# Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields Program (WAMS)

## *FY 2019 Request for Applications (RFA)*

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 21, 2019**

**ELIGIBILITY:  See Part III, A of RFA**

**USDA** United States Department of Agriculture    National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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

**Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields Program (WAMS)**

**INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

**CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE:** This program is listed in the Assistance Listings under the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number 10.318.

**DATES:** Applications must be received by **5 p.m. Eastern Time** on May 21, 2019 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@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:Policy@nifa.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 Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields Program (WAMS) RFA.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** NIFA requests applications for Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields Program (WAMS) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 to support research and extension activities that increase the number of women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas who will pursue and complete a postsecondary degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) disciplines. The anticipated amount available for support in FY 2019 is approximately $400,000.

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

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# PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

## A. Legislative Authority

This program is administered under the provisions of Section 7209 of the Agricultural Act of 2016 (Pub. L. 110-246). This provision amends Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(d)(7)) authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to make competitive grants to increase the participation of women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas (definition Part VIII, E) in STEM fields in higher education (7 U.S. C. 5925(d)(7)). Priority is extended to eligible institutions that carry out continuing programs funded by the Secretary.

## B. Purpose and Priorities

For the FY 2019 award cycle, NIFA intends to support projects with a target audience of K-14 students (kindergarten through twelfth grade plus two years of post-secondary schooling (e.g., vocational technical institutions or community or junior colleges). **4 year undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral focused projects will not be awarded** under this grant announcement. Projects with a primary target of 4 year undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral studies should consider NIFA's workforce and development focused programs. More information is available here: https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/nifa-reinforces-agricultural-education-pipeline

The WAMS grants program directly aligns with 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.

WAMS-funded project activities must support the creation, adaptation, and adoption of learning materials and teaching strategies to operationalize what we know about how students learn. Many of these concepts are identified in the National Research Council's publication: *How People Learn*. WAMS-funded projects shall also focus on imparting both technical knowledge as well as 'soft' skills such as communication, team work, and problem solving, as these are abilities expected by employers. These concepts may be found in the publication: *Comparative Analysis of Soft Skills: What is Important for New Graduates?*

 The purpose of this program is to support research, education/teaching, and extension projects that increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in STEM. NIFA intends this program to address educational needs, as determined by each institution, within broadly defined areas of food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences.

 Applications recommended for funding must highlight and emphasize the development of a competent and qualified workforce in the food, agricultural, natural resources and human sciences (FAHN sciences). WAMS-funded projects should improve the economic health and viability of rural communities by developing research and extension initiatives that focus on new and emerging employment opportunities in STEM occupations. Projects that contribute to the economic viability of rural communities are also encouraged.

<u>Leadership Skills Development:</u>

The development of leadership skills, knowledge, and qualities are necessary to prepare students for agricultural and related careers in the private sector, government, and academia. WAMS education/teaching applications must demonstrably incorporate a leadership development component to equip 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.

<u>Social and Behavioral Science Disciplines:</u>

Projects that integrate social and behavioral sciences to provide experiential learning opportunities for students in applied research, and related community development programs. 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; and increasing economic opportunities.

<u>Advancement in U.S. Food, Agriculture, and Forestry</u>:

In an increasingly interconnected world, these domestic advancements have global importance, and may require information and cooperation from beyond our borders. Any proposed activity (e.g., partnerships, exchanges, training, and/or travel), must support the domestic objectives of WAMS. Applicants must clearly describe and demonstrate how international activities proposed in applications submitted to WAMS will contribute to advances in U.S. agriculture.  When proposing international activities, applicants must describe the metrics that will be used for reporting beneficial outputs and outcomes.  These metrics should reflect how the proposed international collaboration adds value to achieving the WAMS program's objectives by introducing innovative technologies/approaches, promoting synergistic science, addressing issues of mutual concern, or other means. Additional guidance on including international activities in WAMS applications is provided on the NIFA Center for International Programs webpage that includes Frequently Asked Questions, descriptions of existing MOUs and other resources to https://nifa.usda.gov/faqs-about-international-partnerships

eXtension

NIFA encourages (but does not require) projects that develop content suitable for delivery through eXtension**.**

**C. Program Area Description**
**Key Information:**
    **Program Code –** WAMS
    **Program Code Name –** Women and Minorities in STEM
    **Code of Federal Domestic Assistance-** 10.318
    **Requested Project Types** – Education/ Teaching, Research, Extension, Integrated
    **Requested Grant Types** – Standard Grants

**Table 1:** Grant Application Type - Maximum # Applications & Award – Due Date

| Grant Application Type | Maximum # of Applications per year per institution | Maximum Award | Submission Due Date (5:00pm Eastern) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Regular | 1 | $95,000 | May 21, 2019 |

Letter of Intent **not required** for this program
**Program Area Contact –** Dr. Victoria LeBeaux, (202)-720-2067,
victoria.s.lebeaux@nifa.usda.gov

A proposed project must address one or more Educational Need Areas and/or be an Applied Project that addresses research, outreach and capacity building to benefit the communities served, especially that of their students.

**1. Educational Need Areas**

WAMS projects should focus on the purpose of one or more of the FY 2019 Need Areas. Please note that at least one of these Need Areas must be indicated on the Project Summary (Part IV, B.3.).

    a. **Curriculum Design, Materials Development, and Library Resources**
    Promotes the development of courses of study and degree programs, new and improved curricula, and instructional materials and technology; to promote the acquisition of library resources including books and journals relating to the food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences; and to stimulate the use of new approaches to the study of traditional subjects, new research on teaching and learning theory, and new applications of knowledge. The overall objective is to increase the quality of, and continuously renew, the academic programs of the eligible institutions in the food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences.

    b. **Faculty Preparation and Enhancement of Teaching**
    Advances faculty development in the areas of teaching competency and leadership, subject matter expertise, or student recruitment and advising skills. Applications may emphasize, but are not limited to: obtaining experience with recent developments and new applications in a field; expanding competence in innovative technologies and new methods of instruction delivery; developing new skills in a field of science or education including student advising skills; or pursuing graduate-level study in a field related to the food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences. Each faculty recipient of

support for developmental activities must be an "eligible participant' as defined in Part VIII, D. Definitions.

c. **Instruction Delivery Systems**

Encourages the use of alternative methods of delivering instruction to enhance the quality, effectiveness, and cost efficiency of teaching programs. Applications may emphasize, but are not limited to: incorporating alternative instructional methodologies that respond to differences in student learning styles; inter-institutional collaborations that deliver instruction in ways that maximize program quality and reduce unnecessary duplication; and consideration and implementation of innovative instructional techniques, methodologies, and delivery systems in response to advances in knowledge and technology.

d. **Scientific Instrumentation for Teaching and Research**

Provides students and faculty in science-oriented courses with suitable, up-to-date equipment in order to involve them in work central to scientific understanding and progress. Applications may emphasize, but are not limited to acquiring new, state-of-the- art instructional, laboratory, classroom, and research scientific equipment to help assure the achievement and maintenance of outstanding food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences education programs, upgrading existing equipment, or replacing non-functional or obsolete equipment.

e. **Student Experiential Learning**

Furthers the development of student scientific and professional competencies through experiential learning programs that provide students with opportunities to solve complex problems in the context of real-world situations. Applications may emphasize, but are not limited to: preparing future graduates to advance knowledge and technology, enhancing quality of life, conserve resources, and addressing community and economic development issues. Projects should focus on advancing student decision-making and communications skills, and improving real-life technological expertise. Activities may include, but are not limited to, internships, practicum experiences, study abroad opportunities, leadership skill development, and participation with faculty on applied research and related community development projects.

f. **Student Recruitment, Retention, and Educational Equity (including the provision of student financial assistance)**

Enhances educational equity for under-represented students, and to strengthen student recruitment and retention programs in order to promote the future strength of the Nation's scientific, professional, and technical workforce in the food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences.

Applications may emphasize, but are not limited to:

- Initiating new projects or supplementing current efforts to attract increased number of students from under-represented groups, their families, and communities to engage in a robust exchange of ideas on using the full breadth of the Nation's intellectual resources more effectively;

- Developing agricultural and science literacy programs at the high school level to attract students to college and careers in the food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences; mentoring programs and other initiatives for student retention; and the provision of student financial support to attend college.

Each student recipient of monetary support for educational costs or developmental purposes must be enrolled at an eligible institution and meet the requirement of an "eligible participant' as defined in Part VIII, D. Definitions.

2. **Applied Projects**

   **In addition to the Education Need Areas, applicant may choose to develop studies that have relevancy and application within the communities that these institutions serve.**

   a. **Applied Studies in the Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences**
   Apply the body of knowledge in the food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences to address real-world problems, including applied research activities focused on community and economic development issues related to food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences. Examples include:

   (i) Conducting plant or animal breeding programs to develop better crops, forests, or livestock (e.g., improving disease resistance, improving productivity, yielding higher quality products);

   (ii) Conceiving, designing, and evaluating new bio-processing techniques for eliminating undesirable constituents from or adding desirable ones to food products;

   (iii) Proposing and evaluating ways to enhance utilization of the capabilities and resources of WAMS institutions to promote rural development (e.g., exploitation of new technologies by small rural businesses);

   (iv) Identifying control factors influencing consumer demand for agricultural products;

   (v) Analyzing social, economic, and physiological aspects of nutrition, housing, and lifestyle choices, and of community strategies for meeting the changing needs of different population groups; and

   (vi) Studying other identified state, regional, community, national and global problems such as human nutrition and obesity prevention, sustainable agriculture, bioenergy, climate change, food safety, food security, biotechnology, agribusiness management and marketing, and aquaculture.

   b. **Applied Research Support Systems**
   Establish centralized support systems to meet state, regional, or community needs, or serve clientele that cannot otherwise afford or do not have ready access to the support in question, or to provide such support more economically thereby freeing up resources for other applied research uses. Examples include:

(i) Storage, maintenance, characterization, evaluation, and enhancement of germ plasm for use by animal and plant breeders (including those using the techniques of biotechnology);

(ii) Digital databases of important scientific information (e.g., epidemiological, demographic, nutrition, weather, economic, crop yields, animal migration patterns); and

(iii) Expert service centers for sophisticated and highly specialized methodologies e.g., evaluation of nutritional quality of foods, toxicology, taxonomic identifications, consumer preferences and demographics.

c. **Technology-based Information Delivery Systems**
Promote innovations and improvements in the delivery of benefits of food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences to producers and consumers, particularly those who are currently disproportionately low in receipt of such benefits. Examples include:

(i) Computer-based decision support systems to assist small scale farmers, ranchers, herders, or fishermen to take advantage of relevant technologies, programs, policies, etc.; and

(ii) Efficacious delivery systems for nutrition information or for resource management assistance for low-income families and individuals.

d. **Other Applied Research and Community Development Applications**
Encourage other creative projects, outside the areas previously outlined, that are designed to provide needed enhancement to the capacity of WAMS institutions to conduct applied research and related community development projects.

3. **Expected Products and Results**
The WAMS program requires all project directors to provide appropriate metrics and describe the expected products and results, outcomes, and their potential impact on strengthening FANH education, research and extension in the United States. Metrics to assess products, outputs and outcomes are to be clearly delineated in the proposal. See Part IV, B, 3, c. Field 12. Other Attachments.

4. **Evaluation Plan**
All projects must have an Evaluation Plan that includes both a strategy for monitoring the project as it evolves (to provide feedback to guide these efforts), as well as a strategy for evaluating the effectiveness of the project in achieving its goals and for identifying positive and negative findings when the project is completed. The complexity of the evaluation will depend on the scope of the project. Grantees are encouraged to obtain an independent evaluation to secure appropriate documentation of the project's outputs and outcomes. Such efforts should be led by knowledgeable and experienced individuals. As a guide, up to 10% of the grant funds maybe be used to support this purpose.

## PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

### A. Available Funding

The anticipated amount available for WAMS grant in FY 2019 is approximately $400,000. 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 [Automated Standard Application for Payments](#).

### B. Types of Applications

In FY 2019, WAMS will only support new and resubmitted applications:

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

**Resubmitted application**. This is an application that had previously been submitted to the WAMS Program but not funded. Project Directors (PDs) must respond to the previous review panel summary (see Response to Previous Review, Part IV). We must receive resubmitted applications by the relevant due dates. We 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.

### C. Project and Grant Types

#### 1. Project Types

The following project types are supported under this RFA:

**a. Education/Teaching Projects**

Single-function Education/Teaching Projects develop human capital relevant to overall program goals for U.S. agriculture. An education activity or teaching activity is formal classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, and practicum experience in the food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences and other related matters such as faculty development, curriculum development, instructional materials and equipment, and innovative teaching methodologies.

**b. Extension Projects**

Single-function Extension Projects conduct programs and activities that deliver science-based knowledge and informal educational programs to people, enabling them to make practical decisions. Extension Projects may also include related matters such as certification programs, in-service training, client recruitment and services, curriculum development, instructional materials and equipment, and innovative instructional methodologies appropriate to informal educational programs.

**c. Research Projects**

Single-function Research Projects support applied research conducted by individual investigators, co-investigators within the same discipline, or multidisciplinary teams. Applied research means research that includes expansion of the findings of fundamental research to uncover practical ways in which new knowledge can be advanced to benefit individuals and society. Multi-disciplinary research projects are those in which investigators from two or more FAHN science disciplines collaborate closely to address a common problem.

**d. Integrated Research, Education/Teaching and/or Extension Projects**

An Integrated Project includes at least two of the three functions of the agricultural knowledge system (i.e., research, education/teaching, and extension) within a project. The functions addressed in the project should be focused around the problem or issue and should be interwoven throughout the life of the project to complement and reinforce one another. The functions should be interdependent and necessary for the success of the project and no more than two-thirds of the project's budget may be focused on a single component.

Integrated Project applicants are encouraged to review the [Automated Standard Application for Payments](#) for additional information on integrated programs, including tips for writing Integrated Project applications and an example of an integrated application.

## 2. Grant Type

Standard. This is an award instrument by which NIFA agrees to support a specified level of effort for a predetermined project period without the announced intention of providing additional support at a future date.

## 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](https://nifa.usda.gov/responsible-and-ethical-conduct-research) for more information.

## E. Grant Duration and Funding Limitations

The project period may range from 24 to 36 months (two to three years). For FY 2019, NIFA will make only one award per eligible institution for a maximum of $95,000. Only one active WAMS award at a time can be held by any single institution.

**F. Proposal Submission Limitations**

Each eligible, individual institution, independent branch campus, and branch institution of a State system may submit one application as an individual institution (see Part II, C.1., Regular Grant).

## PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

### A. Eligible Applicants

As contained in Section 7204 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) (Pub. L. 110-246 which amends Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925)), applications may only be submitted by the following eligible applicants: (a) State agricultural experiment stations; (b) colleges and universities; (c) university research foundations; (d) other research institutions and organizations; (e) Federal agencies; (f) national laboratories; (g) private organizations or corporations; and, (h) individuals.

Failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the 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.

For those new to Federal financial assistance**, a grants overview page** is available on the NIFA website. This page includes information about free Grants 101 Training and other resources that are highly recommended for those seeking an understanding of Federal awards.

### B. Cost Sharing or Matching

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (HR 2) removed the matching requirements for some NIFA competitive grants imposed by the Agricultural Act of 2014. Therefore, there are changes to the matching requirements for some funds awarded in 2019.

For FY 2019, for the WAMS program, if a grant provides a particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, the grant recipient is required to match the USDA funds awarded on a dollar-for-dollar basis from non-Federal sources with cash and/or in-kind contributions. (See Part IV, B., 6. for details.)

NIFA may waive the matching funds requirement for a grant if NIFA determines that: (1) the results of the project, while of particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, are likely to be applicable to agricultural commodities generally; or (2) the project involves a minor commodity, the project deals with scientifically important research, and the grant recipient is unable to satisfy the matching funds requirement.

## 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/search-opportunity-package.htmland enter the funding opportunity number where appropriate

   **Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-WAMS- 006689**
   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

> 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. EST). 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. <u>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.</u> 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@nifa.usda.gov
- Phone: 202-401-5048
- Business hours: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET, excluding federal holidays.

## 1. <u>SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet</u>

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 WAMS See Part V. 4.7 of NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further instructions and a link to a suggested template.

**b. Field 8. Project Narrative.**
NOTE: The Project Narrative shall not exceed 10 single space pages of written text and up to five additional pages for figures and tables. We have established this maximum (15 pages) to ensure fair and equitable competition. The Project Narrative must include all of the following:

   i. **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 prosed 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 should include in-depth information on the following, when applicable:

   (1) Estimates of the magnitude of the issues and their relevance to stakeholders and to ongoing state-federal food and agricultural research, education and extension programs.

   (2) The role of stakeholders in problem identification, planning, implementation, and evaluation as appropriate.

   (3) Reasons for performing the work at the proposing institution.

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

iii. **Methods**: Explicitly state the procedures or methodology you will apply to the proposed effort. This section should include, but not necessarily be limited to, a description of:

(1) Stakeholder involvement in problem identification, planning, implementation and evaluation;
(2) Proposed project activities, listed sequentially;
(3) Techniques to be employed in this project, including their feasibility and rationale;
(4) Expected results;
(5) How extension and education activities will be evaluated;
(6) How data will be analyzed and interpreted;
(7) Plans to communicate results to stakeholders and the public;
(8) Pitfalls that might be encountered; and
(9) Limitations to proposed procedures.

iv. **Project Timetable:** The proposal should outline all important phases as a function of time, year by year, for the entire project, including periods beyond the grant funding period.

**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.

i.  **Response to Previous Review – PDF Attachment. 1 Page Limit.**  Title the attachment as  'Response to Previous Review' in the document header and save file as 'Response to Previous  Review'.  This requirement only applies to "Resubmitted Applications" as described under  Part II, B., "Types of Applications".  PDs must respond to the previous review panel summary on **no more than one page.**  If desired, additional comments may be included in the text of the Project Narrative, subject to the page  limitations of that section.

ii.  **Expected Outcomes – PDF Attachment.** Tile the attachment "Expected Outcomes" in the  document header and name the file to be saved as "Expected Outcomes".  Please use a format,   similar to what is provided in **Figure 1** below, to submit expected impacts and attach it as the last page of  the application.  In addition to data requested in the table, ***please provide justification for  projected numbers.***

**Figure 1    Expected Outcomes**

| Expected outcomes during entire grant period | Expected Number |
|---|---|
| 1.   Number of products to be developed through grant funds during the grant period (i.e., curricula, academic programs, recruitment/retention programs, materials, experiential learning opportunities) | |
| 2.   Number of faculty supported by this grant for professional development during the grant period: participation in sabbaticals, workshops, conferences, etc. | |
| 3.   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). | |

**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.

(a) Budgets for each project year do NOT have to be the same from year to year. However, detailed budget information (budget and narrative) must be submitted for each year of the proposed project.

(b) During the tenure of a grant, PDs must attend at least one National Project Directors' Meeting/Conference, if offered, in Washington DC, or any other announced location. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss project and grant management, opportunities for collaborative efforts, future directions for education reform, and

opportunities to enhance dissemination of exemplary end products/results of the projects. Reasonable travel expenses to attend this meeting may be included in the application's budget under travel expenses.

(c) Matching. If you conclude that matching funds are not required as specified under Part III, B Cost-Sharing or Matching, you must include an explanation for your conclusion in the Budget Narrative. We will consider this justification when determining final matching requirements or if required matching can be waived. NIFA retains the right to make final determinations regarding matching requirements.

For grants that require matching funds as specified under Part III, B, the Budget Narrative must list matching sources along with the identification of the entity(ies) providing the match as well as the total dollar amount being pledged. NIFA is no longer requiring written verification of commitments of matching support (a pledge agreement). However, you are still subject to documentation, valuing and reporting requirements, etc. as specified in 2 CFR Part 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (the Uniform Guidance)," 7 CFR 3430, "Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-Formula Federal Assistance Programs – General Award Administrative Provisions," and program-specific regulations, as applicable. In instances where match is required, any resulting award will require the signature of an Authorized Representative. Only when NIFA receives the award signed by the AR will award funds be released and available for drawdown.

You must establish the value of applicant contributions in accordance with applicable cost principles. Refer to 2 CFR Part 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (the Uniform Guidance)," for further guidance and other requirements relating to matching and allowable costs.

Indirect Costs. 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.

**F.** **Field 2. Program to which you are applying.** Enter the program code name "Women and Minorities in STEM and the program code "WAMS". Note that accurate entry of the program code is very important for proper and timely processing of an application.

**G.** **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 of it via 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.

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

Applications must be received by Grants.gov by **5 p.m. Eastern Time on** May 21st, 2019. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding.

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

We send email correspondence to the AR regarding the status of submitted applications. 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.**

**D. Funding Restrictions**

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 1), is the lesser of the two, 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 2), is the lesser of the two, 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.

You may not use grant funds awarded under this authority to renovate or refurbish research, education, or extension space; purchase or install fixed equipment in such a space; or to plan, repair, rehabilitate, acquire, or construction of buildings or facilities.

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 220 (Circular No. A-21), 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. Grant funds may not be used for endowment investing.

Statutory language or agency policy limits the maximum potential funding period (including any awards transferred from another institution or organization) to five years in duration. The funding period will commence on the effective date cited in the award instrument. Any such limitation also applies to subcontracts made under awards subject to a funding period limitation.

**Program funds may only be used for research and extension activities in the training, outreach and mentoring of rural women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in STEM fields relevant to USDA mission.**

### 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:
- 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;
- the need to include experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- the 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;
- the need to include experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and federal agencies, and private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- the need to maintain a balanced composition with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- the 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 program staff of WAMS **will** recommend that your project be approved for support from currently available funds or be declined due to insufficient funds or unfavorable review.

WAMS **reserves** the right to negotiate with the PD/PI and/or with the submitting organization or institution regarding project revisions (e.g., reductions in the scope of work, funding level, 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**

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 address program priorities using sound program management and strong cooperative linkages.

We will use the evaluation criteria below to review applications submitted in response to this RFA:
  1.  **Potential for Advancing Quality of Education; Significance of the Problem**

This criterion is used to assess the likelihood that the project will have an impact upon and advance the quality of food, agriculture, natural resources and human sciences by strengthening institutional capacities to meet clearly delineated needs. Elements considered include institutional long-range goals, WAMS's Goals, identification of a problem or opportunity to be addressed, justification for the project, innovation, advancing educational equity, multidisciplinary and/or problem-based focus, and potential for adoption by other institutions.

2.  **Proposed Approach and Cooperative Linkages**

This criterion relates to the soundness of the proposed approach including objectives, methodology, plan of operation, timetable, logic model, expected products and results, evaluation, and dissemination plans. Emphasis is placed on the quality of educational or research support provided to the applicant institution through its partnerships and collaborative initiatives, and on the potential cooperative linkages likely to evolve as a result of this project.

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 teaching or research capacity. Elements 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.

4.  **Key Personnel**

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

5.  **Budget and Cost-Effectiveness**

This criterion relates to how well the total budget supports the project and is cost effective. Elements considered include the necessity and reasonableness of costs to carry out 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 educational value for the dollar, achieves economies of scale, and focuses expertise and activity on high-priority Educational Need Areas.

## 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://nifa.usda.gov/resource/nifa-peer-review-process-competitive-grant-applications 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 WAMS 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://nifa.usda.gov/terms-and-conditions 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 – http://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 http://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, they will be identified in the award.

## PART VII—AGENCY CONTACT

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact:

Programmatic Contact –

Victoria LeBeaux, PhD,
National Program Leader
Division of Community and Education, Institute of Youth, Family and Community
800 9th Street SW Washington, DC 20024
Phone: (202) 720-2067
Fax: (202) 202-4924
Email: victoria.s.lebeaux@nifa.usda.gov

Sydney Turner
Program Specialist
Division of Community and Education, Institute of Youth, Family and Community
800 9th Street SW Washington, DC 20024
Phone: (202) 603-7702
Fax: (202) 202-4924
Email: sydney.turner@nifa.usda.gov
Administrative/Business Contact –

Towana DeShazo; Team Leader;
Awards Management Division
Office of Grants and Financial Management;
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
800 9th Street SW Washington, DC 20024
Phone: (202) 401-4155;
Fax: (202) 401-6271;
Email: tdeshazo@nifa.usda.gov; or

Sondra R. Watkins; Team Leader
Awards Management Division
Office of Grants and Financial Management;
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
800 9th Street SW Washington, DC 20024
Phone: (202) 401-4249;
Fax: (202) 401-6271;
Email: swatkins@nifa.usda.gov.

## 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 subawarding, transferring or contracting out of any work under a federal award, including fixed amount subawards as described in §200.332 Fixed amount subawards. 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

This program is not subject to the provisions of 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.

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

 Institution of higher education means an educational institution in any state that:
(1) Admits as regular students those persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate;
(2) Is legally authorized within such state to provide a program of education beyond secondary education;
(3) Provides an educational program for which the institution awards a bachelor's degree or provides not less than a 2-year program that is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree;
(4) Is a public or other nonprofit institution; and
(5) Is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association, or if not so accredited, is an institution that has been granted pre-accreditation status by such an agency or association that has been recognized by the Secretary of Education for the granting of pre-accreditation status, and the Secretary of Education has determined that there is satisfactory assurance that the institution will meet the accreditation standards of such an agency or association within a reasonable time.

K-14 means kindergarten through twelfth grade plus two years of post-secondary schooling (e.g., vocational technical institutions or community or junior colleges); it does not include 4-year colleges or universities.

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, determine experimental design, develop the project work plan and time table, and submit collaborative, timely reports; and

A comprehensive project budget that reflects each entity's financial or in-kind contribution to the total project budget costs.

Rural Area means any locality that has a population of 50,000 inhabitants or less, and is generally characterized as having fewer than 1,000 inhabitants per square mile (U.S. Census Bureau).

Training means the planned and systematic acquisition of practical knowledge, skills or competencies required for a trade, occupation or profession delivered by formal classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, or practicum experience that prepares women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas for participation in STEM fields.

Underrepresented minority means any ethnic group – African American, Alaskan Native, American Indian, Asian American, Hispanic American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, or any other group – whose representation among food, agriculture, natural resource, and human science professionals in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields is disproportionately less than their proportion in the general population as indicated in standard statistical references.

### E. Materials Available on the Internet
WAMS program information will be made available on the NIFA website at: [Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Fields Grant Program (WAMS)](#)