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

Specialty Crop Research Initiative/Citrus Disease Research and Extension

FISCAL YEAR 2014 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

STAKEHOLDER RELEVANCE STATEMENT DEADLINE: July 18, 2014

INVITED FULL APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 29, 2014

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE: This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under **10.309**

Please Note: Beginning in FY 2014, the Specialty Crops Research Initiative (SCRI)/Citrus Disease Research and Extension (CDRE) program will be competed in two stages. Applicants will be required to submit Stakeholder Relevance Statements (SRSs). The content of a SRS is described in Section IV, A. of this RFA. Applicants whose SRS is scored highly enough **will be invited to submit full applications**. Invited full applications will undergo a scientific peer review.

Submission deadlines:

1. Complete, error-free Stakeholder Relevance Statements must be received in Grants.gov by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on July 18, 2014**. See Section IV, A. for a description of the requirements for the contents of a stakeholder relevance statement. **STAKEHOLDER RELEVANCE STATEMENTS ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE GRANT APPLICATIONS.**
2. **Invited full applications** must be received by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 29, 2014**. See Section IV, D. for a description of the requirements for the contents of a full application.

PART I – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program (CDRE) is authorized in the Agricultural Act of 2014 (H.R. 2642) to award grants to eligible entities to conduct research and extension activities, technical assistance and development activities to:

- A. combat citrus diseases and pests, both domestic and invasive and including *huanglongbing* and the Asian citrus psyllid, which pose imminent harm to United States citrus production and threaten the future viability of the citrus industry; and
- B. provide support for the dissemination and commercialization of relevant information, techniques, and technologies discovered pursuant to research and extension activities funded through SCRI/CDRE and other research and extension projects targeting problems caused by citrus production diseases and invasive pests.

Based on consultation with the Citrus Disease Sub-committee (CDS) of the National Agricultural Research, Education, Extension and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEE), which occurred on May 19 and 20, 2014, only applications that deal with the huanglongbing (HLB, citrus greening) complex or its management will be considered in FY 2014. Pre-applications proposing research and extension on other citrus diseases or citrus disease vectors will be returned without review.

HLB is considered to be the most devastating disease of citrus and threatens citrus production globally. HLB was first found in the continental United States in Florida in 2005 and since then has reached epidemic proportions. HLB has moved into Texas and is currently found at low levels in all citrus producing regions within that state. The Asian citrus psyllid, which is the insect vector of the disease, has been identified in Arizona and California, but the disease itself has not been found. Because there are wide differences among the states in terms of where they are in HLB progression, there are regional as well as national priorities for CDRE. These priorities fall within four categories: priorities that deal with the pathogen (assumed to be a bacterium); those that deal with the insect vector; those that deal with citrus orchard production systems and; those that deal with non-agricultural citrus tree owners. For FY 2014, the CDS has identified the following priorities:

Pathogen

1. The development of methodologies and systems to detect the presence of the pathogen in the tree before the appearance of disease symptoms;
2. The discovery of bacteriacides that will control or eradicate the pathogen in the tree and the development of systems for delivery of these materials;
3. The discovery of anti-microbials that will reduce the titer of the pathogen within the tree to eliminate the symptoms of the disease and the development of systems for delivery of these materials;
4. The development of technologies and delivery systems that will allow producers to treat infected trees with sufficient heat to eliminate the pathogen.

Vector

1. The discovery of new materials that will control the Asian citrus psyllid;
2. The discovery of new materials that will control the Asian citrus psyllid that will be allowable in organic production systems;

3. The development of new systems that will accurately and consistently detect the presence of the Asian citrus psyllid when it exists in very low numbers;
4. The development of non-transgenic RNAi technologies and systems that will either kill the Asian citrus psyllid or prevent it from being able to either acquire or transmit the pathogen;
5. The discovery and development of biological control systems to reduce Asian citrus psyllid populations to manageable numbers;
6. The discovery and development of systems to repel the Asian citrus psyllid away from citrus trees
7. The discovery and development of systems to attract, trap and kill the Asian citrus psyllid;
8. The discovery and development of systems to prevent the Asian citrus psyllid from developing resistance to control strategies.

Citrus Production Systems

1. The development of rootstocks and scions that are resistant to or tolerant of HLB while maintaining acceptable horticultural characteristics;
2. The development of methods to prevent fruit abscission prior to commercial ripeness in diseased trees;
3. The development of methods to improve the processing quality of citrus juice from trees infected with HLB;
4. The development and comparison of model orchard systems that will allow young trees to become commercially productive in the presence of HLB;
5. An analysis of the economic factors and conditions (including policies) that will be necessary to re-establish a sustainable citrus industry in the face of epidemic HLB infection.

Non-agricultural Citrus Owners

1. The development of educational materials that demonstrate the importance of controlling the Asian citrus psyllid and HLB in citrus trees growing on non-agricultural land;
2. The development of educational materials that illustrate the benefit of new methodologies that are developed for control of the Asian citrus psyllid and HLB.

SCRI/CDRE will give priority to projects that address the research and extension priorities established by the Citrus Disease Subcommittee, as per section 1408A (g)(4) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123a). Furthermore, priority will also be given to projects that are multistate, multi-institutional, or trans-disciplinary, and include clearly defined mechanisms to communicate results to producers.

SCRI/CDRE seeks to address these challenges by funding systems-based, trans-disciplinary approaches. **PLEASE NOTE: For purposes of the SCRI program, the term trans-disciplinary, is defined as a multi-disciplinary approach that brings biological and physical scientists together with economists and social scientists to address challenges in a holistic manner.** It is anticipated that successful applications will:

1. Engage stakeholders in collaborative ways to insure that the solutions developed are commercially feasible;
2. Bring together multi-state, multi-institutional teams of biological, physical, and social scientists to develop strategies and actions emphasizing **systems-based, trans-disciplinary** approaches for meeting the identified priorities, including an economic analysis of the costs and benefits associated with proposed solutions;
3. Address priorities through research and development, outreach, extension, technology transfer, and other efforts potentially leading to commercialization, where appropriate;
4. Present plans for documenting the impacts of funded applications that include stakeholder involvement; and
5. Include explicit mechanisms to communicate results to producers.

SCRI/CDRE provides support for the following five project types in FY 2014. These project types are described in more detail in Part II, C. Applicants should decide which project type is best suited to the objectives of their research and extension project and develop a budget that fits the objectives. Applicants are discouraged from developing a project (and selecting a project type) based on a budget request target.

1. Standard Research and Extension Projects (SREPs)

- a. Project Period – Up to five years.
- b. Budget – Federal funds not less than \$250,000 per project.
- c. Purpose – To support targeted problem-solving efforts that would not otherwise qualify in scope for support as a CAP project.

2. Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAPs)

- a. Project Period – Three to five years.
- b. Funding range – Normally, federal funds will not exceed a total of \$10,000,000 per project.
- c. Purpose – To address multiple components of the production system, in concert, with the aim of making significant advances in citrus disease research and extension.

3. Regional Partnerships for Innovation (RPIs)

- a. Project Period – Two to three years.
- b. Budget – Normally, federal funds will not exceed \$2,000,000 per project.
- c. Purpose – To form partnerships that provide the local or regional infrastructure needed to fully exploit future technology commercialization and adoption.

4. eXtension Projects

- a. Project Period – Three to five years.
- b. Budget – Normally, federal funds will not exceed \$450,000 per project.
- c. Purpose – To develop Communities of Practice (COPs) for the eXtension system and to support existing COPs.

5. Research and Extension Planning Projects

- a. Project Period – One year.
- b. Budget – Federal funds up to \$50,000 per project.
- c. Purpose – To provide assistance to applicants in the development of quality future SREP, RPI, or CAP proposals (grant planning). Funds may also be requested to provide assistance to consumer, producer, or industry groups for developing strategic research and extension plans—including goals, objectives, priorities, etc. (strategic planning). The expectation is that developed plans could provide the relevance bases for future SCRI grant applications.

Support of Long-term, Systems-focused Research and Extension: SCRI/CDRE is able to support long-term, systems-focused research and extension projects in limited cases where current, five-year project periods do not allow for the completion of project objectives. Breeding of citrus trees and some ecological studies are examples of these types of projects. In order to be considered as a long-term project, you **MUST** request five years of funding and state in the **Project Summary** that you want your application to be considered as a long-term project. Only Standard Research and Extension Projects (SREPs) and Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAPs) may be considered as long-term projects. In the final year of the initial project period, you will be able to apply for additional funding (up to a 5-year increment of funds) as a **NEW** application, subject to congressional authorization and the availability of funds. The application for an additional five years of funding as a new award must document both progress during the initial five years and the ability to leverage gains in a second five years.

Project applications must budget sufficient resources to carry out the proposed set of extension and research activities, must address at least one of the five legislatively mandated focus areas described below, and should describe the practical applications being sought. The intent of the SCRI/CDRE program is to promote collaboration, open communication, the exchange of information, and the development of resources that accelerate application of scientific discovery and technology to solve the needs of the citrus industry. The SCRI/CDRE program aims to reduce duplication of efforts and integrate activities among individuals, institutions, states, and regions. Therefore, applications should clearly articulate how a SCRI/CDRE award will complement and/or link with existing programs or projects.

1. Research in plant breeding, genetics, genomics, and other methods to improve citrus characteristics, such as:
 - a. product, taste, quality, and appearance;
 - b. environmental responses and tolerances;
 - c. nutrient management, including plant nutrient uptake efficiency;
 - d. pest and disease management, including resistance to pests and diseases resulting in reduced application management strategies; and
 - e. enhanced phytonutrient content.
2. Efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to specialty crop pollinators;
3. Efforts to improve production efficiency, handling and processing, productivity, and profitability over the long term (including specialty crop policy and marketing);

4. New innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening; and
5. Methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, and respond to potential food safety hazards in citrus production.

PART II – AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards. Approximately \$24 million is available in FY 2014.

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. Type of Application

In FY 2014, applications may be submitted to the SCRI program as the following type of request:

- (1) **New application**. This is a project application that has not been previously submitted to the SCRI Program. All new applications will be reviewed competitively using the selection process and evaluation criteria described in Part V—Application Review Requirements.

C. Project Types

Standard Research and Extension Projects (SREPs): Beginning in FY 2014, applicants submitting SREPs will be required to submit a SRS. See Section IV, B. for a description of the requirements for the contents of a SRS. SREP awards will support targeted problem-solving efforts that contribute to the overall sustainability of citrus production or one of its components, and that would not otherwise qualify in scope and effort for support as a Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP). Beginning with stakeholder-identified concerns, projects should seek solutions that lead to measurable benefit to producers. Applications should bring together both research and extension components of the agricultural knowledge system around a citrus disease or pest problem area or activity. Partnerships with end-user groups (*e.g.*, industry, processors, manufacturers, growers, technology providers) are strongly encouraged, as is the use of students in key research and extension roles (*e.g.*, internships and other opportunities for students to engage with stakeholders and their needs or student exchange opportunities across collaborating institutions). For each SREP award, there is an expectation that an advisory panel will be formed to inform the project throughout its life, including the identification and prioritization of research and extension objectives. Applications should detail the creation and functions of this panel. As part of industry communication, the project should publish a web site by the end of the first year that can inform a broad audience regarding ongoing progress and outcomes. The project must contribute to long-term profitability and sustainability of citrus production. Further, the project must bring together biological, physical, and social scientists, as

appropriate to project goals and address economic, environmental, and social aspects of specialty crop sustainability. SREPs will have a project period ranging up to five years.

Applications must include, as an appendix, a timeline that clearly identifies which key personnel are involved in which objectives during each time segment of the project. This appendix should also identify short-, medium- and long-term metrics that will be used in project evaluation, the expectations for each team member, a mechanism whereby progress metrics can be evaluated, and how the project will complement and/or link to existing programs or projects.

Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAPs): Beginning in FY 2014, applicants submitting CAPs will be required to submit a SRS. See Section IV, B. for a description of the requirements for the contents of a SRS. CAPs will be awarded to consortia or groups of qualified applicants to address multiple components of citrus production, with the expectation that the project will make significant contributions to the industry sustainability. These projects should apply trans- disciplinary, multi-functional, and, where appropriate, multi-institutional approaches to provide viable solutions to the highest priority stakeholder needs. An aim of a CAP award is to encourage maximum flexibility in applied research and extension. Applications will be evaluated based on how well their goals and objectives respond to current stakeholder needs. It is recognized, however, that as a project's comprehensive approach unfolds, unexpected advances and promising leads, or unforeseen new national needs related to project goals and objectives, may be identified. CAPs will have a project period ranging from three to five years.

CAP applications are expected to demonstrate coherent and complementary integrated activities with the ultimate goal of developing a strategy or solution that could be implemented for citrus production. Applications are expected to take advantage of recent advances in biological, physical, and social and economic sciences and to translate basic discoveries and knowledge to practical applications. The project must contribute to long-term profitability and sustainability of citrus production. The application's methodology and analytical approach must be appropriate to project objectives and effectively combine research and extension activities. A continuity plan must describe how the partnership effort will continue beyond the period of NIFA funding and address future long-term plans for proposed activities. Applications are expected to demonstrate the potential to develop a national strategy or solution as an ultimate goal. This would include the intent to promote collaboration, open communication, the exchange of information and development of resources that accelerate the application of scientific discovery and technology to solving the needs of citrus industry. Such a national CAP should aim to reduce duplication of effort and integrate activities among individuals, institutions, states, and regions. Therefore, applications should clearly articulate how the national-scope CAP they are proposing would complement and/or link with existing programs or projects.

A CAP must seek to bring together a multi-state, multi-institutional, and/or trans-disciplinary team to integrate scientific discoveries and technology with practical application; and provide complementary extension efforts to bring science-based information to relevant audiences that will allow them to make informed decisions. For each CAP award, there is an expectation that an advisory panel will inform the project throughout its life, including the identification and

prioritization of research and/or extension objectives. Applications must detail the creation and functions of this panel. As part of industry communication, the project should publish a web site by the end of the first year that can inform a broad audience on progress and outcomes.

CAP teams should be comprised of members working in discovery, learning, and engagement to conduct research and extension utilizing systems science and trans-disciplinary approaches on an emerging or priority area important to citrus diseases and pests. This integrated team should contain expertise in biological science disciplines, physical science and engineering disciplines, socio-economic sciences, extension, and program evaluation, as appropriate, as well as expertise from principal stakeholders and partners. Partnerships with end-user groups (e.g., industry, processors, manufacturers, growers, technology providers) are strongly encouraged, along with the use of undergraduate students in key research and extension roles (e.g., internships and other opportunities for students to engage with stakeholders and their needs or student exchange opportunities across collaborating institutions). The application should outline the potential of the CAP team, its structure, coordination and plan of implementation.

As a result, there is an expectation that objectives may be redirected and/or new objectives may be developed with associated budget adjustments. To encourage flexibility, the program does not expect that all investigators associated with the proposed project will be supported throughout its duration. Applications must include, as an appendix, a budgeted project management plan and timeline to ensure efficient functioning of the CAP team. A timeline chart that clearly identifies which key personnel are involved in which objectives during each time segment of the project is particularly helpful. This plan should include an organizational chart, administrative timeline, a description of how the project will be governed, intellectual property management, and identification of short-, medium- and long-term metrics that will be used in project evaluation, the expectations for each team member, a mechanism whereby progress metrics can be evaluated, and how the project will complement and/or link to existing programs or projects to include multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional, multi-state and trans-disciplinary collaborations. Given the size and scope of CAP projects, applicants are strongly encouraged to budget for a half-time or full-time (as appropriate) project management position to deal with day-to-day project operations and coordination. The management plan must include a strategy to become self-supporting by the end of the project period. See Part IV, B (3) (c) – Field 11 for attachment instructions.

Applications must include, as an appendix, a budgeted plan and timeline for an advisory group of principal stakeholders and scientists relevant to the proposed research and extension projects (e.g., include letters of commitment and rationale for their role) to assess and evaluate the quality, potential outcomes, and impacts, and how they could function effectively to support the goals and objectives of the CAP). See Part IV, B (3) (c) – Field 11 for attachment instructions.

Regional Partnerships for Innovation (RPIs): Beginning in FY 2014, applicants submitting RPIs will be required to submit a SRS. See Section IV, B. for a description of the requirements for the contents of a SRS.

New technologies and innovations associated with SCRI/CDRE and other research and extension programs will drive continued development of product lines, product services, businesses, and business alliances. New technologies not only need to be identified or developed, but there must be an active path to commercialization and implementation. In creating new products and new businesses, there are clear benefits to producers who can utilize the new technologies, and there are benefits to the area where these new technologies are developed in the form of new businesses, jobs, and a stronger economy. To gain the greatest buy-in and impact, there must be a general awareness and support for these activities across many business sectors and technologies. This entire process works best when agricultural and non-agricultural businesses, institutions, and agencies join together to create regional partnerships for innovation. Such partnerships fill a gap in networking resources (“support networks”) that encourage and help sustain regional economic development.

This project type seeks innovative projects that will establish collaborative environments whereby organizations form mutually supportive alliances and partnerships. Partnership efforts develop the infrastructure to help commercialize new technologies, bring them to market, and ensure that the necessary long term financial, human, and intellectual capital is present. Broad-based partnerships can provide the local or regional organizational infrastructure needed to fully exploit future technology commercialization and adoption. Research, extension, and technology transfer efforts within an RPI project might, for example, be used to: seed innovative approaches and technology concepts leading to new product development; explore new networking capabilities and/or integrated product lines and service offerings; conduct market research for recently developed, or anticipated, new technology areas or products; better understand and develop mitigation strategies for technology adoption roadblocks and associated business growth and development concerns; and investigate and test new finance and business models particularly tailored to the unique needs of the citrus industry.

The Federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) programs help individual small businesses develop and prototype pre-commercial products and services. Therefore, RPIs will not support proposals focused on the development of individual technologies, services, or businesses. However, individual participants within an RPI collaboration may seek SBIR funds to further develop future products or service concepts. RPIs are intended to result in model systems for support and infrastructure to promote local, regional, and integrated systems of innovation associated with citrus production. More information about the SBIR program can be found at www.sbir.gov.

These networks would be comprised of partnerships among universities, community colleges, local governments, financial stakeholders, end-user industries, manufacturers, community organizations, and customers. RPI awards will support the initial development of regional partnerships with the expectation that they would be self-supporting by the end of the project period. RPI applications will have a project period of two to three years.

RPIs should serve the citrus industry, both seeking its participation and incorporating its input. It is expected that each funded partnership will operate within a clear geographic focus and include participants appropriate to that geography and stated stakeholder communities. However, such partnerships may eventually grow over time; particularly if they provide good

models for other geographic areas. Participant roles and responsibilities will focus on particular partnership objectives and the anticipated outputs and outcomes for the project. Applicants must demonstrate how their RPI efforts will contribute to the commercialization of a portfolio of integrated products and services, foster new business innovation clusters, and/or enhance the growth and development of local and regional economies. For each RPI award, there is an expectation that an advisory panel will inform the project throughout its life, including the identification and prioritization of research and/or extension objectives. Applications must detail the creation and functions of this panel. As part of industry communication, by the end of the first year the project should publish a web site, informing a broad audience about ongoing progress and outcomes.

The application must demonstrate understanding and application of a whole system(s) approach with the potential for the partnership to contribute to long-term profitability and sustainability of the citrus industry. The application must demonstrate that the project brings together biological, physical, and social scientists, as appropriate, to address economic, environmental, and social aspects of sustainability.

RPIs developed under this initiative should articulate how their approach can serve as a model for innovation by other locales. A continuity plan should also be included that describes how the partnership effort will continue beyond the period of NIFA funding.

eXtension Projects. Beginning in FY 2014, applicant submitting eXtension project applications will be required to submit a SRS. See Section IV, B. for a description of the requirements for the contents of a SRS. NIFA encourages the development of information and educational content to advance the widespread adoption of research-based practices and technologies by producers and other end users. Groups of qualified individuals will receive grants to develop new eXtension Communities of Practice (CoPs) and/or support the enhancement of existing CoPs to ensure that information and technology transfer reach potential adopters as quickly as possible. Strong justification for creation of a new CoP, as opposed to enhancing or expanding an existing one, should be included in the proposal language. Proposals to either establish a new CoP or to enhance an existing CoP should include a letter of acknowledgement from eXtension (<http://create.extension.org/node/2057>). If proposing establishment of a new CoP, an application must clearly demonstrate that it has surveyed existing CoPs and articulate how the proposed CoP will complement and coordinate with the existing base of related CoPs to avoid duplication of effort and to combine resources. If the proposed work will expand an existing CoP, the applicant should contact the leader of the appropriate CoP to explore options for collaboration early in the proposal development process. This will allow sufficient time for collaborative development of the plan of work and budget, as well as obtaining letters of collaboration from both eXtension and the target CoP. All key personnel for an application should be registered with eXtension.org and have user accounts.

eXtension applications typically will include funds to support core CoP functions (e.g., community development, editorial management, Ask-an-Expert, outreach, evaluation, etc.) and development of project-specific content for publication to eXtension. Budgets should include supporting funds for both core and project-specific functions.

The application must demonstrate an understanding and application of a whole system(s) approach with the potential for the project to contribute to long-term profitability and sustainability of citrus production. The project must bring together biological, physical, and social scientists, as appropriate, to project goals to address economic, environmental, and social aspects of citrus production sustainability.

Applicants establishing new CoPs (or enhancing existing ones) must first follow the corresponding steps outlined by eXtension.org (<http://create.extension.org/node/2057>). In addition to addressing the relevance criteria established for the SCRI, eXtension applications should also address in their narrative the Key Criteria listed on the above eXtension web site. eXtension applications will have a project period of three to five years.

Please see the following links for more information:

eXtension

<http://about.extension.org/>

eXtension Implementation Plan

<http://about.extension.org/wiki/Planning>

Communities of Practice

http://about.extension.org/wiki/Glossary_of_eXtension_Terms#Community_of_Practice_.28CoP.29

Including eXtension in your NIFA proposal and contact information:

<http://create.extension.org/node/2057>

Research and Extension Planning Projects. In FY 2014, applicants submitting A Research and Extension Planning Project will be required to submit a SRS. See Section IV, B. for a description of the requirements for the contents of a SRS. For SCRI/CDRE, Research and Extension Planning Projects are intended to provide assistance to applicants in the development of quality future SREP, RPI, or CAP proposals. Grant planning applications are encouraged to bring together biological, physical, and socio- economic scientists and others, as appropriate, including end-users and technology providers, to identify research and/or extension needs, update information, and advance understanding of citrus production disease and pest issues. This information should be used to build teams that can develop SCRI/CDRE applications to address the identified challenges using a systems-based, trans- disciplinary approach. The application must develop a whole system(s) approach with the potential for the project to contribute to long-term profitability and sustainability of citrus production efficiency. Project goals must address economic, environmental, and social aspects of citrus industry sustainability. These activities can take the form of workshops or symposia and may constitute an initial step in preparing an SCRI application in subsequent years. Applicants should be careful to ensure that participants represent a broad range of expertise by detailing the types of participants who will be invited. Note: The intent of these planning projects is to foster collaboration and networking opportunities to enhance the preparation of future high-quality grant applications. To convey to

the review panel that grant planning can successfully lead to a quality grant application, the application should also incorporate the necessary activities and resources for grant development and writing.

D. Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research

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

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

PART III – ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

SCRI/CDRE, applications may be submitted by Federal agencies, national laboratories, colleges and universities, research institutions and organizations, private organizations or corporations, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, Cooperative Extension Services, individuals, or groups consisting of two or more of these entities.

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.

B. Cost-Sharing or Matching

While this Request for Applications is being published in Fiscal Year 2014, awards will be made after October 1, 2014, so the following matching language will apply.

In accordance with section 1492 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3371), as added by section 7128 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-79), for grants awarded after October 1, 2014, the recipient of an award from the SCRI/CDRE program must provide funds, in-kind contributions, or a combination of both, from sources other than funds provided through such grant in an amount that is at least equal to the amount awarded by NIFA. The matching funds requirement does not apply to grants awarded:

1. To a research agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); or
2. To an entity eligible to receive funds under a capacity and infrastructure program (as defined in section 251(f)(1)(C) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, 7 U.S.C. 6971(f)(1)(C)), including a partner of such an entity (see Part VIII, E. Definitions).

Entities eligible to receive funds under a capacity and infrastructure program and exempt from the matching funds requirement include:

- a. 1862 Land-grant Institutions, including State Agricultural Experiment Stations receiving funding under the Hatch Act of 1887
- b. 1890 Land-grant Institutions
- c. 1994 Land-grant Institutions
- d. Recipients of Continuing Animal Health and Disease, Food Security, and Stewardship Research, Education, and Extension Program Funds — Capacity and Infrastructure Program (CIP)
- e. Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU)
- f. Insular Area Schools Eligible to Receive Funds from the Distance Education/Resident Instruction Grant Programs
- g. Recipients of McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Program Funds
- h. Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture (NLGCA)
- i. Recipients of funds under a program established under section 1417(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)), including: (1) 1890 Institution Teaching, Research, and Extension Capacity Building Grants Program; (2) Higher Education Challenge Grants Program; (3) Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program; and (4) Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship Grants Program.

A proposal submitted in response to this RFA may indicate that the work will be completed by multiple entities as a collaborative partnership. All partners must have a substantial involvement in the project throughout the life of the project. If a partnership among multiple entities is proposed, the proposal must clearly identify the following:

- 1) A narrative of each entity’s clearly established role in the project;
- 2) How each entity involved as a partner on the project will contribute to execution of project objectives, determination of experimental design, development of the project work plan and time table, and submission of collaborative, timely reports; and
- 3) A comprehensive project budget that reflects each entity’s financial or in-kind contribution to the total project budget costs (see Part VIII, E. Definitions).

If a proposal indicates that the work on the project will be completed by multiple entities as partners, and at least one entity is exempt from the matching requirement under #2 above, the entire project will be exempt from the matching requirement regardless of whether all entities involved are otherwise exempt. Any partner entity can serve as the lead entity on the project. All partners must be significantly involved in the project.

After proposals have been recommended for award, NIFA will determine if the submitted proposal and proposed division of work reflects substantial involvement of all entities involved. If a proposal is recommended for award to a lead entity not otherwise exempt from the matching requirement and the proposal does not reflect substantial involvement of at least one partner that is exempt under #2 above, then the matching requirement will apply. Exemption from the matching requirement for an entity not otherwise exempt is limited to the project for which it is a partner.

Waiver of Match - NIFA may waive the matching funds requirement for a recipient for one year with respect to a competitive grant that involves research or extension activities that are consistent with the priorities established by the NAREEEAB for the year involved.

Applicants may use both the unrecovered indirect costs associated with the Federal Budget and the unrecovered indirect costs associated with the Non-Federal Budget to meet their matching requirements. **However, indirect costs may not be recovered on third-party matching contributions.**

The example below may assist applicants in preparing their Federal and Non-Federal Budgets when considering the use of unrecovered indirect costs as a matching contribution. In this example, an applicant is submitting an application with a total budget of \$100,000 and their negotiated indirect cost rate is 55 percent.

	Federal Budget	Non-Federal Budget
Direct costs	\$78,000	\$51,032
Indirect cost (allowable as part of the Federal Budget*)	\$22,000	
Unrecovered indirect costs attributed to the Federal Budget		\$20,900**
Indirect costs attributed to the Non-Federal funds provided by grantee		\$28,068***
Total Budget	\$100,000	\$100,000

*limited to 22 percent of the Federal funds requested

**(\$78,000 x 0.55) – 22,000

***\$51,032 x 0.55

PART IV – APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

- A. Submission of Stakeholder Relevance Statements:** Stakeholder Relevance Statements (SRS) are required for all SCRI project types. SRS must be submitted as an attachment to a pre-application in the portable document format (pdf). SRS not submitted in the pdf will not be transmitted from grants.gov to NIFA and pre-applications not containing an SRS will be rejected. Please note that **budgetary information is NOT required** during the pre-application phase.

Content of Stakeholder Relevance Statement for Research and Extension Planning Projects

- a. Title of Project
- b. Type of planning activity to be undertaken (i.e. grant planning or strategic planning)
- c. Name, professional title, affiliation and email address of the project director
- d. Name, professional title and affiliation of all known collaborators, including industry stakeholders
- e. Brief description of the stakeholder problem being addressed
- f. Brief description of relevant expertise represented by project team
- g. Description of the planning activities to be undertaken and the expected outcomes of the planning process
- h. Brief description of the benefits to growers/processors/consumers and how that benefit will be documented and evaluated

PLEASE NOTE: SRS for Planning Projects cannot exceed 4 pages in length, inclusive of all content above. Pages must be formatted with margins of at least 1 inch on all sides. Text must be 12 point or larger and must be left-justified. **The SRS must be submitted in the portable document format (PDF).** Pre-applications containing an SRS must be submitted through Grants.gov by **5:00 PM Eastern Time on July 18, 2014.**

Content of the Stakeholder Relevance Statement for SREP, CAP, RPI and eXtension Projects

- a. Economic/environmental/social significance of the problem being addressed;
- b. Potential economic/environmental/social benefit to solving the problem being addressed;
- c. How stakeholders were engaged in defining the problem being addressed and determining project objectives;
- d. How stakeholders will continue to be engaged in project development and evaluation;
- e. How information developed during project will be translated into actionable recommendations or products and delivered to end-users;
- f. Experience of PD and key co-investigators (6 max) in working with the specific stakeholder community and with dealing with the problem identified;
- g. List of project objectives with corresponding hypotheses to be tested;
- h. Outline of methodology to be used to achieve project objectives; and
- i. Logic model chart.

PLEASE NOTE: The SRS cannot exceed 6 pages in length. The SRS must be formatted with margins no less than 1 inch on all sides. Text must be 12 point or larger and must be left-justified. **The SRS must be submitted in the portable document format (PDF).** Completed SRSs must be submitted through Grants.gov by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on July 18, 2014.

The SRS should be prepared following Parts IV and V of the document entitled “A Guide for Preparation and Submission of NIFA Applications via Grants.gov.” This guide is part of the corresponding application package (see Section A. of this Part). The following **additional information** is needed in order 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.**

1. SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet

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

- a. **Field 1. Type of Submission.** Click the “Pre-application” box.
- b. **Field 15. Enter Estimated Project Funding.** Enter a zero in each field.
- c. **Field 20. Pre-application.** Click on “Add Attachment” to attach the Stakeholder Relevance Statement.

2. 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 (i.e., enter “Specialty Crop Research Initiative”) and the program code (i.e., enter “SCRPI”).
- 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.

B. Electronic Application Package

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-SCRI-004544 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.

C. Content and Form of Invited Full Application Submission

Applicants whose SRS is scored highly enough **will be notified and invited to submit full applications**. Electronic invited full applications should be prepared following Parts V and VI of the document entitled “A Guide for Preparation and Submission of NIFA Applications via Grants.gov.” This guide is part of the corresponding application package (see Section A. of this Part). The following is **additional information** needed in order 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., portable document format) in Part III section 3. of the Guide. ANY PROPOSALS THAT ARE NON-COMPLIANT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS (i.e., 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 5:00 PM Eastern Time on September 29, 2014.

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 Project Summary may not exceed **250 words** on one page, and should clearly indicate the appropriate project type (as described in Part I (C)). The summary should also include the relevance of the project to the goals of the SCRI/CDRE. The importance of a concise, informative Project Summary cannot be overemphasized. This word and page limitation applies regardless of whether figures or tables are included. These limits have been established to ensure fair and equitable competition. Research and Extension Planning Projects must *also* state the objectives of any workshop or symposia as well as the proposed location and probable date(s) of the activity.

b. Field 8. Project Narrative.

PLEASE NOTE: the Project Narrative section may not exceed a total of 25 single- or double-spaced pages, including figures and tables. The Introduction may not exceed 5 pages, and the rest of the Project Narrative may not exceed 20 pages. **Research and Extension Planning narratives may not exceed 15 single- or double-spaced pages, including figures and tables.** These SCRI page limitations apply regardless of whether figures or tables are included. All pages, including those with figures and tables, should be numbered sequentially. Applications exceeding the applicable page limitation will be at risk of being excluded from review. These

maximums have been established to ensure fair and equitable competition.

The Project Narrative must include all of the following:

(i) In addition to the other components of the Project Narrative, resubmitted applications must provide a detailed response to the previous review. The response should be as concise as possible, but there is no limit to the number of pages that may be submitted. If available, please include the Grants.gov number or NIFA proposal number of the previous submission. The response to the previous review **is not** counted against the page limit of the Project Narrative.

(ii) As the first page (or more as needed) of the project narrative of new applications or immediately following the response to the previous review of resubmitted applications, all applications must include the following information in a combined executive summary and table of contents (table format preferred). The executive summary and table of contents **does not** count toward the narrative's page limitation. Applications without an executive summary will **NOT** be considered for funding.

1. Project title
2. Project type (see Part II, C)
3. List the legislatively mandated focus area(s) being addressed (see Part I), and provide an estimate of the percentage of effort/funds dedicated to each (sum of percentages should equal 100 percent).
4. Program Staff – include name, title, affiliation, address, and e-mail for PD(s), Co-PD(s) and Key Personnel (please see the definitions section for the role and responsibilities of PD, Co-PD, etc.).
5. A brief summary (2-3 sentences) describing the critical stakeholder need addressed by the project and the project's long-term goals (provide cross-references to full descriptions in the narrative).
6. A brief summary (2-3 sentences) of the outreach plan proposed by the project (provide a cross-reference to the full description in the narrative).
7. A brief summary (2-3 sentences) describing potential economic, social, and environmental benefits (Who benefits and how?).
8. Logic Model Requirement: Except for planning grant applications, projects must include the elements of a logic model detailing the activities, outputs, and outcomes of the proposed project. This information must be formatted into a logic model chart. More information and resources related to the logic model planning process are provided at www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/integrated/integrated_logic_model.html.

(iv) Introduction. List the following:

1. Provide a clear statement of the long-term goal(s), the critical need(s) of citrus industry being addressed, and supporting outreach objectives or research questions.
2. Summarize the body of knowledge or other past activities that substantiate the need for the proposed project.
3. Describe ongoing or recently completed significant activities related to the proposed project including the work of key project personnel. Applications should also demonstrate how duplication of effort with similar activities by others will be avoided.

4. Preliminary data/information pertinent to the proposed work should be included in this section. All works cited should be referenced and attached at Field 9 on the Form, Bibliography & Reference Cited. Refer to Part V, 4.8 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

(v) **Rationale and Significance.** Concisely present the rationale behind the proposed research and/or extension activities. The specific relationship of the project's objectives to one or more of the SCRI focus areas should be clearly shown. These purposes and focus areas are described under Part I, Purpose and Priorities. Any novel ideas or contributions that the proposed project offers should also be discussed in this section.

(vi) **Approach – For CAPs, SREPs, RPIs, and eXtension Projects** (*for Research and extension Planning Projects see (vii) below.*) The activities proposed or problems being addressed must be clearly stated and the approaches being applied clearly described. Specifically, this section must include:

1. A description of the activities proposed, key personnel or institution roles in those activities, and the sequence in which the activities are to be performed (a Gantt chart or other task X time representation of project activities is desirable);
2. Methods to be used in carrying out the proposed project, including the feasibility of the methods. Clearly describe the systems thinking used in the project methodology and the contribution of trans-disciplinary approaches;
3. Expected outcomes, including how the project contributes to long-term profitability and sustainability of citrus production;
4. Means by which results will be analyzed, assessed, or interpreted;
5. How results or products will be used;
6. Outreach plan: including, how and where appropriate, science-based tools will be disseminated, participants involved in delivery, and how impacts will be measured;
7. Pitfalls that may be encountered;
8. Limitations to proposed procedures; and
9. A full explanation of any materials, procedures, situations, or activities related to the project that may be hazardous to personnel, along with an outline or precautions to be exercised to avoid or mitigate the effects of such hazards.

(vii) **Approach – For Research and Extension Planning Projects:**

1. A justification for the meeting (see Part II, C);
2. Recent meetings on the same subject with dates and locations;
3. Names and organizational affiliations of the chair and other members of the organizing committee;
4. A proposed program (or agenda) for the activity, including a listing of scheduled participants and their institutional affiliations (see Part II, C);
5. Expected outcomes, including how the planning project expects to contribute to the development of a successful application for a SCRI CAP, SREP, or RPI; and
6. The method of announcement or invitation that will be used.

c. Field 12 - Other Attachments – PDF

Depending on the type of application, other attachments are required. Please see the description

of each project type in Part II, C for both specific and general information that may be attached here.

- **Appendices to Project Description – PDF Attachment.** Appendices to the Project Description are allowed if they are directly germane to the proposed project. **The addition of appendices should not be used to circumvent the text and/or figures and tables page limitations.**

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.

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.

Matching: Where applicants are not excluded from the match requirement (see Part III, B.), they shall include written verification of commitments of matching support from all sources (including both cash and fair market value of in-kind contributions from third parties). **The matching amount must be at least equal to the amount awarded through SCRI.** All matching must be secured to be considered. The applicant must provide evidence of the required amount of matching prior to award and the information should be included in the proposal.

Written verification means:

For any third party cash contributions, a separate pledge agreement for each donation, submitted on the donor organization's letterhead signed by the authorized representative of the donor organization and the applicant organization and to include the title of the person signing as the AR, which must include: (1) the name, address, and telephone number of the donor; (2) the name of the applicant organization; (3) the title of the project for which the donation is made; (4) the dollar amount of the cash donation; and (5) a statement that the donor will pay the cash contribution during the grant period and specifying the recipient may use the cash donation as they deem necessary or a statement on how the cash is to be used on the project. For cash matching to be used as deemed necessary, the applicant must provide details of how cash matching will be used e.g. salary details, time and/or effort, materials, supplies etc.

For any third party in-kind contributions, a separate pledge agreement for each contribution submitted on Donor Organization letterhead and signed by the AR of the donor organization and the applicant organization, which must include: (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the donor; (2) the name of the applicant organization; (3) the title of the project for which the donation is made; (4) a good faith estimate of the current fair market value of the third party in-

kind contribution; and (5) a statement that the donor will make the contribution during the grant period. For in-kind donations of time, the donor's normal rate of pay should be used to value the contribution if the service provided is in the donor's normal line of work.

For in-kind donations involving the use of land or facilities, an explanation and documentation of how the value was determined should be provided.

The sources and the amount of all matching support from the applicant organization and outside the applicant organization shall be summarized on a separate page and placed in the application as a part of the Budget Justification attachment (see Field K on the Form SF 424 (R&R) Budget Fed & Non-Fed). Include the matching amount, the budget category for the match, and detail how the matching support, *from each source*, will be used (e.g., salary and position supported). Hourly rates for in-kind contributions of time should be based on the person's actual salary rate if the duties performed for the project are the same as his/her normal duties. If different, the hourly rate for the in-kind labor should be based on the going rate in the area for similar duties. Additionally, all pledge agreements must be included as a PDF attachment in Field K as well.

The value of applicant contributions to the project shall be established in accordance with the applicable cost principles. Applicants should refer to OMB Circulars 2 CFR 220, Cost Principles for Educational Institutions; 2 CFR 225, Cost Principles for State, Local, and Tribal Governments; 2 CFR 230, Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations; 2 CFR Part 215, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations; and the cost principles in the Federal Acquisition Regulation at 48 CFR 31.2 for further guidance and other requirements relating to matching and allowable costs.

Additional Budget Information

For Research and Extension Planning Projects: The budget for the planning activity may include an appropriate amount for transportation and subsistence costs for participants and for other related costs. Planning awards of federal funds will not exceed \$50,000 and are not renewable. Include an itemized breakdown of all support requested in the Budget Justification (Field K. of the R&R Budget).

Project Director Workshop: It is the intent of the Specialty Crop Research Initiative to require successful applicants or a designee to attend at least two project director workshops during the term of their project. For the purposes of budget development, applicants are required to request funds for attending at least two such workshops. The request for these funds should be clearly indicated in the budget narrative section of the application. Please note: this workshop requirement is waived for recipients of planning grant awards.

Applicants who wish to use unrecovered indirect costs to meet the matching requirements should indicate, if applicable, what amount is attributed to the Federal budget and what amount is attributed to the non-Federal budget.

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 (i.e., enter Specialty Crop Research Initiative) and the program code (i.e., enter SCRI).
- 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.

E. Submission Dates and Times

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

1. Complete, error-free stakeholder relevance statements must be received in Grants.gov by **5:00 PM Eastern time on July 18, 2014**
2. Complete, error free **INVITED** full applications must be received in Grants.gov by **5:00 PM Eastern time on September 29, 2014.**

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. B. 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 pre/or full application within 7 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 by the panel. Once the application has been assigned a proposal number, this number should be cited on all future correspondence.**

F. Funding Restrictions

1. Indirect Costs

Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, amended the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), limiting indirect costs to 22 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded. If no rate has been established the applicant may indicate "None—will negotiate" and a reasonable dollar amount for indirect costs may be requested, which will be subject to approval by USDA. In the latter case, if a proposal is recommended for

funding, an indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted prior to award to support the amount of indirect costs requested. NIFA will request an indirect cost rate proposal and provide instructions, as necessary. An applicant may elect not to charge indirect costs and, instead, use all grant funds for direct costs. If indirect costs are not charged, the phrase "None requested" should be written in this space.

PLEASE NOTE: In accordance with section 709 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (H.R. 3547), for the purposes of a grant made under section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, which established SCRI, in-kind support from non-Federal sources in the form of unrecovered indirect costs for both the Federal Budget and Non-Federal Budget may be used to meet the matching requirements under 412(e)(3). These indirect costs are those that are not otherwise charged against the grant and must be consistent with the approved indirect cost rate of the organization.

Special Notices:

1. NIFA will withhold all funds for a SCRI/CDRE award to an applicant requesting indirect costs if the applicant has not negotiated an indirect cost rate with its cognizant federal agency.
2. If a grantee is in the process of negotiating an indirect cost rate with its federal agency, NIFA will withhold all funds from that grantee until the indirect cost rate has been established.
3. If an institution's indirect cost rate has expired or will expire in the near future, a clear statement on renegotiation efforts must be included in the application. (See Part IV, D.6. SF 424 (R&R) Budget Fed & Non-Fed).
4. It is incumbent on all applicants to have a current indirect cost rate or begin negotiations to establish an indirect cost rate prior to the SCRI submission deadline. Because it may take several months to obtain an indirect cost rate, applicants needing an indirect cost rate are encouraged to start work on establishing these rates well in advance of submitting a SCRI application.
5. In lieu of requesting indirect costs (if the applicant does not have a negotiated rate), an applicant may prepare a budget in which all charges in the budget are included as direct costs.

2. Construction and Renovation

Funds made available under SCRI shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement, and architect fees).

G. 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

SCRI/CDRE has instituted a two phase review process. The first phase of the review process is the Relevance Review. Each Stakeholder Relevance Statement (SRS) will be evaluated in a two-part process. First, each SRS will be screened to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements as set forth in this RFA. Administrative requirements include: meeting the application deadline; meeting eligibility requirements; satisfying program intent; inclusion of all required sections of the SRS package; and adherence to guidelines. An SRS that meets these requirements will be evaluated for relevance by industry representatives.

For the purposes of the CDRE Relevance Review, reviewers will be selected from a) persons directly involved in the growing, handling and processing of citrus; or b) persons representing those defined in (a) above through trade organizations or other professional associations.

Reviewers will review each application and give it a score based on the criteria in Section V, B. The results of the Relevance Review, including scores and ranking, will be provided to peer reviewers during the second phase of the review process and will be considered during the ranking that occurs in this phase of the SCRI review process.

The second phase of the SCRI review will be a scientific peer review of invited full applications. Each full application will be evaluated in a two-part process. First, each application will be screened to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements as set forth in this RFA. Administrative requirements include: meeting the application deadline; evidence that the application was invited for submission; meeting eligibility requirements; satisfying program intent; providing evidence of 100 percent matching funds (where applicant is not excluded from requirement); and including all required sections of the application package. Applications that meet these requirements will be evaluated for technical merit by a scientific peer review panel.

Section 7301 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, amended section 103(a) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) (7 U.S.C. 7613(a)) states that Peer and Merit review procedures *shall not* take the offer or availability of matching funds into consideration. Therefore, while matching is required under SCRI, it will only be considered as part of the administrative review of applications and will not be included in the Peer and Merit Review (see Part III, B for more information).

Scientific peer review panelists will be selected based upon 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 experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal

agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (d) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and gender representation and an age distribution; and (e) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

B. Evaluation Criteria

We will use the evaluation criteria below to review SRS and invited full applications submitted in response to this RFA and the specific Project Types described in Part II, C:

Criteria for Stakeholder Relevance Review for Planning Projects

1. The problem being addressed is significant at a national or regional level (20 points)
2. Addressing the problem will result in benefits to growers/processors/consumers (20 points)
3. The project will result in a partnership between a specialty crop sector and a scientific community (20 points)
4. The project fully integrates research and extension (15 points)
5. The project team represents a trans-disciplinary approach to problem solving (10 points)
6. The project will result in a systems approach to insuring the sustainability of the targeted specialty crop sector (15 points)

Criteria for Stakeholder Relevance Review for SREP, CAP, RPI and eXtension Projects

1. The issues/challenges being addressed are significant on a state, regional or national scale. (20 points maximum)
 - a. Full point value will be given if significance is at regional or national level.
 - b. If significance is at state level, full point value may be given if documentation is provided that new knowledge generated by the project will be of value to producers in other states, including plans for dissemination of information.
 - c. If significance is at state level, less than 20 but more than 10 points may be awarded if the new knowledge generated will benefit producers in a single state but that state produces the majority of the crop being studied.
 - d. No points will be awarded if the issues/challenges being addressed are not significance at any level.
2. Stakeholders were involved in identifying and developing project goals and objectives. (20 points maximum)
 - a. Full point value will be given if project team was recruited by a stakeholder group to address a scientific challenge identified by the stakeholders.
 - b. Full point value will be given if the project team was actively engaged with stakeholders in an iterative manner to develop a strategic assessment of the scientific needs of the industry represented.

- c. Full point value **may** be given if the project team conducted surveys of a specific industry to determine scientific challenges and a stakeholder advisory committee was actively engaged in survey evaluation and subsequent project planning.
 - d. Partial point value, but no more than 15 points, may be given if project team decided on project objectives based on published strategic assessments of scientific challenges with little or no actual engagement with the stakeholder community.
 - e. Partial point value, but no more than 10 points, may be given if project team decided on project objectives based solely on their understanding of industry needs.
3. Plans are in place for stakeholders to remain actively engaged in project activities. (15 points maximum)
- a. Full point value will be given if a stakeholder advisory committee is already identified and a process is in place for obtaining, evaluating and incorporating input from the committee.
 - b. Full point value may be given if a process for identifying members of a stakeholder advisory committee is presented and there is a process described for obtaining, evaluating and incorporating input from the committee.
 - c. Partial point value, but no more than 15 points, may be given if stakeholder advisory committee already exists and plans are in place for obtaining, evaluating and incorporating input from the committee but, in the judgment of the reviewer, the committee does not appear to adequately represent the target audience.
 - d. Partial point value, but no more than 10 points, may be given if a stakeholder advisory committee is identified but a process for obtaining, evaluating and incorporating stakeholder input is not adequately described.
 - e. No points will be awarded if it does not appear that stakeholders will remain actively engaged in project activities.
4. Information developed by the project team will be delivered to stakeholders in ways that allow them to implement new and/or improved practices. (15 points maximum)
- a. Full point value will be given if Extension/outreach objectives are included within project objectives, personnel for completing these objectives are clearly an integral part of project planning and the appropriate methods for information delivery are described.
 - b. Partial point value, but no more than 15 points, may be given if Extension/outreach objectives are included within project objectives and personnel for completing these objectives are clearly an integral part of project planning, but methods for information delivery are not adequately described.
 - c. Partial point value, but no more than 10 points, may be given if Extension/outreach objectives are included within project objectives but personnel for completing these objectives are **not** clearly an integral part of project planning.
5. Stakeholders will be involved in program evaluation. (10 points maximum)

- a. Full point value will be given if criteria for determining whether the project achieves predicted outcomes are described and a panel of stakeholders is identified that will apply the evaluation criteria to project outcomes.
 - b. Full point value may be given if criteria for determining whether the project achieves predicted outcomes are described and a process is described for recruiting a panel of stakeholders that will apply the evaluation criteria to project outcomes.
 - c. Partial point value, but no more than 5 points, may be given if a panel of stakeholders is identified that will be involved in project evaluation but criteria for determining whether the project achieves predicted outcomes are not described.
6. Project team has at least some members who have worked with the target stakeholders in the past and have experience with the described research and extension approach. (5 points maximum)
- a. Full point value will be given if the PD documents the relevance of his/her scientific background to the project objectives.
 - b. Partial point value, but no more than 2 points, will be given if the PD does not document relevant scientific background but other team members clearly have relevant scientific background.
 - c. No points will be awarded if there is no documentation that any team member possesses the relevant scientific background.
7. The described research and extension approach will result in impacts/outcomes that are important to the target stakeholders. (15 points maximum)
- a. Full point value will be given if it is clear how the proposed research and extension will address the problem and the hypotheses for each objective.
 - b. Partial point value, but no more than 10 points, will be given if the research approach is described in general, but it is not clear how the proposed research and extension will address the problem and the hypotheses for each objective.
 - c. No point value will be given if it is not clear that the proposed research and extension approach will result in positive impacts/outcomes.

Criteria for Scientific Peer Review

Criteria for Standard Research and Extension Projects (SREPs)

1. Conceptual adequacy (20 points). Application clearly states objectives that are potentially attainable within project time, scope and budget.
2. Design (40 points). The application's methodology and analytical approach are appropriate to project objectives, and effectively combines research and extension activities. The application demonstrates understanding of a whole system(s) approach and discusses how the project will contribute to an integrated systems solution to the identified problem. Even if a single component is the focus of the project, the proposal must provide a thorough analysis of the broader systems context and why that component is critical and why the solution offered will lead to an improved system in economic,

ecological, and social terms. The project must contribute to long-term profitability and sustainability of citrus production.

3. Involvement of appropriate, relevant expertise and use of trans-disciplinary approach (10 points). Application documents that the project brings together expertise in biological science disciplines, physical science and engineering disciplines, socio-economic sciences, extension, and program evaluation, as appropriate, as well as expertise from principal stakeholders and partners. Project goals should address economic, environmental, and social aspects of citrus industry sustainability.
4. Outreach plan (15 points). Application includes a detailed outreach plan based on the project logic model that includes project benefits and a description of how impacts will be measured, including the likelihood that the project will provide solutions that lead to measurable benefits to producers.
5. Feasibility, probability of success, including the likelihood that the project will contribute to the overall sustainability (10 points).
6. Appropriateness of budget (5 points).

Criteria for Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAPs)

1. Conceptual adequacy (20 points). Application clearly states objectives that are potentially attainable within project time, scope, and budget.
2. Design (40 points). The application's methodology and analytical approach are appropriate to project objectives, a continuity plan addresses future long-term plans for the proposed activities, and the project effectively combines research and extension activities. The application demonstrates an understanding of a whole system(s) approach and *applies* that approach to overcoming the identified citrus disease problem. The project must contribute to long-term profitability and sustainability of the citrus industry.
3. Involvement of appropriate, relevant expertise and use of trans-disciplinary approach (10 points). Application documents that the project brings together expertise in biological science disciplines, physical science, engineering disciplines, socio-economic sciences. The application should include appropriate extension activity, and program evaluation and the application documents should include expertise from principal stakeholders and partners. Project goals should address economic, environmental, **and** social aspects of citrus industry sustainability.
4. Outreach plan (15 points). Application includes a detailed outreach plan based on the project logic model that includes project benefits and a description of how impacts will be measured.
5. Feasibility, probability of success (10 points).
6. Appropriateness of budget (5 points).

Criteria for Regional Partnerships for Innovation (RPIs)

1. Conceptual adequacy (20 points). Application clearly states objectives which are potentially attainable within project time, scope and budget.
2. Design (40 points). The application's methodology and analytical approach are appropriate to project objectives, including the likelihood that the proposed project approach will serve as a model for innovation by other industries and other locales. The

application demonstrates an understanding and application of a whole system(s) approach with the potential for the partnership to contribute to long-term profitability and sustainability of the citrus industry.

3. Involvement of appropriate, relevant expertise and use of trans-disciplinary approach (10 points). Application documents that the project brings together expertise in biological science disciplines, physical science, engineering disciplines, socio-economic sciences, include extension activity, and program evaluation, as appropriate. In addition, the application documents should include the expertise from principal stakeholders and partners. Project goals should address economic, environmental, **and** social aspects of citrus industry sustainability.
4. Outreach plan (15 points). Application includes a detailed outreach plan based on the project logic model that includes project benefits and a description of how impacts will be measured.
5. Feasibility, probability that proposed project will successfully create the initial development of regional partnerships that encourage regional economic development (10 points).
6. Appropriateness of budget (5 points).

Criteria for eXtension Projects

1. Documented need (15 points). Application includes documentation substantiating that project is essential in helping overcome current, or likely future, citrus diseases challenges.
2. Stakeholder involvement (15 points). Application includes information on how stakeholders were selected and how their input and participation were solicited and will continue to be incorporated throughout multiple aspects of the proposed project.
3. Systems-based approach (10 points). Application demonstrates an understanding and application of a whole system(s) approach with the potential for the project to contribute to long-term profitability and sustainability of the citrus industry.
4. Trans-disciplinary approach (10 points). Application documents that the project brings together biological, physical, and social scientists as appropriate to project goals to address economic, environmental, **and** social aspects of citrus industry sustainability.
5. Community of Practice (CoP) (10 points). Application describes the CoP, including a plan to increase the CoP membership, and a CoP leadership and management plan.
6. Community of Interest (CoI) (15 points). Application describes the CoI to be served and methods the CoP will use to engage the CoI with educational products and programs on a continuing basis.
7. Plan of Work (25 points). Application includes a logic model description that adequately demonstrates procedures for the development of the following:
 - a functioning and sustainable CoP including inputs, outputs, and outcomes;
 - a detailed plan of content aggregation, evaluation and development/repackaging for year one and maintenance, sustainability, and evolution over time;
 - a scope of work for the proposed CoP over the first 12 months; a brief description of milestones for years two and three;
 - an anticipated date of CoP inclusion in the eXtension public site (public release); and

- documented resources currently available to this proposed CoP and plans for CoP sustainability.

Criteria for Research and Extension Planning Projects

1. Documented need (10 points). Application includes documentation substantiating that the project is directed to current, or likely future, citrus disease challenges. Demonstrate specific need for planning activity, e.g., limited resources for submitting large grant applications (or for developing a strategic plan) and potential benefits accrued from formal planning activities.
2. Stakeholder involvement (30 points). Application includes information on how stakeholders will participate in the activity, including a listing of key participants who will be invited and their affiliations.
3. Conceptual adequacy and design (25 points). Application clearly states objectives and includes a preliminary agenda that addresses those objectives; Application demonstrates an understanding of and proposes to develop the application of a whole system(s) approach with the potential for the project to contribute to long-term profitability and sustainability of the citrus industry.
4. Involvement of appropriate, relevant expertise in planning activity committees, speakers, and attendees (15 points); Application documents that the project brings together biological, physical, and social scientists as appropriate to project goals to address economic, environmental, **and** social aspects of citrus industry sustainability.
5. Appropriateness of budget (5 points).
6. Feasibility (15 points). Likelihood that the effort will result in a future grant application to the SCRI/CDRE and/or address the strategic plan goals.

C. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

During the peer evaluation process, NIFA will take the appropriate measures to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may impact review or evaluation of applications. For the purpose of determining conflicts of interest, NIFA determines 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. NIFA will provide you copies of forms

recommended for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the pre-award 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 which 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 re-competition 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 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.

7 CFR 3430, subpart F – Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

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.

PART VII—AGENCY CONTACT

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact:

Programmatic Questions

Tom Bewick; National Program Leader; Division of Plant Systems Production; Institute of Food Production and Sustainability; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; USDA; STOP 2240; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2240; telephone: (202) 401-3356; fax: (202) 401-4888; e-mail: tbewick@nifa.usda.gov.

OR

Daniel Schmoldt; National Program Leader; Division of Plant Systems Production; Institute of Food Production and Sustainability; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; USDA; STOP 2240; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2240; telephone: (202) 720-4807; fax: (202) 401-5179; e-mail: dschmoldt@nifa.usda.gov.

Administrative/Business Questions

Susan Bowman, Awards Management Division, National Institute of Food and Agriculture; USDA; STOP 2271; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 202005-2271; telephone: (202) 401-4324; e-mail: sbowman@nifa.usda.gov.

OR

Adrienne Woodin, Awards Management Division, National Institute of Food and Agriculture; USDA; STOP 2271; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 202005-2271; telephone: (202) 401-4320; e-mail: awoodin@nifa.usda.gov.

PART VIII – Reserved (except for section E).

E. Definitions

Please refer to [7 CFR 3430, Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Financial Assistance Programs--General Award Administrative Provisions](#) and [Subpart F – Specialty Crops Research Initiative](#), for applicable definitions for this NIFA grant program.

For the purpose of this program, the following additional definitions are applicable:

Director means the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and any other officer or employee of NIFA to whom the authority involved is delegated.

Multifunctional research and extension activities are those in which research results are communicated via extension activities to stakeholders and the public in a coordinated manner during the life of a single project.

Partnership requires that all partners have a substantial involvement in the project throughout the life of the project. If a partnership between multiple entities is proposed, the proposal should

clearly identify the following:

- 1) A narrative of each entity's clearly established role in the project;
- 2) How each entity involved as a partner on the project will contribute to execution of project objectives, determination of experimental design, development of the project work plan and time table, and submission of collaborative, timely reports; and
- 3) A comprehensive project budget that reflects each entity's financial or in-kind contribution to the total project budget costs.

Project Director or PD means the single individual designated by the grantee in the grant application, who is responsible for the direction and management of the project and who is approved by the Authorized Departmental Officer. By extension of this definition, then, all project personnel listed as Co-PDs on an application are assumed to be approved by the grantee institution as ready and able to fulfill the role of PD in the event that the PD can no longer serve in that capacity. All other project personnel should be identified as co-principal investigators or key personnel.

Specialty crop means fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture).

Trans-disciplinary means a multi-discipline approach that brings biological and physical scientists together with economists and social scientists to address challenges in a holistic manner.