Station, Pennsylvania State University	PA	2017-32100-06042	763,850	763,850
PUERTO RICO, Rio Piedras - University of Puerto Rico Estaction Experimental Agricola	PR	2017-32100-06093	85,881	0
RHODE ISLAND, Kingston - University of Rhode Island	RI	2017-32100-06044	147,513	147,513
SOUTH CAROLINA, Clemson - College of Forestry and Recreation Resources, Clemson University	SC	2017-32100-06045	846,028	846,028
SOUTH DAKOTA, Brookings - South Dakota State University	SD	2017-32100-06046	229,692	229,692
TENNESSEE, Knoxville - University of Tennessee	TN	2017-32100-06047	684,198	684,198
TENNESSEE, Nashville - Tennessee State University	TN	2017-32100-08915	120,741	120,741
TEXAS, Nacogdoches - Stephen F. Austin State University	TX	2017-32100-06101	484,647	484,647
TEXAS, College Station - Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas AgriLife Research	TX	2017-32100-06048	484,648	484,648
UTAH, Logan - Utah State Agricultural Experiment Station	UT	2017-32100-06049	168,058	168,058
VERMONT, Burlington - University of Vermont	VT	2017-32100-06050	517,316	517,316
VIRGIN ISLANDS, St. Thomas - The College of the Virgin Islands	VI	2017-32100-06058	44,791	0
VIRGINIA, Blacksburg - Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	VA	2017-32100-06051	853,876	853,876
VIRGINIA, Petersburg - Virginia State University	VA	2017-32100-08917	94,875	94,875
WASHINGTON, Pullman - Washington State University	WA	2017-32100-06053	463,918	463,918
WASHINGTON, Seattle - University of Washington	WA	2017-32100-06092	567,010	567,010
WEST VIRGINIA, Morgantown - West Virginia University	WV	2017-32100-06054	528,902	528,902
WEST VIRGINIA, Institute - West Virginia State University	WV	2017-32100-08919	132,226	132,226
WISCONSIN, Madison - Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wisconsin System	WI	2017-32100-06055	784,394	784,394
WYOMING, Laramie - University of Wyoming	WY	2017-32100-06056	373,504	373,504
Total Payments to States			$31,920,685	$31,638,797
Federal Administration			1,048,478	
Small Business Set-Aside			958,617	
Biotech Risk Assessment			33,220	
TOTAL APPROPRIATION			$33,961,000	

Note: This Appendix A is based on FY 2016 data and calculations and are subject to change per FY 2017 appropriations.