

Children, Youth, and Families At-Risk Sustainable Community Projects

FY 2014 Request for Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 11, 2014



U.S. Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES AT-RISK SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY PROJECTS

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE: This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under **10.500**.

DATES: Applications must be received by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on April 11, 2014**. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding (see Part IV, C. of this RFA). Comments regarding this request for applications (RFA) are requested within 6 months from the issuance of this notice. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) seeks your comments about this RFA. We will consider the comments when we develop the next RFA for the program, if applicable, and we'll use them to meet the requirements of section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)(2)). Submit written stakeholder comments by the deadline set forth in the DATES portion of this Notice to: Policy and Oversight Division; Office of Grants and Financial Management; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; USDA; STOP 2299; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2299; or via e-mail to: Policy@nifa.usda.gov. (This e-mail address is intended only for receiving comments regarding this RFA and not requesting information or forms.) In your comments, please state that you are responding to the **Children, Youth, and Families At-Risk Sustainable Community Projects RFA**.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: NIFA requests applications for the **Children, Youth, and Families At-Risk Sustainable Community Projects (CYFAR SCP)** for fiscal year (FY) **2014** to marshal resources of the Land-grant and Cooperative Extension Systems so that, in collaboration with other organizations, they can develop and deliver educational programs that equip youth who are at risk for not meeting basic human needs with the skills they need to lead positive, productive, and contributing lives.

Pursuant to H.R. 3547, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, the amount available to support this program in FY 2014 is approximately \$6,455,000. **Of this amount, approximately \$2,075,000 will be available to fund new CYFAR SCPs, which will have project periods ranging up to five (5) years.** The remaining \$4,205,000 will be used to support existing CYFAR SCP projects eligible for continuation awards (**applications for continuation awards will be solicited under a separate RFA**) and one (1) Pilot Model CYFAR Project up to the \$175,000 level for a five (5) year period.

CYFAR SCP PROJECT TITLE	APPROXIMATE AVAILABLE FUNDING
NEW CYFAR SCP Projects	\$2,075,000
New Pilot Model SCP Project	\$ 175,000
CYFAR CONTINUATION Projects	\$4,205,000
TOTAL	\$6,455,000

This notice identifies the objectives for **CYFAR SCP** projects, the eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for a **CYFAR SCP** grant.

Table of Contents

PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION.....	5
A. Legislative Authority and Background.....	5
B. Purpose and Priorities.....	5
C. Program Area Description.....	6
PART II—AWARD INFORMATION.....	16
A. Available Funding.....	16
B. Types of Applications.....	16
C. Project Types.....	17
PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION.....	20
A. Eligible Applicants.....	20
B. Cost Sharing or Matching.....	20
PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION.....	21
A. Electronic Application Package.....	21
B. Content and Form of Application Submission.....	22
C. Submission Dates and Times.....	27
D. Funding Restrictions.....	27
E. Other Submission Requirements.....	28
PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.....	29
A. General.....	29
B. Evaluation Criteria.....	29
C. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality.....	33
D. Organizational Management Information.....	33
PART VI—AWARD ADMINISTRATION.....	34
A. General.....	34
B. Award Notice.....	34
C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.....	35
D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements.....	36
PART VII—AGENCY CONTACTS.....	37
PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION.....	38
A. Access to Review Information.....	38
B. Use of Funds; Changes.....	38
C. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards.....	39
D. Regulatory Information.....	39
E. Definitions.....	39

PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority and Background

Funding for the Children, Youth, and Families At-Risk Sustainable Community Projects (CYFAR SCP) is authorized under section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, as amended (7 U.S.C. 341, et seq.). Section 7403 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA) of 2008 amends section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 (7 U.S.C. 343(d)) in regards to eligibility. The eligibility to compete for CYFAR funding is broadened to include 1890 Land-grant Colleges and Universities, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University. Eligibility is also provided to the University of the District of Columbia. Section 7129 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 added Central State University as an eligible 1890 Land Grant Institution.

Legislation indicates payments for youth-at-risk programs under section 3(d) of the Smith–Lever Act.

Since 1991, Youth at-Risk (YAR), State Strengthening (STST) and New Communities Projects (NCP) have served as the NIFA mechanism for funding community-based projects and expanding statewide capacity for supporting and sustaining programming for at-risk youth and families. These programs have been funded in all states and three territories and annually reach approximately 30,000 youth and parents in high risk communities.

B. Purpose and Priorities

The mission of the CYFAR Program is to marshal resources of the Land-grant and Cooperative Extension Systems so that, in collaboration with other organizations, they can develop and deliver educational programs that equip youth who are at-risk for not meeting basic human needs with the skills they need to lead positive, productive, and contributing lives. The CYFAR philosophy (<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/family/cyfar/philosophy.html>) is the basis for Sustainable Community Projects.

The purpose of SCP funding is to improve the quality and quantity of comprehensive community-based programs for at-risk children, youth, and families supported by the Cooperative Extension System. Collaboration across disciplines, program areas, and geographic lines, as well a holistic approach that views the individual in the context of the family and community, are central to Sustainable Community Projects.

The CYFAR SCP has two (2) strategic objectives:

1. To support community educational programs for at-risk children, youth, and families which are based on locally identified needs, soundly grounded in research, and which lead to the accomplishment of one of four CYFAR National Outcomes (see C.2. of this section); and
2. To integrate CYFAR programming into ongoing Extension programs for children, youth, and families – insuring that at-risk, low income children, youth, and families continue to be part

of Extension and/or 4-H programs and have access to resources and educational opportunities.

C. Program Area Description

NIFA is offering three project areas: New SCP, SCP Joint Project and the Pilot Model SCP Project. The Pilot Model SCP is new. All projects are in the Extension project area.

CYFAR supports USDA's Research, Education, and Economics (REE) goal to leverage innovation and technology to distribute tools, information, and resources and use non-formal education programs, outreach, 4-H, and other youth development programs to transfer knowledge and technology. CYFAR supports REE's goal to assist rural prosperity and rural/urban interface and NIFA's goal to help rural communities create prosperity be self-sustaining, re-populating and economically thriving. Each project is encouraged to select a USDA Strategic Goal and/or REE Challenge Area which would be applicable to the project.

All applicants are encouraged to review this entire RFA.

Total Funds Available for All New SCP awards is \$2,250,000;

Each New SCP applicant can apply for up to \$83,000 total, for the initial year;

Each New SCP Joint applicant may apply for up to \$166,00 total, for the initial year; and/or

Each New Pilot Model SCP Project may apply for up to \$175,000 total, for the initial year.

NOTE: See RFA Part II. C. – Project Types for chart summarizing anticipated funding.

New SCP Project and Joint SCP Project

A university is only eligible to send one application forward for the New SCP Projects and for the New SCP Joint Projects.

Pilot Project Submission

For the Pilot Model SCP Project this will be the only application area for which a university may submit more than one application. A university may submit up to two projects one Pilot Model SCP Project and/or a New SCP Project or a Joint SCP Project.

Other Program Information

1. CYFAR SCP Project Management

The SCP will be supported by faculty across Extension and university departments and integrated into Extension programs. State CYFAR Extension/university faculty members have responsibility for supporting community-based educational programs for at-risk audiences and integrating them into the ongoing Extension program. CYFAR SCP Project Directors are expected to build an appropriate team of university (ies), county, and community staff and collaborators with broader CYFAR experience and understanding to manage the SCP and to provide technical assistance in planning, implementing, and evaluating the programs in selected Sustainable Community Project sites. This team should include Technology and Evaluation

professionals, as well as county Extension professionals who will provide direct support to the community site programs. Community projects are expected to develop, implement, manage, staff, and evaluate their own programs, involving critical people in the community, in the interest of relevance and sustainability. To improve consistency in program planning, implementation, training, and evaluation, SCPs will identify one national outcome, program model, and common measure that is the same for all community sites. University faculty and selected community site staff will develop a 5 year logic model and 5 year work plan as the basis for planning, implementing and evaluating their SCP (see 6. and 7. below).

2. One National CYFAR Outcome

The SCP should focus on children, youth, and families who are at-risk for not meeting basic human needs as articulated in the CYFAR Philosophy. Critical issues and demographic trends impacting children and families in the state should be examined when making outcome and audience decisions. Considerations should include: migrant workers' children; new immigrant children and families; children in families coping with military deployments, separations, and reunions; children and youth facing issues of drugs, violence, crime, teen pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, obesity, isolation, poverty and poor school achievement. It is the responsibility of the CYFAR project staff to create an inclusive process in the state for determining the single outcome. University, county and community program staff experienced in working with CYFAR and/or similar programs should be involved in the decision on selecting the single outcome.

Select only one (1) of the four (4) National CYFAR Outcomes for all proposed community sites.

Early Childhood

Children will have their basic physical, emotional and intellectual needs met. Babies will be born healthy.

School Age (K-8)

School age youth will demonstrate knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior necessary for fulfilling contributing lives.

Teen

Teens will demonstrate knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior necessary for fulfilling contributing lives.

Parent/Family

Parents will take primary responsibility for meeting their children's physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs and providing moral guidance and direction. Families will promote positive, productive, and contributing lives for all family members.

3. One Program Model for all SCP community sites

a. Guiding Principles

Once the CYFAR Outcome is selected, the appropriate CYFAR Guiding Principles should be used to determine the single program model selected for all of an applicant's proposed community sites. Guiding Principles for Early Childhood, School Age, Teen, and Parent/Family are described on the CYFAR website at <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/family/cyfar/scp.html>. Selection of the program model and the relationship of the model to the Guiding Principles must be thoroughly explained in the application. Suggestions for descriptors, strategies for implementation, and resources are also posted with the Guiding Principles for use in the development of the SCP. Whether an applicant elects to use an established program model or chooses to design its own programmatic approach, each principle for the selected outcome must be addressed in the SCP application.

b. Uniform Program Model

For CYFAR Sustainable Community Projects, the same uniform program model is implemented in every CYFAR community site. Programs have key and essential components which constitute the structure:

- (i) Desired short and long-term results;
- (ii) Age range of high context participants impacted; age range of children impacted as participants in early childhood and parent and family programs;
- (iii) Frequency and duration of contact with the program;
- (iv) Group size and staffing plan;
- (v) Program and curriculum content (science technology, community service, drama, computer literacy, reading literacy, parent education, exercise/fitness, etc.); and
- (vi) Standardized training and technical assistance plans for project staff.

When one (1) program Outcome is selected, these model components will be uniform across the applicant's proposed community sites.

Show a connection to USDA Strategic Goals, (<http://www.ocfo.usda.gov/usdasp/sp2010/sp2010.pdf> AND <http://www.ocfo.usda.gov/usdasp/sp2010/Strategic%20Plan%20Update.pdf>), OR one of the REE Challenge Areas (http://www.ree.usda.gov/ree/news/USDA_REE_Action_Plan_02-2012_2.pdf). Show indication of alignment with one of the USDA and/or REE Goals:

The REE Challenge Areas are as follows:

- Goal 1. Local and Global Food Supply and Security
 - Subgoal 1A. Crop and Animal Production
 - Subgoal 1B. Crop and Animal Health
 - Subgoal 1C. Crop and Animal Genetics, Genomics, Genetic Resources, and Biotechnology
 - Subgoal 1D. Consumer and Industry Outreach, Policy, Markets, and Trade
- Goal 2. Responding to Climate and Energy Needs
 - Subgoal 2A. Responding to Climate Variability
 - Subgoal 2B. Bioenergy/Biofuels and Biobased Products

- Goal 3. Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
 - Subgoal 3A. Water Availability: Quality and Quantity
 - Subgoal 3B. Landscape-Scale Conservation and Management
- Goal 4. Nutrition and Childhood Obesity
- Goal 5. Food Safety
- Goal 6. Education and Science Literacy
- Goal 7. Rural Prosperity/Rural-Urban Interdependence

An example is listed below; however, this is not an exclusive example of applicability which could relate to a CYFAR project relates to Goal 6.

Goal 6: Increase Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) focus at the elementary, middle school and high school levels that is highly relevant to agriculture sciences; combine formal and informal learning strategies, and explore collaboration within and outside of USDA.

The USDA Strategic Goals are as follows:

- Goal 1: Assist rural communities to create prosperity so they are self-sustaining, re-populating, and economically thriving;
- Goal 2: Ensure our national forests and private working lands are conserved, restored, and made more resilient to climate change, while enhancing our water resources;
- Goal 3: Help America promote agricultural production and biotechnology exports as America works to increase food security; and
- Goal 4: Ensure that all of America’s children have access to safe, nutritious, and balanced meals.

An example of CYFAR applicability, which is not a sole example to the USDA Strategic Goals, could be the following:

- Goal 4: Ensure that all of America’s children have access to safe, nutritious, and balanced meals.
 - Objective 4.2 – Promote Healthy Diet and Physical Activity Behaviors

c. High Context Participants

Research has shown that young people need positive relationships with caring adults, inclusive and safe environments, to be engaged in their own learning, to have opportunities for mastery, self-determination, and to see themselves as active participants in the future and to value and practice service for others. CYFAR programs are intended to provide long-term, increasingly challenging educational experiences designed to meet needs of children and youth to experience belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. High context youth participation refers to experiences in which young people and adults have close connections and challenging activities intended to continue for a significant period of time. The participants who receive the ongoing, intense interaction with the program are considered the high context youth and are the focus of

the five year plan. Applications addressing the school-age and teen national outcome which include outcomes for youth will be considered for funding.

Other youth and adult audiences benefit from CYFAR programs and sometimes from the activities of high context participants. These are an important part of the community strengthening aspect of CYFAR and should be noted in the five year plan and reported in the Community section of the year-end report.

Specific to two (2) of the four (4) National CYFAR Outcomes (school age and teen) which may be selected as the focus for this project, youth participants may be introduced to 4-H through low context programs and expand their involvement by enrolling in 4-H clubs to insure long-term progressive educational experiences which provide opportunities for leadership, community service, positive relationships with caring adults, inclusive and safe environments, active engagement in their own learning, mastery, self-determination, and to see themselves as active participants in the future. If either school age youth or teen is selected as the National CYFAR Outcomes focus area for this project proposal, integration of CYFAR youth participants into the 4-H Youth Development program is strongly encouraged.

d. Parent/Family and Early Childhood Participants

According to research, families are the most significant environment for developing children. Family risk factors such as poverty, low parental educational attainment, and single parenthood can have critical impact on a child's development. Applications addressing the parent/family national outcome which address family risk factors and demonstrate impact on the child or children placed at risk will potentially be funded.

Research also indicates that high quality care in the first years of life can greatly reduce the risk that today's youngest children will become tomorrow's youth most placed at risk. Applications addressing the early childhood national outcome which include outcomes for the child will be considered for funding.

4. Integrated Program Components

Community, Technology, and Sustainability are the three program components that integrate into all SCPs and which must be addressed in the SCP application (see <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/family/cyfar/scp.html>).

a. Community

The Community Component captures the "ecological" approach of CYFAR projects connecting the projects to existing networks as well as ensuring that the family and community remain strong contexts for program participants. Children, Youth, and Family programs are most effective in creating long-term outcomes when they involve change in the larger ecological context of the program audience. CYFAR recommends choosing at least one of the following three (3) approaches for integrating Community:

1. A Multi-Level Approach -- targets program audiences beyond the program's primary target audience;
2. A Community Collaboration Approach -- community programs working through a collaborative group; and
3. A Systems Change Approach -- recognizes interacting social, economic, and environmental factors that influence the program audience and seeks opportunities to engage this audience in creating change.

These approaches represent a range of complexity and are intended to give the program developers several potential strategies to affect change in the program's community context. Program developers can adopt the best approach for enhancing their primary program outcomes. All Sustainable Community Projects must address how their programs fit into this "Community" context using at least one (1) of the above three (3) approaches.

b. Technology

Information and communication technologies are permeating American society and lives. Americans communicate via email, use the Web to find health and gardening information, and bank and shop online. Schools require term papers that are word-processed, illustrated with graphics and tables and include URLs of references in their footnotes. Online directories and maps help locate people and businesses. Entry-level jobs now require technology skills as inventories of goods and services are maintained with technology. Technology literacy is an essential skill to perform basic activities of jobs, school, and personal lives.

Special efforts to create low risk/high utility situations must be created. Integrating technology and the development of technology skills into programs which serve families and communities at-risk is especially important, as typically they have fewer opportunities to learn and apply their learning. Each SCP is to develop an explicit technology plan to ensure that information and communication technology is appropriately integrated throughout the program design. Programs should have adequate information and communication technology infrastructure (i.e., hardware, software, network connectivity/mini-labs, and technology expertise) to support program administration, professional staff development, educational programming with clients, online collaboration, and electronic publishing of lessons learned and results. The technology plan needs to put technology tools in the hands of program participants to help them reach the goals of the SCP (see SCP applications instructions <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/family/cyfar/scp.html>).

c. Sustainability

Planning for sustaining community programs is an obligation of CYFAR program professionals. Sustainability is the capacity of programs to continue to respond to the identified community needs. A sustained program maintains a focus consistent with its original goals and objectives, including the individuals, families, and communities it was originally intended to serve. Some programs contract in scope, while others expand, and still others maintain the original program activities. Some programs align with other organizations and institutions while others maintain

their independence. The key element of sustainability is retaining the goal of supporting at-risk families by providing continued benefits, regardless of the particular activities that are delivered. To most effectively sustain programs for children, youth and families, an intentional effort must be made early in the program planning process. Each SCP will develop and submit a sustainability plan including those factors that research has demonstrated to be important for program sustainability: Leadership Competence, Effective Collaboration, Understanding Community, Demonstrating Program Results, Strategic Funding, Staff Involvement and Integration, and Program Responsiveness (see SCP applications instructions <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/family/cyfar/scp.html>).

Within their proposals, states should show how these projects will be integrated into their ongoing Extension programs in order to illustrate sustainability and continued funding of these projects beyond the maximum five (5) years of CYFAR Federal funding.

5. Selecting the SCP Community Sites

After the Outcome and the Program Model for the program are determined, university staff should set up an inclusive process to select two (2) or three (3) SCP sites based on (a) or (b) and all of (c) through (f) of the following criteria:

- (a) At least 45 percent of the population in targeted communities must be living at or below 185% of the Federal poverty level; or
- (b) A minimum of 50 percent of participants at each site must meet one or more of the following characteristics: family qualifies for a public assistance program; family income falls below the Federal poverty threshold; greater than 25% of the National CYFAR Outcome target audience uninsured (<https://data.cms.gov/dataset/The-Percent-of-Uninsured-People-for-Outreach-Targe/9hxb-n5xb?>); family income is less than 75 percent of the State or county median income; a parent did not complete high school; youth/family on record with community, juvenile justice and law enforcement, or social agencies for things such as foster care, child abuse or child neglect, substance abuse, eligibility for free or reduced school lunch, the WIC program, SNAP or other clearly established risk indicators; and
- (c) Indicate commitment to focus on and adhere to the Guiding Principles of the one (1) selected CYFAR Outcome; and
- (d) Indicate plan for adherence to the principles of CYFAR Integrated Program Components – Community, Technology, and Sustainability; and
- (e) CYFAR projects are strongly encouraged to partner with community sites inclusive of public housing authorities as well as 1994 Land-grant institutions, Hispanic-serving Institutions and minority-serving institutions; and
- (f) If applicable, community sites that have been previously funded under any CYFAR project will need to provide justification as to how this is a new and different project that

merits their consideration for CYFAR funding. Indicate the measured outcomes and impacts of this previously funded project and how this award from NIFA will strengthen the current impact and outcomes. Also cite how this award will contribute to greater sustainability.

6. Logic Model

Once the SCP community sites are selected, an institutional team should be developed that will work with community staff to develop one five-year SCP program plan and logic model. The CYFERnet SEARCH: Supporting Evaluation and Research Capacity Hub website (<https://cyfernetsearch.org>) features two essential resources for applicants applying for FY 2014 CYFAR SCP funding. These resources include an interactive Logic Model Builder and an interactive CYFAR Common Measures Survey Builder. These tools are to be used to facilitate the logic model process within the communities in program development, implementation, and subsequent evaluation for research based programs to lead to accomplishment of the selected CYFAR outcome. The logic model provides a visual diagram that illustrates specific components of a program and describes how the program will work. The CYFAR-specific logic model consists of five (5) elements including:

- (a) Identified needs and assets,
- (b) Desired results (short-term and long-term),
- (c) Indicators (short-term and long-term),
- (d) Activities, and
- (e) Resources.

Prospective applicants are required to use the CYFERnet SEARCH website to create a user account and develop their program's logic model. The Logic Model Builder can be found at: https://cyfernetsearch.org/ilm_1_8 in the Program Planning for Effective Program Evaluation module. A program's completed logic model (PDF version) should be included as part of their grant application package. With the use of the newly developed logic model, prospective applicants will also need to identify at least one short-term outcome from their logic model that will result from their program and can be subsequently evaluated with a CYFAR common measure.

Successful applicants are expected to comply with the required site evaluations submissions. The Interactive CYFAR Common Measures Survey Builder (cyfernetsearch.org) should be utilized to develop their evaluation assessment. The survey builder is located at: <https://cyfernetsearch.org/tools>. The CYFAR Common Measures include a list of vetted instruments that address Core Competencies in CYFAR programming, as well as Leadership, Nutrition, Parenting, Physical Activities, Science, Technology, and Workforce Preparation and is located at: http://cyfernetsearch.org/cyfar_common_measures. New projects are expected to report and share evaluative outcomes regarding their identified CYFAR common measure(s).

7. Five (5) Year Work Plan

CYFAR SCP applications will describe how the selected program model will be implemented over five years. The Work Plan will include tasks such as staffing, recruiting participants,

recruiting volunteers, establishing key partnerships, program implementation, marketing and promotion, materials development, training staff and volunteers, and evaluation methods. The Work Plan must indicate who is responsible, if known, for each of the key functions. CYFAR projects may not have the same participants for the full five (5) year plan. When there are two (2) or more high context cohorts planned for the five (5) years of the project, each should be noted in the five (5) year plan timeline.

CYFAR SCP encourages projects that develop content and programs suitable for delivery through the Cooperative Extension System's eXtension Initiative. Funds may be used to contribute to existing Communities of Practice (CoP) or to form a new CoP focused on vulnerable populations. Projects must align with the eXtension vision, mission, and values. A letter of acknowledgement from eXtension is required, and a letter of support may be required from one or more of the Communities of Practice. For detailed guidance on how to partner with eXtension, go to <http://create.extension.org/node/2057>.

Stakeholder Input from 2013 CYFAR Listening Session

On August 29, 2013, a CYFAR Listening Session was conducted for stakeholders. Thirty one stakeholders participated, with 87% of the participants representing 1862 Land-grant universities (LGUs), 10% of the participants represented 1890 LGUs and 3% of the participants represented 1994 LGUs (Tribal Colleges). The total listening session was offered for one hour and divided into two segments. Segment one addressed the question of the impact of including a "Super CYFAR Award" as part of the CYFAR Program and the remaining time was devoted to the second segment of the Listening Session which allowed for open comments.

The Question- Considering a proposed potential new funding opportunity—a Super CYFAR Project, what impact would this type of funding opportunity have on the system? The potential new funding opportunity would include the following criteria:

- 1) Open to previously funded Sustainable Community Projects;**
- 2) Will need additional evidence of the program's impact beyond the five years of the previously funded project;**
- 3) Evidence of project sustainability;**
- 4) Measurable outcomes; and**
- 5) Social impact(s).**

The project will have five (5) years of funding for approximately \$125,000/year. Targeted topics are to include the USDA Strategic Goals and/or REE Challenge Areas.

Two (2) areas of stakeholder concern related to the RFA are highlighted here:

One (1) concern dealt with the suggested \$125,000 award amount and if this amount would be adequate. Would this be adequate funding for impact regarding behavioral research which could demonstrate to the scientific community that CYFAR is indeed making a difference?

The amount was increased to \$175,000 in this RFA.

Another concern regarding the exclusion of youth development was highlighted during the Session with the REE Challenge Areas as they are currently defined.

Applicable examples are included in the RFA to indicate applicability to the REE Challenge Areas and the USDA.

Check the following NIFA webpage for a summary of stakeholder comments:

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/family/fyc_stakeholder.html

PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

Pursuant to H.R. 3547, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, the amount available to support this program in FY 2014 is approximately \$6,455,000. **Of this amount, approximately \$2,075,000 will be available to fund new CYFAR SCPs, which will have project periods ranging up to five (5) years.** The remaining \$4,205,000 will be used to support existing CYFAR SCP projects eligible for continuation awards (**applications for continuation awards will be solicited under a separate RFA**) and one (1) Pilot Model CYFAR Project up to the \$175,000 level for a five (5) year period.

This indicates that up to three awards will be offered for single university applicants and up to two awards for joint university applicants. Examples of joint university applications include an 1862 institution with an 1890 institution; two 1890 institutions; and two 1862 institutions.

There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards.

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

B. Types of Applications

It is the intention of NIFA to make new awards for each fiscal year commencing in FY 2014 through FY 2018 based upon the FY 2014 competition. In FY 2014, NIFA plans to make four (4) new continuation awards for an initial project period of one (1) year to grantees who have requested funding for up to five (5) years. A continuation grant is a grant instrument by which the Department agrees to support a specified level of effort for a predetermined project period with a statement of intention to provide additional support at a future date, provided that grantee performance has been satisfactory, appropriations are available for this purpose, and continued support would be in the best interest of the Federal government and the public. If these three elements are met, NIFA plans to provide additional support in FYs 2015 through 2018. NIFA will provide applicants funding in FY 2014. Further instructions concerning CYFAR Continuation awards for FYs 2015 through 2018 will be provided at a future date, annually. Applications must include a plan of work, overall budget, overall budget narrative, community site budgets, community site budget narratives for each of the five years, and a cumulative budget covering the entire project period. In **FY 2014**, you may submit applications to the **CYFAR SCP Program** as one (1) of the following types of requests:

(1) New application. This is a project application that has not been previously submitted to the **CYFAR SCP Program**. We will review all new applications competitively using the selection process and evaluation criteria described in Part V—Application Review Requirements.

(2) Resubmitted application. This is an application that had previously been submitted to the CYFAR SCP Program but not funded. Project Directors (PDs) must respond to the previous review panel summary (see Response to Previous Review, Part IV). Resubmitted applications must be received by the relevant due dates, will be evaluated in competition with other pending applications in appropriate area to which they are assigned, and will be reviewed according to the same evaluation criteria as new applications.

C. Project Types

NIFA is seeking applications from institutions that can demonstrate their capacity to develop statewide grantee capacity and deliver programs for at-risk children, youth, and families; have a proven track record of sustaining community programs; are integrating CYFAR into Extension programs; and are able to provide program, evaluation, and technology support to Sustainable Community Projects.

All projects funded through this program will only have an extension focus.

NIFA anticipates making NEW continuation awards under this RFA. A continuation award is issued for a specific level of effort for a predetermined period of time with a statement of intention to provide additional support at a future date. Continuation of the funding for the award is provided if performance has been satisfactory, appropriations are available for this purpose, and continued support is in the best interests of the Federal government and the public.

Applications should be submitted for five (5) year project periods. Funding will be awarded one (1) year at a time. CYFAR projects will also be required to submit a year-end report to NIFA's electronic, Web-based inventory system that facilitates both grantee submissions of project outcomes and public access to information on Federally-funded projects. The details of these reporting requirements are included in the award terms and conditions. Successful applicants are expected to comply with the required site evaluations submission and should utilize the Interactive CYFAR Common Measures Survey Builder (<https://cyfernetsearch.org/>) to develop their evaluation assessment.

CYFAR projects are required to submit program site evaluation data to CYFERnet Search.org for CYFAR Program outcome and evaluation. In accordance with OMB Control Number 0524-0043, collection of the required information has been approved.

New applicants should refer to Part I.B.7. of this RFA for specific details regarding the submission of a five (5) year work plan detailing short- and long-term desired results. The maximum funding per grantee will be \$83,000 for the initial year for a single institutional applicant, and for joint institutional applications the maximum funding allowed in the initial year is \$166,000. The first year should be focused on planning and launching the program. In years two (2) through five (5), NIFA will accept requests for up to \$145,000 per year for single institutions; and partnering institutional applicants may request up to \$290,000 per year. The statutory time limit of the project as a continuation award will be five (5) years.

1. Regular SCP Project Proposal (Single Eligible Institution)

Applicants may request up to \$83,000 (total, for the initial year) for a Regular Project Proposal. In a Regular Project Proposal, the applicant executes the project without the requirement of sharing grant funds with other project partners. **This single project type should have two (2) or three (3) community sites. Only 1862 and 1890 Land-grant institutions are eligible.**

2. Joint SCP Project Proposal (Applicant + One Eligible Land-grant Partner)

Applicants may request up to \$166,000 (total for the first year) for a Joint SCP Project Proposal. In a Joint SCP Project Proposal, the co-applicants may include one or more additional institutions. All partners must share grant funds and this sharing must be demonstrated in the budget justification. This project type should have two (2) or three (3) community sites per eligible Land-grant institution; resulting in a total of at least four (4) to six (6) community sites. **Only 1862 and 1890 Land-grant institutions are eligible. A premium of five (5) points will be offered for Joint SCP Project proposals where 1862 and 1890 Institutions collaborate.**

Funds may be sub-awarded by the Awardee. Partnerships with the Tribal Land-grant and Hispanic Serving Institutions as sub-awardees are also encouraged.

1. Pilot Model CYFAR SCP Project Proposal (Single Eligible Institution)

Applicants may request up to \$175,000 total for each year up to a five (5) year period for the Pilot Model CYFAR Project proposal. Over the five (5) year period, it will be up to a total of \$875,000. This project type is open to a previously funded CYFAR SCP Project, State Strengthening Grants, or a New Community Grants that has demonstrated sustainability, a replicable program plan, measurable outcomes and documented impacts based on one CYFAR National Outcome. The project will need to provide evidence of continued operation for at least seven years to be eligible. Evidence based strategies would be valuable for this project. This project will require a higher level of demonstrated, measurable outcomes and documented impacts which address a social outcome (social issue of wide public concern) that addresses the documented needs of children, youth and families placed at risk, particularly documented change in knowledge, skills, and behavior. An example of a higher level of demonstrated, measurable outcomes and documented impacts that addresses documented needs would include:

- (a) measured evaluation data (both qualitative and quantitative);
- (b) impacts in which the problem or issue was clearly matched and addressed by the program inputs and the program outcomes indicate improvements in quality of life of the program participants as documented by the program;
- (c) documented evidence of social change or behavioral change in participants; and
- (d) indicate support for the social issue of wide public concern which is supported by local, state, and national issue statistics.

The CYFAR Pilot Model SCP Program awardee will submit annual reports as required of SCP projects to the Vulnerable Populations NPL and on the 3rd and 5th year will include the

additional information in the report as the program will require a higher level of accountability. Report the following social issue(s) addressed, promising practices of the CYFAR Pilot Model Program, evidence base contribution, connections to the USDA and/or NIFA Strategic Goals, tie to local, state, and national issue statistics, highlight accomplishment of short, medium, and or long term outcome evaluation (inclusive of qualitative and quantitative evaluation) and any cost benefit analysis data/outcomes.

This project type should have a minimum of five (5) to six (6) community sites. This project is encouraged to include both 1862 and 1890 Land-grant sites in collaboration. **A premium of five (5) points will be offered to Pilot Model SCP projects where 1862 and 1890 institutions collaborate.**

Funds may be sub-awarded by the Awardee. Partnerships with the Tribal Land-grant and Hispanic Serving Institutions as sub-awardees are also encouraged.

The following represents NIFA estimates for FY 2014:

Description	Regular SCP Project (Single)	Joint SCP Project	Pilot Model SCP Project
Maximum Amount Requested per Proposal	\$83,000	\$166,000	\$175,000
Maximum Institutional Support (including 10% evaluation costs)	\$52,050	\$104,340	\$ 76,000
Minimum Budget for Community Sites	\$30,590	\$61,660	\$ 74,000

PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by Cooperative Extension at 1890 Land-grant Institutions, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University, 1862 Land-grant Colleges and Universities, and the University of the District of Columbia. Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline may result in the application being excluded from consideration or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

Eligible Land-grant institutions that do not have an active award will receive priority in funding if deemed meritorious. Only one application per Land-grant institution will be accepted. Current CYFAR SCP grantees may submit an application for an additional new project; however, if the same community site is being used, a justification must be provided. Attach to Field 12, Other Project Information.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

No matching funds are required and matching funds will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Electronic Application Package

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

New Users of Grants.gov

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

Steps to Obtain Application Package Materials

To receive application materials:

1. You must download and install a version of Adobe Reader compatible with Grants.gov to access, complete, and submit applications. For basic system requirements and download instructions, see <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support/technical-support/software/adobe-reader-compatibility.html>. Grants.gov has a test package that will help you determine whether your current version of Adobe Reader is compatible.
2. To obtain the application package from Grants.gov, go to <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html>. Under Step 1 click on “Download a Grant Application Package,” and enter the funding opportunity number **USDA-NIFA-SLBCD-004490** in the appropriate box and click “Download Package.” From the search results, click “Download” to access the application package.

Contained within the application package is the “NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.” This guide contains an introduction and general Grants.gov instructions, 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/applicant-resources.html>). Grants.gov assistance is also available at:

Grants.gov customer support

800-518-4726 Toll-Free or 606-545-5035

Business Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Closed on federal holidays.

Email: support@grants.gov

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

Have the following information available when contacting Grants.gov:

- Funding Opportunity Number (FON)
- Name of agency you are applying to
- Specific area of concern

See <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/electronic.html> for additional resources for applying electronically.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

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

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

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

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

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

1. SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet

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

2. SF 424 R&R Project/Performance Site Location(s)

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 3. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

3. R&R Other Project Information Form

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 4. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

a. Field 7. Project Summary/Abstract. The summary should also include the relevance of the project to the goals of **CYFAR SCP**. See Part V. 4.7 of NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further instructions and a link to a suggested template.

b. Field 8. Project Narrative.

PLEASE NOTE: The Project Narrative shall not exceed 12 pages of written text double spaced for a single university submission; for joint university submissions the Project Narrative shall not exceed 15 pages. The Logic Model (see paragraph 6. below) is in addition to the 12 page (Single University CYFAR SCP) or 15 page (Joint CYFAR SCP) Project Narrative for a single university submission. The Logic Model (see paragraph 6. below) is in addition to the 15 page Project Narrative for joint university submissions and 15 pages for the CYFAR Model Project submission. No graphs, photographs, charts, tables or support letters should be included in this field. All appendices or attachments to the application attach under Field 12. This maximum (12 pages and 15 pages respectively) has been established to ensure fair and equitable competition. The Project Narrative must include all of the following:

1. CYFAR SCP Project Management:

- (a) Project Title: (Your Institution) Sustainable Community Project
- (b) SCP Staff name, title, address, e-mail for:
SCP Project Director(s), SCP Evaluator, SCP Technology Specialist
- (c) CYFAR Outcome (see 2. below)
- (d) Program Model (see 3. below)
- (e) Community Sites. For each community site provide:
 - (i) Community staff name, title, address, and e-mail; and
 - (ii) Community & faith-based program partners.

2. One (1) National CYFAR Outcome:

Explain the rationale for the decision, the needs assessment process used, and who was involved.

3. One (1) Program Model:

- (a) Describe the selected program model including the following:
 - (i) Desired long-term results;

- (ii) Age range of high context participants;
- (iii) Frequency and duration of contact with the program;
- (iv) Group size and staffing plan;
- (v) Uniform program and curriculum content (e.g., science technology, community service, drama, computer literacy, reading literacy, parent education, exercise/fitness); and
- (vi) Standardized training and technical assistance plans for project staff.

(b) Describe the process used for determining this program model.

(c) Explain how each of the Guiding Principles is addressed in the selected Program Model (http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/family/cyfar/pdfs/guiding_principles.pdf).

4. Integrated Program Components:

- (a) **Community:** Describe how the proposed program fits into the Community context using at least one (1) of the recommended approaches.
- (b) **Technology:** Describe how the Technology Plan ensures that information and communication technology is integrated throughout the SCP program.
- (c) **Sustainability:** Describe the Sustainability Plan including critical factors.

5. Selecting Community Sites:

Describe the process used for selecting the SCP Community Sites. Community sites must be identified at the time of application submission.

6. Five (5) Year Logic Model:

Provide a five (5) year Logic Model for the SCP. The CYFAR-specific logic model consists of five (5) elements including:

- (a) Identified needs and assets;
- (b) Desired results (short-term and long-term);
- (c) Indicators (short-term and long-term);
- (d) Activities; and
- (e) Resources.

The Logic Model Builder can be found at: http://cyfernetsearch.org/ilm_1_8 in the Program Planning for Effective Program Evaluation module. Prospective applicants are required to develop a logic model, and use the CYFERnet SEARCH website to create a user account and develop their program's logic model. With the use of the newly developed logic model, prospective applicants also need to identify at least one (1) short-term outcome from their logic model that will result from their program and can be evaluated.

7. Five (5) Year Work Plan for the SCP:

The Work Plan should detail how the selected program model will be implemented over five (5) years. The Work Plan should address staffing, recruiting participants, recruiting volunteers, establishing key partnerships, program implementation, marketing and promotion, materials

development, training staff and volunteers in a five year timeline. The two or more context cohorts planned for the five years should be noted in the five year plan timeline.

c. Field 12. Other Attachments - (Must be PDF format)

Response to Previous Review. One (1) Page Limit.

This requirement only applies to “Resubmitted Applications” as described under Part II, B., and “Types of Applications”. PDs must respond to the previous review panel summary on no more than one page, titled, “RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REVIEW”. If desired, additional comments may be included in the text of the Project Narrative, subject to the page limitations of that section.

4. R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 5. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. This section of the Guide includes information about the people who require a Senior/Key Person Profile, and details about the Biographical Sketch and the Current and Pending Support, including a link to a suggested template for the Current and Pending Support. Please include annual base salary for all personnel listed under Senior/Key Person. On the Current and pending Support form, the time committed to this project should not be less than the salary requested on the budget form. Please make sure that the application proposal is listed and that all projects, including this project, do not total over 100% commitment time.

5. R&R Personal Data – As noted in Part V, 6. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide, the submission of this information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award.

6. R&R Budget

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 7. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

New applicants may request up to \$83,000 for single institution applications and \$166,000 for joint institution applicants for their initial year. The initial year should be focused on planning and launching the program. In years two (2) through five (5), NIFA will accept requests for up to \$145,000 for single institution applications or \$290,000 for joint institution applications per year.

However, applicants are cautioned to request only amounts that can be expended by the end of the budget year, since carryover funds will be subtracted from the following year’s request.

New applicants may request a maximum of \$52,050 for single university applications and for joint applications up to \$104,340 may be allocated for university support to the SCP, including technical assistance with program development, evaluation, technology, and linking of SCP to other CYFAR resources in the state and to Professional Development and Technical Assistance CYFERnet (Children, Youth and Families Education and Research Network).

For the Pilot Model SCP Project, applicants may request a maximum of \$76,000 for university support.

NOTE: See chart provided in Part II.C. – Project Types for summary and further details.

Applications must contain an overall budget, overall budget narrative, community site budgets, community site budget narratives for each of the five (5) years, and a cumulative overall budget and budget narrative covering the entire project period. The Budget Justification (aka the Budget Narrative) must include an itemized breakdown of all support requested.

Show the total amount allocated for the community site budgets within Field F, lines 8, 9 and 10 of cumulative budget form.

Community Site Budgets:

Again, individual community site budget forms and budget narratives are required for five (5) years. For each of the five years, use the R & R Subaward budget section of the application to submit these budgets and narratives. It is recognized that if the community sites are operated through the university system, then they are not considered sub-awards. Because of the requirements of Grants.gov all community sites both extension-based community sites and those sites that operate apart from extension must complete the sub-award forms for each site. **All community sites according to Grants.gov are considered sub-awards.**

If an outside organization provides some of the program operation, it is considered a subaward. Identify the operator. Include required subaward information.

It is recommended that the number of community sites be limited to two (2) or three (3) sites.

NOTE: Applicants are reminded to include the Base Annual Salaries for all Key Personnel.

First year SCP project staff inclusive of the (Project Director (PD), evaluation, and technology staff are required to attend the designated CYFAR SCP Grantee Orientation and CYFAR SCP Grantee Workshop.

In years two (2) through five (5) SCP university, county, and community site staff are required to participate in the CYFAR SCP Grantee Workshop. Travel expenses for these required trips should be included in the budget request.

Evaluation

A minimum of 10% of the total project budget must be allotted for staff, travel, and material costs of the SCP evaluation. Provide a list at the end of your budget narrative of the costs that are associated with the 10% evaluation requirement.

A portion of the budget must be dedicated to high-level evaluation intended for outcome measurement that has measurable outcomes which are related to social outcomes and USDA mission and/or REE priority areas.

No matching funds are required and matching funds will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

7. Supplemental Information Form

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

- a. **Field 2. Program to which you are applying.** Enter the program code name (**Youth at Risk**) and the program code (**MC**).
- b. **Field 8. Conflict of Interest List.** See Part VI, 1.8 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further instructions and a link to a suggested template.

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 COB on **April 11, 2014 (5 p.m. Eastern Time)**. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding.

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

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

If the AR has not received correspondence **from NIFA** regarding a submitted application within 30 days of the established deadline, contact the Agency Contact identified in Part VII of the applicable RFA and request the proposal number assigned to the application. **Failure to do so may result in the application not being considered for funding by the peer review panel. Once the application has been assigned a proposal number, this number should be cited on all future correspondence.**

D. Funding Restrictions

Pursuant to Section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 3319, **indirect costs and tuition remission are not allowable costs under Section 3(d) of Smith-Lever funded projects, and no funds will be approved for this purpose.** Costs that are a part of an institution's indirect cost pool (e.g., administrative or clerical salaries) may not be reclassified as direct costs for the purpose of making them allowable.

Grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or Extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

The Statutory time limitation for this program is five (5) years from the project start date on the Award Face Sheet (Form NIFA-2009). Extension of time beyond the five years will not be permitted.

E. Other Submission Requirements

You should follow the submission requirements noted in Part IV, section 1.9 in the document entitled “NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.”

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

PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. General

We evaluate each application in a 2-part process. First, we screen each application to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements as set forth in this RFA. Second, a review panel will technically evaluate applications that meet these requirements.

We select reviewers based upon their training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and federal agencies, and private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

B. Evaluation Criteria

NIFA will use the evaluation criteria below to review applications submitted in response to this for New SCP Community Projects RFA:

1. CYFAR SCP Project Management (10 Points)

This criterion assesses the degree to which the application has complete information for all of the following:

- (a) Project Title: (Your Institution) Sustainable Community Project;
- (b) SCP Staff name, title, address, e-mail for:
 - (i) SCP Project Director(s), SCP Evaluator, SCP Technology Specialist;
- (c) CYFAR Outcome;
- (d) Program Model; and
- (e) Community Sites. For each community site provide:
 - (i) Location, County staff name, title, address, e-mail;
 - (ii) Community staff name, title, address, and e-mail; and
 - (iii) Community & Faith-based program partners.

2. The soundness of the National CYFAR Outcome (5 Points)

This criterion is an indicator of programmatic readiness to effectively deliver the specified program and meet its specified outcomes to the community sites.

3. One Program Model (25 Points)

- (a) The degree to which the selected Program Model evaluates the following: (15 points)
 - (i) Desired long-term results;
 - (ii) Age range of high context participants;
 - (iii) Frequency and duration of contact with the program;
 - (iv) Group size and staffing plan;
 - (v) Uniform program and curriculum content (e.g., science technology, community service, drama, computer literacy, reading literacy, parent education, exercise/fitness; and
 - (vi) Standardized training and technical assistance plans for project staff.
- (b) The degree to which the process used for determining this program Pilot Model is assessed and evaluated. (5 points)
- (c) The soundness of how each of the Guiding Principles is addressed in the selected Program Model. (5 points)

4. Integrated Program Components (15 Points)

- (a) Community – Describes how the proposed program fits into the Community context using at least one of the recommended approaches. (5 Points)
- (b) Technology – Describes the Technology Plan to ensure that information and communication technology is integrated throughout the SCP program. (5 Points)
- (c) Sustainability – Describes the Sustainability Plan including critical factors. (5 Points)

5. The soundness on the process for selecting the SCP Community Sites. (5 Points)

6. Five (5) Year Logic Model (15 Points)

A clear logic Pilot Model has been articulated for how to work with communities in program development, implementation, and evaluation.

7. Five (5) Year Work Plan (25 Points)

A clear Work Plan is articulated for how the selected program Model will be or will continue to be implemented.

8. Joint SCP Projects (5 Points)

A premium of five points will be offered to joint projects including 1890 institutions.

NIFA will use the evaluation criteria below to review applications submitted in response to this RFA for the **CYFAR Pilot Model SCP Program (Previously Funded CYFAR Project)**:

1. CYFAR Pilot Model SCP Project Management (10 Points)

This criterion assesses the degree to which the application has complete information for all of the following:

- (a) Project Title: (Your Institution) Sustainable Community Project;
- (b) SCP Staff name, title, address, e-mail for:
 - (i) SCP Project Director(s), SCP Evaluator, SCP Technology Specialist;
- (c) CYFAR Outcome;
- (d) Program Model; and
- (e) Community Sites. For each community site provide:
 - (i) Location, County staff name, title, address, e-mail;
 - (ii) Community staff name, title, address, and e-mail; and
 - (iii) Community & Faith-based program partners.

2. The soundness of the National CYFAR Outcome (10 Points)

This criterion is an indicator of programmatic readiness to effectively deliver the specified program Pilot Model and meet its specified outcomes to the community sites. This criterion includes measurable social outcomes/impacts and the inclusion of programmatic outcomes inclusive of the USDA GOALS/REE Challenge Areas.

3. One Program Pilot SCP Model (20 Points)

- (a) The degree to which the selected program Pilot Model evaluates the following: (10 points)
 - (i) Desired long-term results;
 - (ii) Age range of high context participants;
 - (iii) Frequency and duration of contact with the program;
 - (iv) Group size and staffing plan;
- (v) Uniform program and curriculum content (e.g., science technology, community service, drama, computer literacy, reading literacy, parent education, exercise/fitness; and
- (vi) Standardized training and technical assistance plans for project staff.

(b) The degree to which the process used for determining this program Pilot Model is assessed and evaluated. (5 points)

(c) The soundness of how each of the Guiding Principles is addressed in the selected Program Model. (5 points)

4. Integrated Program Components (15 Points)

- (a) Community – Describes how the proposed program fits into the Community context using at least one of the recommended approaches. (5 Points)
- (b) Technology – Describes the Technology Plan to ensure that information and communication technology is integrated throughout the SCP program. (5 Points)
- (c) Sustainability – Describes the Sustainability Plan including critical factors. (5 Points)

5. The soundness on the process for selecting the SCP Community Sites (5 Points)

6. Five Year Logic Model (10 Points)

A clear logic model has been articulated for how to work with communities in program development, implementation, and evaluation.

7. Five Year Work Plan (15 Points)

A clear Work Plan is articulated for how the selected program Pilot Model will be or will continue to be implemented.

8. Evidence of Replicability, Sustainability, and Evaluation/Impact (10 Points)

Project directors should indicate evidence of the projects' continuous sustainability beyond a minimum seven year period. Projects should show evidence of project replicability with a minimum of five sites. This project should also show evidence of impact in more than one region of the state. Projects should also have evidence of potential replicability in other states. Show indication of alignment with one of the USDA and/or REE Goals. This project will require demonstrated, measurable outcomes and documented impacts which address a social outcome (social issue of wide public concern) that addresses the documented needs of children, youth and families placed at risk. An example of higher level of demonstrated, measurable outcomes and documented impacts that addresses documented needs would include:

- (a) measurable evaluation data (both qualitative and quantitative); statistical evidence would provide robust evaluation data.
- (b) impacts in which the problem or issue was clearly matched and addressed by the program inputs and the program outcomes indicate improvements in quality of life of the program participants as documented by the program; show evidence of the programs social impact at the community, regional and even state level (where possible). Indicate change in knowledge, skills, and behavior.
- (c) indicate evidence of support for the social issue of wide public concern supported by local, state, and national issue statistics.
- (d) evidence of the replicability of the project beyond a community; show evidence of its successful replication and sustainability in other communities or other states.

The following document produced by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), would be beneficial when considering an evaluation plan for the CYFAR Model SCP Project. Please refer to page 9:

http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/12_0210_sif_nofa.pdf

At a minimum the project should demonstrate preliminary evidence. Preliminary evidence means evidence that is based on a reasonable hypothesis supported by research findings. Thus, research that has yielded promising results for either the program model or a similar program model will meet CNCS' criteria. Examples of research that meet the standards include: 1) outcome studies that track participants through a program and measure participants' responses at the end of the program; and 2) pre- and post-test research that determines whether participants have improved on an intended outcome.

Include an evaluation plan; it may include statistical analysis of evaluation data which includes both qualitative and quantitative evaluation. Use CYFERnet Search.org. as well. For this Pilot Model CYFAR Project and evaluation report of outcomes and impacts should be submitted to the NIFA Vulnerable Populations National Program Leader (NPL) at years two (2), four (4) and five (5) of the project.

9. Collaboration Opportunities (5 Points)

A premium of five points will be offered to projects partnering with 1890 institutions.

C. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

During the peer evaluation process, we take extreme care to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may impact review or evaluation. For the purpose of determining conflicts of interest, we determine the academic and administrative autonomy of an institution by reference to the current Higher Education Directory, published by Higher Education Publications, Inc., 1801 Robert Fulton Drive, Suite 340, Reston, VA, 20191. Phone: (888) 349-7715. Web site: <http://www.hepinc.com>.

Names of submitting institutions and individuals, as well as application content and peer evaluations, are kept confidential, except to those involved in the review process, to the extent permitted by law. In addition, the identities of peer reviewers will remain confidential throughout the entire review process, to the extent permitted by law; therefore, the names of the reviewers will not be released to applicants.

D. Organizational Management Information

Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted on a one time basis, with updates on an as needed basis. This requirement is part of the responsibility determination prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA, if such information has not been provided previously under this or another NIFA program. We will provide you copies of forms recommended for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the preaward process. Although an applicant may be eligible based on its status as one of these entities, 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 whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this RFA. The date specified by the NIFA awarding official as the effective date of the grant shall be no later than September 30 of the federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law. The project need not be initiated on the grant effective date, but as soon thereafter as practical so that project goals may be attained within the funded project period. All funds granted by NIFA under this RFA may be used only for the purpose for which they are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, regulations, terms and conditions of the award, applicable federal cost principles, USDA assistance regulations (parts 3015 and 3019 of 7 CFR), and NIFA General Awards Administration Provisions at 7 CFR part 3430, subparts A through E.

B. Award Notice

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

- (1) Legal name and address of performing organization or institution to whom the director has issued an award under the terms of this request for applications;
- (2) Title of project;
- (3) Name(s) and institution(s) of PDs chosen to direct and control approved activities;
- (4) Identifying award number assigned by NIFA;
- (5) Project period, specifying the amount of time NIFA intends to support the project without requiring recompetition for funds;
- (6) Total amount of financial assistance approved for the award;
- (7) Legal authority(ies) under which the award is issued;
- (8) Appropriate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number;
- (9) Applicable award terms and conditions (see <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/awards/awardterms.html> to view NIFA award terms and conditions);

(10) Approved budget plan for categorizing allocable project funds to accomplish the stated purpose of the award; and

(11) Other information or provisions deemed necessary by NIFA to carry out its respective awarding activities or to accomplish the purpose of a particular award.

C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

Grantees are to submit initial project information and annual and summary reports to NIFA's electronic, Web-based inventory system that facilitates both grantee submissions of project outcomes and public access to information on Federally-funded projects. The details of these reporting requirements are included in the award terms and conditions. Details of annual and final technical reporting requirements also are included in the award terms and conditions.

Successful applicants are expected to comply with the required site evaluations submission and should utilize the Interactive CYFAR Common Measures Survey Builder (cyfernetsearch.org) to develop their evaluation assessment.

PART VII—AGENCY CONTACTS

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact:

Programmatic Contact:

Bonita Williams, Ph.D

Title: National Program Leader

Unit: Division of Youth and 4-H

Location: 4423 Waterfront Centre

Phone: (202) 720-3566

Fax: (202) 720 - 2030

Email: bonita.williams@nifa.usda.gov

Administrative/Business Contacts:

Duane Alphs

Title: Team Leader

Unit: Office of Grants and Financial Management

Location: 2152 Waterfront Centre

Phone: (202) 401 - 4326

Email: dalphs@nifa.usda.gov

Rochelle McCrea

Title: Team Leader, Team I

Unit: Branch II

Location: 2160 Waterfront Centre

Phone: (202) 401 - 2880

Fax: (202) 401 - 6271

Email: rmccrea@nifa.usda.gov

PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION

A. Access to Review Information

We will send copies of reviews, not including the identity of reviewers, and a summary of the panel comments to the applicant PD after the review process has been completed.

B. Use of Funds; Changes

1. Delegation of Fiscal Responsibility

Unless the terms and conditions of the award state otherwise, awardees may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of award funds.

2. Changes in Project Plans

a. The permissible changes by the awardee, PD(s), or other key project personnel in the approved project shall be limited to changes in methodology, techniques, or other similar aspects of the project to expedite achievement of the project's approved goals. If the awardee or the PD(s) is uncertain as to whether a change complies with this provision, the question must be referred to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) for a final determination. The ADO is the signatory of the award document, not the program contact.

b. The awardee must request, and the ADO must approve in writing, all changes in approved goals or objectives prior to effecting such changes. In no event shall requests be approved for changes that are outside the scope of the original approved project.

c. The awardee must request, and the ADO must approve in writing, all changes in approved project leadership or the replacement or reassignment of other key project personnel, prior to effecting such changes.

d. The awardee must request, and the ADO must approve in writing, all transfers of actual performance of the substantive programmatic work in whole or in part and provisions for payment of funds, whether or not federal funds are involved, prior to instituting such transfers, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of the award.

e. The project period may be extended without additional financial support, for such additional period(s) necessary to complete or fulfill the purposes of an approved project, but in no case shall the total project period exceed any applicable statutory limit or expiring appropriation limitation. The terms and conditions of award include information about no-cost extensions of the award and when ADO's prior approval is necessary.

f. Changes in Approved Budget: Unless stated otherwise in the terms and conditions of award, changes in an approved budget must be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the

ADO prior to instituting such changes, if the revision will involve transfers or expenditures of amounts requiring prior approval as set forth in the applicable Federal cost principles, Departmental regulations, or award.

C. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

When an application results in an award, it becomes a part of the record of NIFA transactions, available to the public upon specific request. Information that the Secretary determines to be of a confidential, privileged, or proprietary nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, any information that the applicant wishes to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary should be clearly marked within the application. The original copy of an application that does not result in an award will be retained by the Agency for a period of three years. Other copies will be destroyed. Such an application will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An application may be withdrawn at any time prior to the final action thereon.

D. Regulatory Information

For the reasons set forth in the final Rule related Notice to 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V (48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983), this program is excluded from the scope of the Executive Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the collection of information requirements contained in this Notice have been approved under OMB Document No. 0524-0039.

E. Definitions

Please refer to 7 CFR 3430, Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Financial Assistance Programs--General Award Administrative Provisions, for applicable definitions for this NIFA grant program.