Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions

2020 Request for Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 12, 2019
Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ASSISTANCE LISTING formerly known as the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: This program is listed in the Assistance Listing under 10.205.

DATES: Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 12, 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 Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: NIFA requests applications for the Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions Program (Section 1445) for fiscal year (FY) 2020 to support continuing agricultural research at colleges eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 417–419, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 321–326 and 328) (“1890 Land-Grant Institutions”), including Tuskegee University, West Virginia State University, and Central State University.

Funds appropriated under this section shall be used for expenses of conducting agricultural research, printing, disseminating the results of such research, contributing to the retirement of employees subject to the provisions of the Act of March 4, 1940 (54 Stat. 39–40, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 331) administrative planning and direction, and purchase and rental of land and the construction, acquisition, alteration, or repair of buildings necessary for conducting agricultural research.

This RFA is being released prior to the passage of 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 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 $54,459,680 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 Section 1445 project/program, the eligibility criteria for projects/program and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions you need to apply for a Section 1445 grant.
What’s new for 2020?

• The authorizing legislation for the Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-grant Institutions was amended by section 7115 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, which requires NIFA apply some prerequisites prior to allocating the funds to eligible institutions. These changes are described in Part I, A of this RFA.

• 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.

• 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). This information applies to FY 20 awards and forward; it is NOT retroactive. 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.

• Effective Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, capacity extension programs will see a change in their Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number now known as Assistance Listing. This change is being made to provide individual programs a unique Assistance Listing number. The change in numbers will be effective for awards made on or after October 1, 2018; grants awarded prior to FY 2019 grants will retain Assistance Listing Number 10.500 until the grants expire. The memorandum providing background for this change, as well as action steps that need to be taken by NIFA grantees prior to October 1, is available online. If you have questions, please email Ruth Dunmore at ruth.dunmore@usda.gov.

• NIFA’s Office of Grants and Financial Management, Office of Information Technology, and Data Governance Working Group worked to better identify and track institutions and associated departments that receive capacity awards. NIFA provided 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.

• 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 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 29th 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. 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 page https://www.nfc.usda.gov/ezFedGrants.

- **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.

- **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.

  - 1890’s and 1862’s in insular areas must follow the requirements in the recently updated 7 CFR 3419: Matching Funds requirements for Agricultural research and extension capacity funds at 1890 land-grant institutions, including Central State University, Tuskegee University, and West Virginia State University, and at 1862 land-grant institutions in insular areas.
FY 16 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

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

Section 1445 was amended by section 7115 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-334, which requires NIFA apply some prerequisites prior to allocating the funds to eligible institutions. These are described below:

- In order to initiate the calculations for section 7115 amendments, NIFA must determine whether sufficient funds have been appropriated for this program to ensure that an eligible institution receives at least the same amount of funds that it received in the prior fiscal year and Central State University receives $3,000,000. Allocation Calculations will not change if the above conditions are not met.

- **Note:** The Payment to States under NARETPA section 1445 are calculated after all set asides have been deducted. These set asides may include federal administration fees, the biotechnology risk assessment research (BRAG) withholdings, the small business innovation research (SBIR) withholdings, and any others as directed by law.

- For FY 2019, NIFA determined that sufficient funds were appropriated for the program so that each eligible institution could receive an amount that is not less than the amount such eligible institution received in the preceding FY and Central State University received $3,000,000. The amount allocated to each eligible institution is determined by statute and may vary. As of FY 2019, the Base Thresholds were $1,000,000 for each eligible institution, as required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019, and $3,000,000 for Central State University, as required by section 7115 of the Farm Bill.

- In FY 2020 and thereafter, if the 20-40-40 calculation does not result in Central State University receiving the minimum $3,000,000 allocation, a proportional reduction from the remaining eligible institutions will take place. This proportional reduction must not decrease the allocation to any eligible institution below $1,000,000.

- Funds in excess or deficit of the previous fiscal year are added or subtracted from each Eligible Institution’s allocation using a 20-40-40 calculation in the following manner:
  - 20% of the increase/decrease allotted in equal proportions to eligible institutions
  - 40% of the increase/decrease allotted to eligible institutions in proportion to the rural population within the state in which the institution resides
  - 40% of the increase/decrease allotted to eligible institutions in proportion to the farm population within the state in which the institution resides
B. Purpose

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

A. Available Funding

Subject to any 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 $54,459,680.

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 Section 1445 Program as a “new” application.

C. Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research

PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Only 1890 Land-Grant Universities, including Tuskegee University, West Virginia State University, and Central State University that conduct agricultural research activities in accordance with Section 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) (7 U.S.C. 3222): Alabama A&M University; Tuskegee University; University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff; Delaware State University; Florida A&M University; Fort Valley State University; Kentucky State University; Southern University; University of Maryland – Eastern Shore; Alcorn State University; Lincoln University; North Carolina A & T State University; Central State University; Langston University; South Carolina State University; Tennessee State University; Prairie View A&M University; Virginia State University; and West Virginia State University may submit applications. 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

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

Most regulations applicable to National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) awards are housed in Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations. On Friday, May 11, 2018, NIFA published in the Federal Register amendments to 7 CFR 3419: Matching Funds Requirements for Agricultural Research and Extension Capacity Funds at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, including Central State University, Tuskegee University, and West Virginia State University, and at 1862 Land-grant Institutions in Insular Areas. The revised Final Rule is now in effect. 7 CFR 3419.1 defines “matching funds” as “funds from non-federal sources, including those made available by the State to the eligible institutions for programs or activities that fall within the purposes of agricultural research and cooperative extension under Sections 1444 and 1445 of NARETPA; the Hatch Act of 1887; and the Smith-Lever Act.” 7 CFR 3419 defines “non-federal sources” as “funds made available by the State to the eligible institution either through direct appropriation or under any authority (other than authority to charge tuition and fees paid by students) provided by a State to an eligible institution to raise revenue, such as gift acceptance authority or user fees.”

7 CFR 3419.6 states that “The required matching funds for the capacity programs must be used by an eligible institution for the same purpose as Federal award dollars: Agricultural research
and extension activities that have been approved in the plan of work required under sections 1445(c) and 1444(d) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, section 7 of the Hatch Act of 1887, and section 4 of the Smith-Lever Act. For all programs, tuition dollars and student fees may not be used as matching funds.”

NIFA may consider and approve matching waiver requests above the 50 percent level. 7 CFR 3419.3, Limited Waiver Authority, and 7 CFR 3419.4, applications for waivers for both 1890 land-grant intuitions and 1862 land-grant institutions in insular areas, address the criteria an institution must meet to be granted a waiver as well as the process and supporting document required for submitting a waiver. See Part IV, B. 4. for additional instructions about how to request a waiver.
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 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 webpage (or go to https://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 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.

2. 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:

   Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-10205-1445XXXX-20-0001

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

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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

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
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. 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 FY 18 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 formulagrantquestions@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 1890 Research Director.
   b. **Contact 2 Project Role:** Enter the contact information for the 1890 Research Director’s designee, if applicable.
   c. **Contact 3 Project Role:** Enter the contact information for the Business Office Manager/Administrator.
   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.

**Field 2. Program to which you are applying.** Enter the program code name (Evans-Allen (Section 1445)) and the program code (1445).

a. **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 Requirement**

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 is to include the non-federal sources (specify whether the third party, cash, source is 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, 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. **Matching Funds Waiver Request (Optional)**

If your institution is applying for a matching funds waiver, prepare a request in PDF format (see Part III, Section 3. of the guide for attachment requirements). The revised Final Rule 3419, published May 11, 2018, contained information on applications for waivers for both 1890 land-grant institutions and 1862 land-grant institutions in insular areas. Include the following elements in the request:
(a) a request to waive matching requirements under this RFA that includes the name of the eligible institution and the type of Federal capacity funds (i.e. research, extension, Hatch, Smith-Lever);
(b) a statement of the fiscal year(s) for which the waiver is requested;

(c) a statement of the exact dollar amount of waiver being requested by fiscal year and how the amount was computed (by matching fund category);
(d) a statement of why the waiver is requested that uses the criteria listed in the revised Final Rule 7 CFR 3419.3: impacts from natural disaster, flood, fire, tornado, hurricane, or drought; state and/or institution facing financial crisis; or lack of matching funds after demonstration of good faith efforts to obtain funds;
(e) documentation supporting the need for a waiver. Documentation must be current, within the past two years from the date of the letter requesting the waiver; and
(f) the university’s efforts to meet future matching needs.

The documentation must include the university’s approved budget for the program for both the current and previous budget cycles. It may also submit items such as a statement from the State asserting what portion of the required match amount the State contribution to the institution will cover, a schedule of projected cash flows showing what portion of the matching funds the university will have available or other documents such as letters from State or institution budget personnel or newspaper articles. Newspaper articles may be provided as supporting documentation, but will not be considered as primary supporting documentation. In requesting the waiver, the institution must consider the availability of all permissible forms of matching in detail.

C. Submission Dates and Times

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

Applications must be received by Grants.gov by 5 p.m. Eastern Time on September 12, 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 December 1, 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 NIFA Evans-Allen Research Projects
Evans-Allen Research Program funds may only be used on approved Evans-Allen Research Program projects.

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

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

4. Carryover of Funds
Evans-Allen funds are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation; however, funds may be carried over for up to one year after the end of the 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.

5. Retirement Contributions
Employer contributions to land-grant college retirement systems are limited to 5 percent of that portion of the salaries paid, under this award, to employees who participate in the system (7 U.S.C. 331) and are subject to the other conditions in 7 U.S.C. 331. Note that the 5 percent limitation does NOT apply to any state or individual contribution. Contributions of funds under this award may not exceed the contributions from non-Federal sources made by or on behalf of the individual concerned. See Section VI.H.1 of the NIFA policy guide for additional information.

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.

D. Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research

Refer to Part II, C for more information.

E. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

For organizations that receive Evans Allen funding from National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), there are four reporting requirements due prior to December 30, 2020:

- Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Plan of Work (POW) update
- FY 2019 Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results
- Additional information filed in the Research, Extension, and Education Project Online Reporting Tool (REEport)


The additional REEport requirements are completed in the NIFA Reporting Portal https://portal.nifa.usda.gov/portal. These include the following:

- 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, 2020, 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 nonfederal funds and matching funds computation. Reports shall be made on the federal fiscal year basis.

In addition, the financial reporting via the SF-425 for FY 2020 is due to the ezFedGrants portal, on December 29, 2020, for the period October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020. After the initial filing, this report must be completed annually thereafter until the award is closed out. Information on how to access the ezFedGrants portal can be found under Training on the ezFedGrants page https://www.nfc.usda.gov/ezFedGrants.

See https://www.nifa.usda.gov/program/agricultural-research-1890-land-grant-institutions 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 https://nifa.usda.gov/reeportresources-land-grant-partners.
PART VII—AGENCY CONTACT

For questions regarding Section 1445 projects/program, please contact: Dr. Edwin Lewis; National Program Leader Division of Community and Education; Institute of Youth, Family, and Community; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2251; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2251; Telephone: 202-690-4565; Fax: 202-720-2030; Email edwin.lewis@usda.gov.

For administrative questions relating to the completion of the grants.gov forms please contact Brenda Barnett, 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.

For questions relating to the 5-Year Plan of Work Update or the Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results, contact Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff, NIFA/USDA, Stop 2213, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2213; Telephone: 202-401-5482; Fax: 202-720-7714; Email pow@nifa.usda.
PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION

The USDA NIFA home page for the Section 1445 Program is: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/program/agricultural-research-1890-land-grant-institutions.
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