

# Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program

## Fiscal Years (FY) 2020 Request for Applications (RFA)

**FY 2020 Application Due Date:** April 30, 2020 by 5:00 pm Eastern Time

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA):** 10.227

**Program Name Code:** TCRGP

**Program Code:** ZY

**FY 2020 Funding Opportunity Number:**

USDA-NIFA-TCRGP-007272

**Funding Amount:** Approximately \$3.8 Million

**Eligibility:** 1994 Land-Grant Institutions

This RFA solicits applications for FY 2020. Applicants considering applying to the FY 2020 funding cycle should check the [TCRGP webpage](#) and [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) for the FY 2020 Application Kit, as well as for any programmatic changes.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

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

**Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program**

**INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

**CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE:** This program is listed in the Assistance Listings under the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number 10.227.

**DATES:** This RFA solicits applications for FY 2020. Applications for the FY 2020 funding cycle must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Time on April 30, 2020. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding (see Part IV, C of this RFA). Comments regarding this request for applications (RFA) are requested within six months from the issuance of this notice. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**STAKEHOLDER INPUT:** We at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) seek your comments about this RFA. We will consider your comments when we develop the next RFA for the program, if applicable, and we'll use them to meet the requirements of section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)(2)). Submit your written stakeholder comments by the deadline set forth in the DATES portion of this notice via email to [Policy@usda.gov](mailto:Policy@usda.gov). (This email address is only for receiving comments regarding this RFA and *not* for requesting information or forms.) In your comments, please state that you are responding to the Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program RFA.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** NIFA requests applications for the Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program (TCRGP) for fiscal year 2020 to enhance research capacity at 1994 American Indian Land-grant Institutions hereafter referred to as 1994s; and develop research projects of tribal, state, or national importance. This RFA has several research options set at funding levels designed to provide 1994s with the opportunity to engage in research at the optimum level commensurate with their institutional capacity. All applications must include at least one research collaborator from the approved list of research institutions.

The anticipated amount available for this grant program in FY 2020 is approximately \$3.8 million.

This notice identifies the objectives for TCRGP projects, deadline dates, funding information, eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for a TCRGP grant.

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## **PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

### **A. Legislative Authority**

Legislative authority for TCRGP is contained in the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601) which amends the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301). In accordance with the statutory authority, subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary of Agriculture may award competitive grants to 1994s to conduct agricultural research that addresses high priority concerns of tribal, national, or multi-state significance. Section 7404 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, P.L. 113-79, lists eligible partners to the authorization for the TCRGP. Please see Part II C., Research Collaboration Requirement.

### **B. Purpose and Priorities**

By supporting applied research at the 1994s, TCRGP directly aligns with the:

- [2018-2022 USDA Strategic Plan](#), Strategic Goal #4 -- Facilitate Rural Prosperity and Economic Development; Objective 4.1: Expand rural business opportunity and rural quality of life with access to capital; improved infrastructure, broadband access and connectivity; and support for workforce availability.

Specifically, TCRCP aims to:

- (1) Enhance the institutional infrastructure and faculty expertise in planning and carrying out appropriate applied research projects that address concerns and needs of tribal and reservation communities;
- (2) Forge better institutional and faculty collaborations with other land-grant institutions as well as with USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and other research institutions of higher learning;
- (3) Address the food, agricultural, natural resources, and human sciences (FANH) concerns of reservation communities through scientific inquiry and discovery; and
- (4) Give American Indian students better prospects for employment and educational achievement by engaging them in laboratory, and/or field research domestically or internationally in the food, agriculture, and natural resource sciences.

TCRGP also focuses on development of leadership skills, knowledge, and qualities that are necessary to prepare students to be globally competitive with other students for agricultural and related careers in the private sector, government, and academia. **TCRGP** intern-focused applications must demonstrably incorporate a leadership development component that equips students with technical and leadership abilities upon graduation.

Specific activities may include:

- Developing practical applications to increase understanding of leadership roles, including critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills; ethics and professionalism; and working in teams;

- Connecting the academic classroom experience with daily leadership roles and organizational activities;
- Providing opportunities for mentoring and shadowing; and
- Organizing leadership academies, workshops, trainings, etc.

**Research Collaboration Requirement:** All applications must, by congressional authorization, include one of four research partners from the list below. The application must contain a signed collaboration agreement indicating the role the partner will play. Additional partnerships are optional. The approved collaborators are:

- An 1862 or 1890 land-grant institution:  
<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/land-grant-colleges-and-universities-partner-website-directory>;
- The USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) headquarters, state or regional laboratory;
- A Non-land-grant College of Agriculture (NLGCA) (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977). Updated requirements and list of certified NLGCA at [https://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/pdfs/nlgca\\_colleges.pdf](https://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/pdfs/nlgca_colleges.pdf); or
- A forestry school funded under the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program. The partner must be the McIntire-Stennis funded department and not another entity.

**C. Program Area Description:**

**Program Code – ZY**  
**Program Code Name – TCRGP**  
**CFDA -- 10.227**  
**Project Types – Research**  
**Grant Types – New Discovery, Area of Expertise, Applied Faculty/Community and Student Led Research**

**Table 1:** Proposed TCRGP Research Options 2020

<b>Research Option</b>	<b>Maximum Award</b>
Area of Expertise	\$500,000
New Discovery - Regular	\$220,000
<b>Capacity Building Option</b>	
Applied Faculty/Community	\$95,000
Student Led Research	\$60,000

The TCRGP develops 1994 institutional research capacity to address American Indian priority issues of concern to the tribal community and reservations. Research options are

designed to provide opportunities for institutions with varying degrees of research capacity to participate in the program.

**Student Participation: All Applications** must contain a student component. NIFA will not make an award that does not involve some level of 1994 student participation.

### Leadership Skills Development

All TCRGP projects are required to provide leadership skills opportunities. The development of leadership skills, knowledge and qualities are necessary for preparing students for agricultural related careers in private sector, government and academia. Projects must demonstrably incorporate a leadership development component to ensure that students are equipped with both technical and leadership abilities upon graduation. Specific activities may include:

1. Developing practical applications to increase understanding of leadership roles, including critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills, ethics and professionalism, and working in teams;
2. Connecting the academic classroom experience with daily leadership roles and organizational activities;
3. Providing opportunities for mentoring and shadowing; and
4. Organizing leadership academies, workshops, trainings, etc.

### Incorporation of Social Sciences and Enhancing Impacts

The TCRGP Program supports social and behavioral science disciplines. TCRGP projects that integrate social and biological sciences to provide experiential learning opportunities for students in applied research and related community development programs are encouraged. Incorporation of social and behavioral sciences is important for addressing many of the challenges facing agriculture and rural communities, such as increasing global demand for food production in the face of limited natural resources; improving health and reducing obesity by engaging in healthy lifestyles and consuming healthy diets; and alleviating poverty by fostering economic opportunity.

### eXtension

NIFA encourages, but does not require, projects that develop content suitable for delivery through eXtension (<https://extension.org/>).

## **PART II—AWARD INFORMATION**

### **A. Available Funding**

The amount available for TCRGP in FY 2020 is approximately \$3.8 million.

For the FY 2020 program, there are no restrictions in the number of applications that an eligible institution may submit. NIFA will only award up to two research awards to any one institution in the New Discovery Research option, one award for Area of Expertise to any one institution, and up to two awards in the Capacity Building option with a limit of three awards total to any one eligible institution in response to this RFA (Refer to Part II, C. Project and Grant Types).

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

The Automated Standard Applications for Payment System (ASAP), operated by the Department of Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service, is the designated payment system for awards resulting from this RFA. For more information see [https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsservices/gov/pmt/asap/asap\\_home.htm](https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsservices/gov/pmt/asap/asap_home.htm).

### **B. Types of Applications**

In FY 2020, you may submit a new or resubmitted application to the TCRGP:

**New application.** This is a project application that has not been previously submitted to the TCRGP. NIFA will review all new applications competitively using the screening for administrative requirements as well as the review panel evaluation of proposals using evaluation criteria and selection process described in Part V—Application Review Requirements.

**Resubmitted application.** This is a project application that had previously been submitted to the TCRGP but not funded. Project Directors (PDs) must respond to the previous review panel summary (see Response to Previous Review, Part IV). NIFA must receive resubmitted applications by the relevant due dates. NIFA will evaluate resubmitted applications in competition with other pending applications in the appropriate area to which they are assigned and review them according to the same evaluation criteria (Part V, B) as new applications. If you are submitting a resubmission application, enter the NIFA-assigned proposal number of the previously-submitted application in the Federal field (Field 4 on the form).

## C. Project and Grant Types

### 1. Project Types

- a. **Area of Expertise** (\$500,000 maximum) This grant seeks to enhance existing research completed or near completed for TCRGP New Discovery and Applied Faculty/Community grants that have been awarded in the past five years. It is designed for 1994 Land-grants that have or are developing focused areas of expertise in one or more of the food, agricultural, natural resource and human (FANH) sciences. This grant is intended to support a research endeavor where existing research, extension and education resources have already developed some level of expertise in an area that is important to their students and communities they serve. The maximum amount of this grant is \$500,000.
- b. **New Discovery-Regular** (\$220,000 maximum)  
These projects should be on a level of research complexity that could lead to an enhancement in the body of scientific knowledge and problem solving on relevant issues. Applicants are expected to possess robust research capacity and faculty expertise to conduct scientific inquiry. Proposed projects are expected to meet the standards of scientific rigor recognized by the greater research community. Research undertakings should be at a standard where results may help solve problems of a regional, state, or national level. Data and results should be of a quality appropriate for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. New Discovery projects are also expected to offer meaningful research involvement for 1994 students. Project periods shall not exceed three years (36 months). The maximum amount for a New Discovery application is \$220,000 total for the entire project period.
- c. **Applied Faculty/Community Research** (\$95,000 maximum) - Funds faculty and student research that addresses practical community needs and opportunities. Investigations should result in knowledge or best practices useful to the tribal community and readily available to college extension offices, teaching faculty, and community development organizations. Research may be on skillful adaptations of existing knowledge to address unique community needs requiring a culturally sensitive approach.
- d. **Student Research** (\$60,000 maximum) - Funds for students to design and implement their own research projects. Project Directors and research collaborators will mentor and train students in research ethics, scientific method, data collection and analysis, presenting posters and publicly sharing research findings. Funded projects should lead to an increase in the number of American Indian students participating in research and gaining scientific skills and knowledge.

### 2. Grant Type

#### Collaborative Grant

A Collaborative Grant supports projects with at least one additional partner or a multi-partner approach to enhance research programs. Collaborative Grants should build linkages domestically and internationally to generate a critical mass of expertise, skill and

technology to address education/teaching programs related to the food, agricultural, and natural resources, and human sciences. Grants can reduce duplication of efforts and/or build capacity and should be organized and led by a strong applicant with documented project management knowledge and skills to organize and carry out the initiative.

#### **D. Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research**

In accordance with sections 2, 3, and 8 of 2 CFR Part 422, institutions that conduct USDA-funded extramural research must foster an atmosphere conducive to research integrity, bear primary responsibility for prevention and detection of research misconduct, and maintain and effectively communicate and train their staff regarding policies and procedures. In the event an application to NIFA results in an award, the Authorized Representative (AR) assures, through acceptance of the award that the institution will comply with the above requirements. Award recipients shall, upon request, make available to NIFA the policies, procedures, and documentation to support the conduct of the training. See <https://nifa.usda.gov/responsible-and-ethical-conduct-research> for more information.

## **PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

### **A. Eligible Applicants**

Applications may only be submitted by Tribal Colleges or Universities designated as 1994s under the Equity Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301, as amended). Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. Failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of application deadline may result in the application being excluded from consideration. The eligible 1994s are listed below.

Aaniiih Nakoda College	Bay Mills Community College
Blackfeet Community College	Cankdeska Cikana Community College
Chief Dull Knife College	College of the Menominee Nation
College of the Muscogee Nation	Dine' College
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College	Fort Peck Community College
Haskell Indian Nations University	Ilisagvik College
Institute of American Indian Arts	Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College	Leech Lake Tribal College
Little Big Horn College	Little Priest Tribal College
Navajo Technical University	Nebraska Indian Community College
Northwest Indian College	Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College
Oglala Lakota College	Red Lake Nation College
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College	Salish Kootenai College
Sinte Gleska University	Sisseton Wahpeton College
Sitting Bull College	Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
Stone Child College	Tohono O'odham Community College
Turtle Mountain Community College	United Tribes Technical College
White Earth Tribal and Community College	

### **B. Cost Sharing or Matching**

NIFA does not require matching support for this program and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

## PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### A. Electronic Application Package

Only electronic applications may be submitted via Grants.gov to NIFA in response to this RFA. We urge you to submit early to the Grants.gov system. For information about the pre-award phase of the grant lifecycle see <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants/grants-101/pre-award-phase.html>.

#### **New Users of Grants.gov**

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

#### **Steps to Obtain Application Package Materials**

To receive application materials:

1. You must download and install a version of [Adobe Reader](#) compatible with Grants.gov to access, complete, and submit applications. For basic system requirements and download instructions, see <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html>. Grants.gov has a test package that will help you determine whether your current version of Adobe Reader is compatible.
2. To obtain the application package from Grants.gov, go to <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/download-application-package.html> and enter the funding opportunity number where appropriate

#### **Funding Opportunity Number for FY 2020: USDA-NIFA-TCRGP-007272**

Click “Search.” On the displayed page, click the corresponding link to continue. A Grant Application Package is tied to a particular funding opportunity. You may move forms amongst different Grant Application Packages but you may ONLY submit an

application to the particular funding opportunity to which the Grant Application Package is associated.

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 (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.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](mailto:support@grants.gov)

Grants.gov iPortal (see <https://grants-portal.psc.gov/Welcome.aspx?pt=Grants>):

Top 10 requested help topics (FAQs), Searchable knowledge base, self-service ticketing and ticket status, and live web chat (available 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. ET).

Have the following information available when contacting Grants.gov:

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

## **B. Content and Form of Application Submission**

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

**Note the attachment requirements (e.g., PDF) in Part III, Section 3 of the guide. ANY PROPOSALS THAT ARE NON-COMPLIANT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS (e.g., content format, PDF file format, file name restrictions, and no password protected files) WILL BE AT RISK OF BEING EXCLUDED FROM NIFA REVIEW.** Grants.gov does not check for NIFA required attachments or whether attachments are in PDF format; see Part III, Section 6.1 of the guide for how to check the manifest of submitted files. **Partial applications will be excluded from NIFA review. We will accept subsequent submissions of an application until close of business on the closing date in the RFA (see Part V, 2.1 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further information).**

**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@usda.gov](mailto:electronic@usda.gov)

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

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

Detailed information related to the questions on this form is available in Part V, 3 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

### **3. R&R Other Project Information Form**

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

#### **a. Field 7. Project Summary/Abstract.**

The summary should also include the relevance of the project to the goals of TCRGP. See Part V. 4.7 of NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further instructions and a link to a suggested template.

The Project Summary:

- Shall not exceed one page;
- Shall state the type of application (new or resubmission);
- Shall state the research option being addressed (see Part II C. Project and Grant Types: Project Types);
- Shall indicate the science subject areas to be addressed;
- Shall include the names of research collaborators including PDs, and Co-PDs;
- Shall include the title of the project – should be descriptive of the work to be undertaken; and
- A Project summary that exceeds this page limit requirement will not be accepted for review.

#### **b. Field 8. Project Narrative.**

For all TCRGP research options, the project narrative shall not exceed 15 1.5 spaced pages of written text and up to two 1.5 spaced additional pages for figures and tables, and the font size for tables and figures must not be smaller than 11 point font. The page limit outlined here ensure fair and equitable competition. Applicants must ensure that the page limit is not exceeded after converting to PDF format. Project narratives that exceed this page limit requirement will not be accepted for review. The project narrative must include all of the following:

- a. Introduction: Include a clear statement of the long-term goal(s) and supporting objectives of the proposed activities. Summarize the body of knowledge or other past activities that substantiate the need for the proposed project. Describe ongoing or recently completed significant activities that relate to the proposed project including the work of key project personnel. Include preliminary data/information pertinent to the proposed

project. In addition, this section is to include in-depth information on the following, when applicable:

- (1) Estimates of the magnitude of the issues and the relevance to reservation or tribal community, stakeholders and ongoing state-federal, or international food and agricultural research, education, and extension programs;
- (2) The role of tribal stakeholders in problem identification, planning, implementation, and evaluation, as appropriate; and
- (3) Indicate likelihood that research capacity will be enhanced at the proposing institution.

b. Objectives: All applications must include a statement(s) of specific aims of the proposed effort in clear, concise, complete, and logically arranged terms.

c. Methods: Explicitly state the procedures or methodology you will apply to the proposed effort. This section is to include

- 1) Proposed project activities, listed sequentially;
- 2) Techniques to be employed in this project, including their feasibility and rationale;
- 3) Expected results;
- 4) How data will be analyzed and interpreted;
- 5) How research capacity enhancement will be evaluated
- 6) Plans to communicate results to tribal stakeholders and relevant Indian communities;
- 7) Role to be played by the collaborating institution(s);
- 8) Indicate the role of students in this project;
- 9) Outline the expected benefit to the student, and the number to be recruited, trained or mentored by the 1994 or collaborating faculty; and
- 10) Discuss possible limitations of the proposed procedures, obstacles, or unintended consequences and how they will be addressed.

d. Project Timetable: The proposal outline is to include all important phases as a function of time, year by year, for the entire project.

### **c. Field 12. Add Other Attachments**

See Part V. Section 4.12 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide (Field 12 on the form) for instructions for this field. Remember to also attach your expected outcome forms and any letters of support.

- Summary of Expected Outcomes as PDF - **ExpectedOutcomes.pdf**
- Collaborative Agreement – between each institution and signed by respective ARs
- Signed letter of support from the Tribal government or department if applicable
- IRB approval – if applicable
- Response to previous review – PDF Attachment. 1 page limit – if applicable
- If applicable **Expected Outcomes – PDF Attachment to ‘Field 12’**

**Expected Outcomes – PDF Attachment.** Title the attachment “Expected Outcomes” in the document header and save file as “ExpectedOutcomes.” Please use a format, similar to what is provided below, to submit expected impacts and attach it as the last page of the application. This data will be requested when a grant is recommended for an award. A fillable version of this document can be found at <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/recommended-format-submitting-expected-impacts>.

**Table 2:** Expected Outcomes Format

<b>Primary Project Function: (Choose one)</b>		
<b>EDUCATION:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>EXTENSION :</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>RESEARCH:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Total expected outcomes during entire grant period</b>		<b>Expected Number</b>
1. Number of farmers/community members to be served, for example, provided with training and/or new information regarding markets, technology, production practices, etc.		
2. Number of products to be developed for the education and training of students through grant funds during the project period		
a. curricula, academic programs		
b. recruitment/retention programs		
c. teaching or educational materials, distance education capability, experiential learning opportunities		
3. Number of faculty supported by this grant for professional development during the grant period: participation in sabbaticals, workshops, conferences, etc.		
4. Number of students who will indirectly benefit from the products produced from the grant during the grant period (i.e., using the curriculum/instrumentation, enrolled in the program, recruited or retained but not paid by the grant using scholarships, fellowships and assistantships).		
5. Number of <u>male</u> students to be directly supported by this grant (i.e., scholarships, fellowships, assistantships, internships included as a cost in your project budget) for undergraduate or post-graduate education		
6. Number of underrepresented <sup>1</sup> <u>male</u> students to be supported during the grant period (Provide the best estimate based on past experience)		
7. Number of <u>female</u> students to be directly supported by this grant (i.e., scholarships, fellowships, assistantships, internships included as a cost in your project budget) for undergraduate or post-graduate education		
8. Number of underrepresented <sup>1</sup> <u>female</u> students to be supported during the grant period (Provide the best estimate based on past experience)		
9. Number of students supported by this grant (i.e., scholarships, fellowships, assistantships) who are pursuing their degree		
a. Two year or other certificates		
b. Undergraduate or other 4 year degrees		
c. Master’s degree		
d. Ph.D. degree		
e. Postdoctoral training		
10. Number of students who will be supported by this grant on an internship or other experiential learning opportunity		
a. Domestic experiences, with a government or non-governmental organization that is not affiliated with your university		
b. International experiences, including study abroad, educational travel longer than a month, etc.		

Note:

1. Please provide your best estimate based on past experiences, graduation rates, retention rates, etc.
2. Number of underrepresented students to be supported during the grant period (questions #6 and #8) should be less than or equal to total number of students supported by the grant (questions #5 and #7).
3. Response to question #9 should be the sum of 9-A through 9-E.
4. Response to question #10 should be the sum of 10-A and 10-B.

**Data Management Plan.** A Data Management Plan (DMP) is required and is to clearly articulate how the project director (PD) and co-PDs plan to manage and disseminate the data generated by the project. The DMP will be considered during the merit review process (see Part V, B.). **See Part III Section 3.1 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for NIFA attachment specifications.**

The requirements for preparation and inclusion of a DMP in your application is included on the following web page, <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/data-management-plan-nifa-funded-research-projects>. Also included on the web page are FAQs and information about accessing examples of DMPs.

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

Detailed information related to the questions on this form is available in Part V, 5 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. This section of the guide includes instructions about senior/key person profile requirements, 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. Part V.6 also notes the importance and use of the information.

#### **6. R&R Budget**

Detailed information related to the questions on this form is available in Part V, 7 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

- Applicants shall submit a budget for all years of the grant award (either two or three) including a cumulative budget.
- Applicants shall submit a budget narrative for each year and for the cumulative budget.
- Applicants shall include separate budget pages for sub-awards to collaborating institutions for all years of the award including a cumulative budget.
- The 1994s shall retain 70 percent of the total grant award.
- Budgets must follow the amounts indicated in the chosen Research Option:
  - Area of Expertise - \$500,000
  - New Discovery Research - \$220,000
  - Applied Faculty/Community Research - \$95,000
  - Student Research - \$60,000

#### Funding Limitations per Institution:

- For each award, the submitting institution must retain at least 70 percent of the overall award.
- While at least one approved research collaborator is required, there is no requirement to make a sub-award if the collaborator agrees to this arrangement.
- For further information and instructions regarding indirect costs, refer to Part V, section 7.9 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. For indirect cost funding restrictions, refer to Part IV, D. of this RFA.

#### **7. Supplemental Information Form**

Detailed information related to the questions on this form is available in Part VI, 1 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

- Field 2. Program to which you are applying.** Enter the program code name (TCRGP) and the program code (ZY). Note that accurate entry of the program code is very important for proper and timely processing of an application.
- 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.

#### **8. Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants**

This is a required form for corporate applicants. See Part VI, 2 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for a description of the term, “corporation,” and detailed information related to the questions on this form.

#### **C. Submission Dates and Times**

We recommend that you conduct an administrative review of the application before submission to Grants.gov to ensure that it complies with all preparation instructions. An application checklist is included in Part VII of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide to assist with this review.

While the checklist should be used to verify application completeness, the application should be checked for the following required item(s). This is not an exhaustive list of required items; it only serves to highlight items that may be overlooked. The list includes:

- A cooperative agreement between the 1994s and a required research collaborator (must be signed by the Authorized Representative (AR) of both institutions).
- An Expected Impact Table found in the project narrative portion of this RFA.
- A letter of support by a tribal representative stating that the tribe understands the nature of any research to be conducted on tribal lands and concurs with the project’s activities and locations of study.
- IRB approval or an IRB exemption for human subject studies, including surveys.

- An animal welfare certification if required (IACUC).
- Required forms or documentation are available at <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/application-support-templates>
  - For each Project Director (PD) and co-PD
    - A conflict of interest documentation (COI)
    - Current CV or resume
    - Current and Pending Support
- Felony Convictions or Tax Delinquent Status document.
- A budget and budget narrative for each year of the project as well as a cumulative budget for both the 1994 and the Collaborating institutions receiving funding.

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

**Applications for FY 2020 funding cycle must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Time on April 30, 2020.** Applications received after this due date and time will normally not be considered for funding

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

We send email correspondence to the AR regarding the status of submitted applications. We strongly encourage you to provide accurate email addresses, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R Application for Federal Assistance.

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

**The Grants.gov application tracker can alert you to matters that may cause your application not to reach NIFA. Using the tracker allows you to identify and address issues with your application.**

Grants.gov application tracker  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/track-my-application.html>

#### **D. Funding Restrictions**

The **maximum** funding period is three years. Please see Part II, C of this RFA for the different project types.

## **Indirect Costs**

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

Section 1462(a) and (c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) limits indirect costs for the overall award to 30 percent of Total Federal Funds Awarded (TFFA) under a research, education, or extension grant. The maximum indirect cost rate allowed under the award is determined by calculating the amount of indirect costs using:

- 1) the sum of an institution's negotiated indirect cost rate and the indirect cost rate charged by sub-awardees, if any; or
- 2) 30 percent of TFFA.

The maximum allowable indirect cost rate under the award, including the indirect costs charged by the sub-awardee(s), if any, is the lesser of the two rates.

If the results of number one, is the lesser of the two rates, the grant recipient is allowed to charge the negotiated indirect cost rate on the prime award and the sub-award(s), if any. Any sub-awards would be subject to the sub-awardee's negotiated indirect cost rate. The sub-awardee may charge its negotiated indirect cost rate on its portion of the award, provided the sum of the indirect cost rate charged under the award by the prime awardee and the sub-awardee(s) does not exceed 30 percent of the TFFA.

If the result of number two, is the lesser of the two rates, then the maximum indirect cost rate allowed for the overall award, including any sub-award(s), is limited to 30 percent of the TFFA. That is, the indirect costs of the prime awardee plus the sum of the indirect costs charged by the sub-awardee(s), if any, may not exceed 30 percent of the TFFA.

In the event of an award, the prime awardee is responsible for ensuring the maximum indirect cost allowed for the award is not exceeded when combining indirect costs for the Federal portion (i.e., prime and sub-awardee(s)) and any applicable cost-sharing (see 7 CFR 3430.52(b)). Amounts exceeding the maximum allowable indirect cost is considered unallowable. See sections 408 and 410 of 2 CFR 200.

### **Special Notice Regarding Indirect Costs for Grantees and Subcontractors**

All 1994s must have a valid Indirect Cost (IDC) rate agreement to receive indirect costs. Applicants may obtain an IDC rate agreement from the U.S. Department Health and Human Service. In most cases, first time applicants are encouraged to check with their business office as their institution typically has an IDC rate agreement already in place.

### **Special Notice for partnership requirement—Distribution of Funds**

The 1994s must retain at least 70 percent of the grant award funds.

### **Special Notice regarding construction and investment**

The use of grant funds to plan, acquire, or construct a building or facility is not allowed under this program. With prior approval, and in accordance with the cost principles set forth in 2 CFR part 200, some grant funds may be used for minor alterations, renovations, or repairs deemed necessary to retrofit existing teaching or research spaces in order to carry out a funded project. However, requests to use grant funds for such purposes must demonstrate that the work is essential to achieving the major purpose of the project. Grant funds may not be used for endowment investing.

### **Other Exclusions:**

The following costs, although not all-inclusive, are not permitted:

- Entertainment
- Meals (except when provided to maintain the continuity of a meeting)
- Tickets to shows or sporting events
- Alcoholic beverages
- Costs associated with banquets and award ceremonies
- Incentives such as bags, buttons, and related promotional items

### **E. Other Submission Requirements**

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

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

## **PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. General**

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

We select reviewers based upon their training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- 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;
- Need to include experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- Need to include other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- Need to include experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, local, state and federal agencies, and private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; and
- Need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness of each application to producers and the general public.

After each peer review panel has completed its deliberations, the responsible TCRGP program staff will recommend that your project be approved for support from currently available funds or be declined due to insufficient funds or unfavorable review.

TCRGP reserves the right to negotiate with the PD and/or with the submitting organization or institution regarding project revisions (e.g., reductions in the scope of work, funding level, project period, or method of support) prior to recommending any project for funding.

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

### **B. Evaluation Criteria**

A reviewer's written evaluation entails two levels of assessment. First, the reviewer summarizes how well the application addressed each evaluation criterion. After the application has been assessed for strengths and weaknesses of each criterion, the reviewer then evaluates the overall likelihood that the project will have significant outcome and impact. These written reviews are used to begin panel discussions with other reviewers serving on the peer review panel. Through these discussions, peer review panelists come to consensus on the final rating and ranking of proposals. A complete description of NIFA's peer review process can be found at the NIFA website: [NIFA Peer Review Process for Competitive Grant Applications](#).

We will use the evaluation criteria below to review applications submitted in response to this RFA. The criteria below are not equal in merit but are listed in descending order of importance. Applications are evaluated primarily for overall merit, with emphasis placed on the proposed approach to advance quality of education, research or Outreach/ Extension using sound program management and strong cooperative linkages in order to build institutional capacity:

**1. Potential for Advancing the Quality of Research** This criterion is used to assess the likelihood that the project will have an impact upon and advance the quality of FANH research sciences by strengthening institutional capacities to meet clearly delineated needs. Elements considered include institutional long-range goals, identification of a problem or opportunity to be addressed, justification for the project, innovation, advancing multidisciplinary and/or problem-based focus, and potential for adoption by other institutions and contribution to current body of knowledge in areas addressed. The proposed project must also show how it will contribute to the legislatively authorized purpose of this program. Potential project impacts must be stated.

## **2. Proposed Approach and Cooperative Linkages**

This criterion evaluates the soundness of the proposed approach including objectives, methodology, plan of operation, timetable, expected products and results, project evaluation, and dissemination plans. The project evaluation plan will be reviewed to determine the appropriateness of the methodologies to be used in assessing the accomplishment of stated products, results and measurable outcomes from the project. The proposed approach will be evaluated based on the soundness of the research concepts which may be documented through background literature or actual institutional data. Emphasis is placed on the quality of research support provided to the applicant institution/organization through its partnerships and collaborative initiatives, and on the potential cooperative linkages likely to evolve as a result of this project. The application will also be reviewed to assess the effectiveness in addressing any perceived pitfalls and alternative strategies or approaches.

## **3. Institutional Capability and Capacity-Building**

This criterion relates to the institution's capability to perform the project and the degree to which the project will strengthen its research capacity. Elements considered include the institution's commitment to the project, the adequacy of institutional resources (administrative, facilities, equipment, and/or materials) available to carry out the project, potential for academic or research enhancement, and plans for project continuation or expansion beyond the period of USDA support. Level of institutional data provided to show the institution's ability to support the proposed project.

## **4. Key Personnel**

This criterion relates to the adequacy of the number, qualifications and expertise of key persons who will develop and carryout the project, and the qualifications of project personnel who will provide for the assessment of project results and impacts and the dissemination of these findings.

## **5. Budget and Cost-Effectiveness**

This criterion relates to the extent to which the total budget adequately supports the project and is cost effective. Elements considered include the necessity and reasonableness of costs to carryout

project activities and achieve project objectives; the appropriateness of budget allocations between the applicant and any collaborating institution(s); the adequacy of time committed to the project by key project personnel; and the degree to which the project maximizes the use of limited resources, optimizes value for the dollar, achieves economies of scale, leverages additional funds, and focuses expertise and activity on high-priority education, research or outreach/extension.

### **C. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality**

During the peer evaluation process, we take extreme care to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may impact review or evaluation. See [https://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/competitive\\_peer\\_review.html](https://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/competitive_peer_review.html) for further information about conflicts of interest and confidentiality as related to the peer review process.

### **D. Organizational Management Information**

Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted one-time, with updates on an as-needed basis. This requirement is part of the responsibility determined prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA, if such information has not been provided previously under this or another NIFA program. We will provide you copies of forms recommended for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the 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).

### **E. Application Disposition**

An application may be withdrawn at any time before a final funding decision is made regarding the application. Each application that is not selected for funding, including those that are withdrawn, will be retained by TCRGP for a period of three years.

## **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, 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, the information described in [2 CFR 200.210](#).

See <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/awards/awardterms.html> to view current NIFA award terms and conditions.

### **C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

Several federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications considered for review and to project grants awarded under this program. These may include, but are not limited to, the ones listed on the NIFA web page – <https://nifa.usda.gov/federal-regulations>.

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

### **Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research**

Refer to Part II, D for more information.

### **D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements**

The output and reporting requirements are included in the award terms and conditions (see <https://nifa.usda.gov/terms-and-conditions> for information about NIFA award terms). If there are any program or award-specific award terms, those, if any, will be identified in the award.

## **PART VII-AGENCY CONTACT**

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact:

### **Programmatic Contact**

Erin Riley

National Program Leader

Institute of Youth, Family and Community-IYFC

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

U.S. Department of Agriculture

[erin.riley@usda.gov](mailto:erin.riley@usda.gov)

816-926-2131

## **PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION**

### **A. Use of Funds; Changes**

#### **1. Delegation of Fiscal Responsibility**

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

#### **2. Changes in Budget or Project Plans**

In accordance with [2 CFR 200.308](#), awardees must request prior approval from NIFA for the following program or budget-related reasons:

- (i) Change in the scope or the objective of the project or program (even if there is no associated budget revision requiring prior written approval).
- (ii) Change in a key person specified in the application or the federal award.
- (iii) The disengagement from the project for more than three months, or a 25 percent reduction in time devoted to the project, by the approved project director or principal investigator.
- (iv) The inclusion, unless waived by the federal awarding agency, of costs that require prior approval in accordance with 2 CFR 200 Subpart E—Cost Principles of this part or 45 CFR Part 75 Appendix IX, “Principles for Determining Costs Applicable to Research and Development under Awards and Contracts with Hospitals,” or 48 CFR Part 31, “Contract Cost Principles and Procedures,” as applicable.
- (v) The transfer of funds budgeted for participant support costs as defined in §200.75 Participant support costs to other categories of expense.
- (vi) Unless described in the application and funded in the approved federal awards, the sub awarding, transferring or contracting out of any work under a federal award, including fixed amount sub awards as described in §200.332 Fixed amount sub awards. This provision does not apply to the acquisition of supplies, material, equipment, or general support services.
- (vii) Changes in the approved cost-sharing or matching provided by the non-federal entity.
- (viii) The need arises for additional federal funds to complete the project.

The awardee will be subject to the terms and conditions identified in the award. See <https://nifa.usda.gov/terms-and-conditions> for information about NIFA award terms.

## **B. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards**

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

## **C. Regulatory Information**

For the reasons set forth in the final Rule related Notice to 2 CFR Part 415, Subpart C, this program is excluded from the scope of the Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with state and local officials. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the collection of information requirements contained in this notice have been approved under OMB Document No. 0524-0039.

## **D. Definitions**

Refer to [7 CFR 3430, Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Financial Assistance Programs--General Award Administrative Provisions](#), for applicable definitions for this NIFA grant program.

## **E. Materials Available on the Internet**

Tribal College Research Grant program information will be made available on the NIFA website at <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/tribal-college-research-grant-program>. The following are among the materials available on the web page:

1. Requests for Applications
2. TCRGP Abstracts of Funded Projects