

McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program

Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Request for Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 7, 2019



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

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

McINTIRE-STENNIS COOPERATIVE FORESTRY RESEARCH PROGRAM

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ASSISTANCE LISTING formerly known as the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: This program is listed in the Assistance Listings under **10.202**.

DATES: Applications must be received by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time** on October 7, 2019. 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) 2020 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: (1) ecological restoration; (2) catastrophe management; (3) valuing and trading ecological services; (4) energy conservation, biomass energy and bio-based materials development; (5) forest fragmentation; (6) carbon sequestration and climate change; and (7) ways of fostering healthy forests and a globally competitive forest resources sector.

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); 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.

This RFA is being released prior to the passage of the FY 2020 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 FY 2020 CR, NIFA will distribute funds to the institutions quarterly and according to the amounts allocated in FY 2019. We will make adjustments to the allocations for FY 2020 once the FY 2020 appropriations are finalized. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2019 was \$33,802,560

Institutions will receive grant funds quarterly. Appendix A of this RFA includes specific distributions. NIFA will issue FY 2020 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 an M-S grant.

What's new for Fiscal Year 2020

1. NIFA is offering an opportunity to pilot submission of an SF424a budget with FY 2020 capacity applications. In FY 2021, budgets will be required as a component of capacity grant applications. The SF 424a is available in grants.gov and the NIFA grants.gov application guide has been updated with detailed instructions. For more information on the FY 2020 budget pilot, including upcoming webinars for applicants choosing to participate in the pilot, please visit the NIFA website <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/2020-capacity-budget-requirements>
2. NIFA is providing updated information on the applicability of the 5 percent retirement cap to capacity programs listed in section 251(f)(1) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, 7 USC 6971(f)(1). The authority to pay for the retirement of land-grant college employees is found in 7 USC 331. NIFA's Office of General Counsel has advised that based on the language and legislative history associated with 7 U.S.C. 331, Section 331 applies to Acts supplementary to the First Morrill Act and to programs authorized under authorities that specifically provide for the application of section 331. Therefore, the 5% retirement cap applies to Smith-Lever, Smith Lever special needs, DC PERA, Hatch, 1890 Extension, 1890 research, and Animal Health grants. This includes these grants in Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Marianas, and Micronesia. The retirement cap does NOT apply to the following programs: McIntire-Stennis, 1890 Facilities, RREA, EFNEP, and Tribal College Endowment.
3. Effective FY 2019, passage of the [Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 \(Pub. L. 115-334\)](#) provided eligibility to 1994 Institutions (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103-382)) that offer an associate's degree or a baccalaureate degree in forestry to receive assistance for forestry research under the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act (16 U.S.C. 582a-1). The newly eligible 1994 Land-grant Institutions have been added to Part III, A of this RFA, in accordance with this change.
4. Effective Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, capacity extension programs saw a change in their Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number now known as Assistance Listing. The change was made to provide individual programs a unique Assistance Listing number. The change in numbers was effective for awards made on or after October 1, 2018. Grants awarded prior to FY 2019 will retain Assistance Listing Number 10.500 until the grants expire. The memorandum providing background for this change, as well as action steps that NIFA has taken, is available [online](#).
5. NIFA's Office of Grants and Financial Management, Office of Information Technology, and Data Governance Working Group are working on a pilot initiative to better identify and track institutions and associated departments that receive capacity awards. As part of this pilot, NIFA is providing guidance in the form of additional columns in the capacity RFA appendices to specify information we require each applicant to enter into the Legal Name, Organizational DUNS, and Department Name fields of the SF-424. If changes have occurred to this information, please contact NIFA as soon as possible to discuss options to minimize potential issues and delays.

6. **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.
7. **All Standard Form (SF)-425 Federal Financial Reports** for the awards (not the project financial reports that are submitted in REEport), whether annual or final, will be due December 29 each year. Most programs already have this requirement, but it was decided that all programs will follow this practice. This change took effect for the FY 2017 awards.
8. Annual and final report templates are made available in the ezFedGrants portal on October 1 for all capacity agreements. Recipients will submit the SF-425 directly in the portal. Detailed instructions on the submission of SF-425s in the ezFedGrants portal can be found under the training tab on the [ezFedGrants web page](#).
9. **ezFedGrants is the USDA solution for** grants management. NIFA will publish RFAs on its website and Grants.gov. You will continue to apply through Grants.gov and your applications will automatically be downloaded into ezFedGrants.
10. **Matching Funds-**If matching funds are required as specified under Part III, B. Cost-Sharing or Matching, the matching is an eligibility criteria and grantees must include and attach a pdf. document identifying the non-federal source of match 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, 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.
 - If you are participating in the FY 2020 budget pilot, you will be providing source of match information on the SF 424a Section C and in the accompanying budget narrative. You do not need to provide an additional source of match document.
 - 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.
11. **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 16 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. 87-778 (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. Section 7604 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334) provided eligibility to 1994 Institutions (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103-382)) that offer an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree in forestry to receive assistance for forestry research under the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act (16 U.S.C. 582a-1). This change took effect December 21, 2018. Two 1994 Institutions have been deemed eligible to receive McIntire-Stennis funding. These are Salish Kootenai College in Montana, and Leech Lake Tribal College in Minnesota. The Governors of these states have provided NIFA with allocations for FY19 through FY23. Montana's allocations were updated for FY19 in the Appendix A. Leech Lake will begin receiving funds in FY20. NIFA will be reaching out to both eligible institutions in Minnesota to provide updated allocations and additional information.

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. Note that

B. Purpose and Priorities

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; management of forest lands for outdoor recreation;
- (4) protection of forest land and resources against fire, insects, diseases, or other destructive agents;
- (5) utilization of wood and other forest products; and
- (6) 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.

McIntire-Stennis aligns with the USDA Strategic Goals FYs 2018-2022

<https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/strategic-goals>;

Goal 5: Strengthen the stewardship of private lands through technology and research.

In addition to the eligible forestry research mandated areas described above, FY 2019 funding should also address three critical goals for strengthening the M-S Program as described in the current M-S Strategic Plan: “The McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program 2017 Strategic Plan” as follows:

- (1) create the future generation of forestry educators, scientists, and practitioners through graduate education;
- (2) build and sustain strategic relationships that enhance overall program effectiveness and support;
- (3) Communicate and educate the importance, impact, and successes of the McIntire-Stennis Program.

The M-S Strategic Plan can be accessed as follows: https://naufnp.forest.mtu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Mac_Stennis_StrategicPlan16PRINT.pdf

PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

Subject to any FY 2020 CR, NIFA will distribute funds to the institutions quarterly and according to the amounts allocated in FY 2019 NIFA will make adjustments to the allocations for FY 2020 once the FY 2020 appropriations are finalized. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2019 was \$33,802,560

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 2020, 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 <https://nifa.usda.gov/responsible-and-ethical-conduct-research> for further 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.

Table 1: States-Certified Schools of Forestry

School Name	School Name	School Name	School Name
Alabama A&M University	Louisiana State University	Tennessee State University	University of Minnesota
Alcorn State University	Louisiana Tech University	Texas A&M University	University of Missouri
American Samoa Community College	Michigan State University	Tuskegee University	University of Montana
Auburn University	Michigan Technological University	University of Alaska	University of Nebraska
California Polytechnic State University	Mississippi State University	University of Arizona	University of New Hampshire
California State University	New Mexico State University	University of Arkansas	University of Nevada
Central State University	Northern Arizona University	University of California	University of Puerto Rico
Clemson University	North Carolina State University	University of Connecticut	University of Rhode Island
College of the Virgin Islands	North Dakota State University	University of Delaware	University of Tennessee
Colorado State University	Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center	University of Florida	University of Vermont
Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (New Haven)	Oklahoma State University	University of Georgia	University of Washington
Cornell University	Oregon State University	University of Guam	University of Wisconsin
Delaware State University	Pennsylvania State University	University of Hawaii	University of Wyoming
Florida A&M University	Purdue University	University of Idaho	Utah State Agricultural Experiment Station
Fort Valley State University	Rutgers State University	University of Illinois	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Humboldt	Salish Kootenai College	University of Kentucky	Virginia State University
Iowa State	Stephen F. Austin	University of Maine	Washington State

University	State University		University
Kansas State University	South Dakota State University	University of Maryland (College Park)	West Virginia State University
Kentucky State University	Southern Illinois University	University of Maryland (Eastern Shore)	West Virginia University
Leech Lake Tribal College	Southern University and A&M College	University of Massachusetts	
Lincoln University	State University of New York	University of Michigan	

Award recipients may subaward 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, 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

- opportunity number (FON)
- Name of agency to which you are applying

Specific 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 <https://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 <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>).

Steps to Obtain Application Package Materials

To receive application materials:

2. 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 <https://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.
3. To obtain the application package from Grants.gov, go to <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/download-application-package.html> and enter the funding opportunity number in the appropriate box and click “Download Package.”

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-10202-MSCFRXXX-20-0001

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 introduction and general Grants.gov instructions, additional information about the Grants.gov

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).

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 (<https://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 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. SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet

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.

Please note new instructions are included below for Field 5. The Organizational information NIFA has included in Appendix A is based on FY18 applications received for this program. If your organization intends to submit an application using information other than what appears in Appendix A, please contact us at formulagrantsquestions@nifa.usda.gov or (202) 401-6520 prior to submitting your application.

- a. **Field 1. Type of Submission** – Check “Application.”
- b. **Field 5. Applicant Information**
 - Enter Legal Name of the Applicant as registered in the System for Awards Management which appears in the first column of Appendix A to this RFA.
 - Enter Organizational DUNS as it appears in the third column of Appendix A to this RFA.
 - Enter Department Name of Eligible Recipient as it appears in the second column of Appendix A to this RFA.
- c. **Field 6. Budget** - For participants in the FY 2020 budget pilot, SF 424a Budget. Detailed information related to the information required on the SF 424a Budget form is available in Part V, 7 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.
- d. **Field 8. Type of Application** – Enter “new.”
- e. **Field 15. Estimated Project Funding** – For item a, enter your institution’s FY 2019 allocation as listed in Appendix A to this announcement
- f. **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. Key Contacts Form

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. Supplemental Information Form

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.

- e. **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”).
- f. **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 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 a .pdf document identifying the non-federal source of match 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.

If you are participating in the FY 2020 budget pilot, non-federal funds information will be included as part of the SF 424a budget and accompanying budget narrative. See the NIFA grants.gov application guide for additional information.

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 October 7, 2019**. 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. Please refer to the training tab on the ezFedGrants page to learn how to access ezFedGrants: <https://www.nfc.usda.gov/ezFedGrants>.

If you are not able to validate that NIFA received your application by October 14, 2019, contact the Agency Administrative Contact identified in Part VII of this RFA. Failure to do so may result in the application not being processed and funding being held. You should cite your Grants.gov tracking number on all inquiries 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 capacity grant expenditures.

(3) Matching

See Part III, B. for additional information.

(4) Carryover of Funds

McIntire-Stennis funds are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation; however, funds may be carried over for up to 1 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 if the carryover is less than 50 percent. Carryover greater than 50 percent must be approved by NIFA Program Staff, no other additional carryover requests may be considered or approved. Any unused funds at the end of the period of performance must be returned to the U.S. Treasury.

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:

- 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.

Your SAM registration information determines your organization ID in the ezFedGrants system and the information must match your ASAP recipient DUNS and EIN.

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 <https://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 <https://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 <https://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 (<https://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 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, 2019, 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 2020 is due to the ezFedGrants portal, on Dec. 29, 2021, for the period Oct.1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, and annually thereafter until the award is closed out. Information on how to access the ezFedGrants portal can be found under the training on the [ezFedGrants web page](#).

See the [McIntire-Stennis webpage](#): for additional details of annual, final technical, and financial reporting requirements.

Instructions for using the REEport system are included on the [NIFA web site](#).

PART VII—AGENCY CONTACTS

For questions regarding **M-S** projects/program, please contact:

Dr. Daniel Cassidy, National Program Leader; Division of Environmental Systems; Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP# 2210; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2251. Telephone: (202) 401-6444; Fax: (202) 401-1706; e-mail dcassidy@nifa.usda.gov.

For administrative questions relating to the completion of the grants.gov forms please contact: Brenda Barnett. Awards Management Division; Office of Grants and Financial Management; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 2271, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2271; Telephone: (202) 401-6520; Fax: (202) 401-1804; e-mail 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.

PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION

The USDA NIFA home page for the McIntire-Stennis (M-S) is:

<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/program/mcintire-stennis-capacity-grant>.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Recipient Name	Department	DUNS	State	FY 2019 Allocation	FY 2019 Required Match
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA SYSTEMS GRANTS & CONTRACTS	University of Alaska Fairbanks	615245164	AK	617,028.00	617,028.00
ALABAMA A & M UNIVERSITY	Alabama A&M University	079121448	AL	349,777.00	349,777.00
TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY	Tuskegee University	128214178	AL	349,777.00	349,777.00
AUBURN UNIVERSITY	Auburn University	066470972	AL	466,369.00	466,369.00
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS - FAYETTEVILLE ARKANSAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION	Arkansas Ag Exp Station	140031639	AR	1,012,232.00	1,012,232.00
AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	American Samoa Comm. College	854990793	AS	46,179.00	0
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA GCM CHICAGO	College of Agriculture	961605172	AZ	198,736.00	198,736.00
NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY		806345542	AZ	198,736.00	198,736.00
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIF DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Div of Ag and Nat Resources	080668243	CA	631,717.00	631,717.00
CAL POLY CORPORATION	Cal Poly State U.	029326246	CA	135,368.00	135,368.00
HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY SPONSORED PROG HSU FOUNDATION	Humboldt State University	014302074	CA	135,368.00	135,368.00
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION	Colorado State University	149546160	CO	375,515.00	375,515.00
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE SPONSORED PROGRAMS	UConn-Storrs Ag Exp Station	614209054	CT	110,346.00	110,346.00
CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT	Connecticut Ag Exp Station-New	877902333	CT	331,037.00	331,037.00
DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY	Delaware State University	114337629	DE	88,730.00	88,730.00
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE	Ag Exp Station	059007500	DE	133,095.00	133,095.00
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES	Florida A&M University	623751831	FL	96,832.00	96,832.00
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF SPONSORED RESEARCH	Florida Ag Exp Station	969663814	FL	871,489.00	871,489.00
FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY	Fort Valley State University	073459083	GA	120,983.00	120,983.00
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA OFFICE FOR SPONSORED PROGRAMS	School of Forest Resources	619003127	GA	1,088,850.00	1,088,850.00
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM UOG	University of Guam	779908151	GU	68,135.00	0
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE & HUMAN RESOURCES	University of Hawaii at Hilo	930124792	HI	353,560.00	353,560.00
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY	Ag & Home Econ Exp Station	005309844	IA	573,117.00	573,117.00
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO	University of Idaho	075746271	ID	638,984.00	638,984.00
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY OFC. OF SPONSORED PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION	Southern Illinois University	939007555	IL	275,581.00	275,581.00
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, THE	University of Illinois	041544081	IL	275,581.00	275,581.00
PURDUE UNIVERSITY	Purdue University	072051394	IN	595,072.00	595,072.00
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY PRE-AWARDS SERVICES	Kansas State University	929773554	KS	309,648.00	309,648.00
KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY	Kentucky State University	071317788	KY	115,608.00	115,608.00
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY	Kentucky Ag Exp Station	007400724	KY	655,111.00	655,111.00
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENT	Southern U. and A&M College	786908579	LA	188,667.00	188,667.00
LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY	School of Ag and Forestry	069746725	LA	266,829.00	266,829.00
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER	School of Renewable Nat. Res.	783201833	LA	622,602.00	622,602.00
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF GRANT & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION	U. of Massachusetts	153926712	MA	419,427.00	419,427.00
UNIVERSITY OF MD EASTERN SHORE UMES	U. of Maryland Eastern Shore	082611302	MD	139,002.00	139,002.00
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Coll of Ag and Nat Resources	837696475	MD	324,337.00	324,337.00
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM RESEARCH & SPONSORED PROGRAM	University of Maine	186875787	ME	990,276.00	990,276.00
MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY INC	Michigan Technological Univers	065453268	MI	366,648.00	366,648.00
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN	U. of Michigan-Ann Arbor	073133571	MI	366,648.00	366,648.00
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY	Michigan State University	193247145	MI	366,758.00	366,758.00

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA OFFICE SPONSORED PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION	U. of Minnesota-Twin Cities	555917996	MN	858,542.00	858,542.00
LINCOLN UNIVERSITY INC	Lincoln University of Missouri	071970164	MO	74,876.00	74,876.00
MISSOURI SYSTEM UNIVERSITY OF CURATORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI	School of Forestrv	153890272	MO	673,887.00	673,887.00
ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY	Alcorn State University	075084897	MS	224,402.00	224,402.00
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY	Mississippi State University	075461814	MS	897,608.00	897,608.00
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA SYSTEM RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS	Montana Frst & Con Exp Station	010379790	MT	698,462.00	698,462.00
SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE			MT	28,345.00	28,345.00
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY	North Carolina State U.	042092122	NC	1,143,966.00	1,143,966.00
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY	North Dakota State University	803882299	ND	177,913.00	177,913.00
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA BOARD OF REGENTS UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AGRICULTURE EXPERIMENT STATION	University of Nebraska Lincoln	555456995	NE	265,737.00	265,737.00
RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY	New Hampshire Ag Exp Station	781484048	NH	507,249.00	507,249.00
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS	New Jersey Ag Exp Station	030501568	NJ	419,427.00	419,427.00
BOARD OF REGENTS NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER NEVADA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION	New Mexico State University	173851965	NM	331,604.00	331,604.00
CORNELL UNIVERSITY INC OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS	College of Ag & Nat Resources	962894411	NV	134,002.00	134,002.00
THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF STATE UNIVERS SUNY ESF	College of Agriculture	872612445	NY	214,635.00	214,635.00
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY THE OHIO AGRICULTURE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CENTER	Coll of Env Science & Forestry	152606125	NY	643,906.00	643,906.00
CENTRAL STATE UNIVERSITY	OARDC	171605848	OH	570,900.00	570,900.00
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY	Central State University	008873747	OH	111,995.00	111,995.00
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY	Oklahoma State University	049987720	OK	660,940.00	660,940.00
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY PENN STATE	Oregon State University	053599908	OR	1,187,877.00	1,187,877.00
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO ESTACION EXPERIMENTAL AGRICOLA	Ag Exp Station	003403953	PA	814,630.00	814,630.00
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND CONTROLLERS OFFICE	UPR Mayaguez Ag Exp Station	785565735	PR	46,179.00	46,179.00
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY	University of Rhode Island	144017188	RI	155,958.00	155,958.00
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY	College of Agriculture	042629816	SC	924,409.00	924,409.00
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY	South Dakota State University	929929743	SD	199,869.00	199,869.00
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE TENNESSEE AGRICULTURE EXPERIEN	Tennessee State University	108814179	TN	125,488.00	125,488.00
STEPHEN F AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY	AgResearch	133891015	TN	711,098.00	711,098.00
TEXAS A M AGRILIFE RESEARCH	Stephen F Austin State U.	073894727	TX	473,182.00	473,182.00
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY USU	Texas A&M AgriLife Research	847205713	TX	473,182.00	473,182.00
VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY	Ag Exp Station	072983455	UT	243,781.00	243,781.00
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE & STATE UNIV VIRGINIA TECH	Virginia State University	074744624	VA	103,419.00	103,419.00
UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS	Virginia Tech University	003137015	VA	930,769.00	930,769.00
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT & ST AGRIC COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT	U. of the Virgin Islands	090003765	VI	46,179.00	0
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY WSU EXTENSION AND CAHNRS	University of Vermont	066811191	VT	529,205.00	529,205.00
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON GRANT & CONTRACTS DIVISION	Washington State University	959235664	WA	475,265.00	475,265.00
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS	University of Washington	605799469	WA	580,879.00	580,879.00
WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIV WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	Wisconsin Ag Exp Station	161202122	WI	880,497.00	880,497.00
	West Virginia State University	874797876	WV	140,970.00	140,970.00

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WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY	West Virginia University	929332658	WV	563,881.00	563,881.00
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING SPONSORED PROGRAMS	University of Wyoming	069690956	WY	287,692.00	287,692.00
Payment to State				33,802,560.00	33,642,067.00
Federal Administration				1,113,523	
Small Business Set-Aside				1,083,917	
Total Appropriation				36,000,000.00	