

United States Department of Agriculture

What's the big till?

Society of Research Administrators International
2019 WE/SO Section Meeting, San Diego, CA
Concurrent Session: M103

Introduction



Will Helmrath

Research Coordinator
Engineering Research Office
The University of Tennessee
Tickle College of Engineering

UTK

UT Knoxville is the flagship campus of the University of Tennessee System (includes UT Chattanooga, UT Martin, the UTIA, and the UT Health Science Center)



Founded in 1794, first public university chartered west of the Appalachian Divide.

Tickle College of Engineering – quick facts:

- 7 Departments (Chemical & Biomolecular Eng., Civil & Environmental Eng., Electrical Eng. & Computer Science, Industrial & Systems Eng., Materials Science & Eng., Mechanical, Aerospace & Biomedical Eng., Nuclear Eng.)
- 4,548 enrolled undergrad. & grad. students
- 33rd Undergrad. program among public universities*
- 29th Grad. program among public universities*
- \$79m annual research expenditures

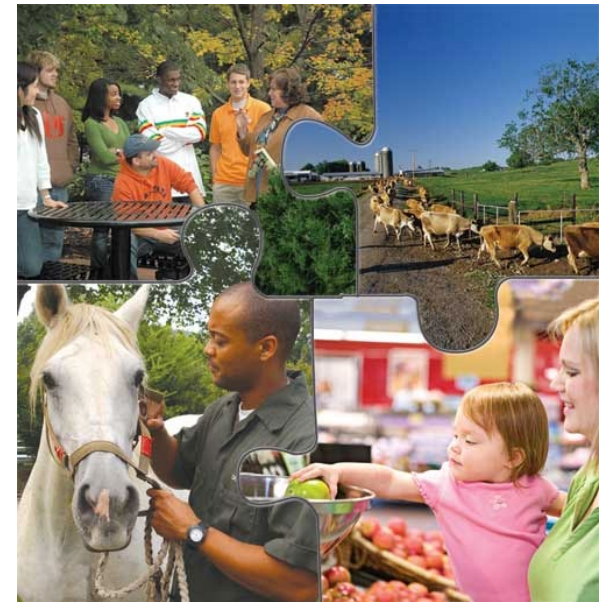
* Per *US News and World Report Rankings*

UTIA

Mission: The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA), through its colleges, research and education centers, and county extension offices, serves the people of Tennessee and beyond through the discovery, communication and application of knowledge.

UTIA is made up of the following four units that provide instruction, research and public service:

- AgResearch
- College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
- College of Veterinary Medicine
- UT Extension



Agenda

- Overview of USDA
- USDA NIFA
- Other USDA Agencies
- Post Award Considerations

OVERVIEW OF USDA

1862

- Department of Agriculture was established
- Homestead Act signed into law
- Funding for the act to pay for the Union Pacific-Central Pacific railroad signed into law
- Morrill Land Grant College Act signed into law



USDA's Broad Reach

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is made up of 29 agencies and offices with nearly 100,000 employees who serve the American people at more than 4,500 locations across the country and abroad.

Mission Areas:

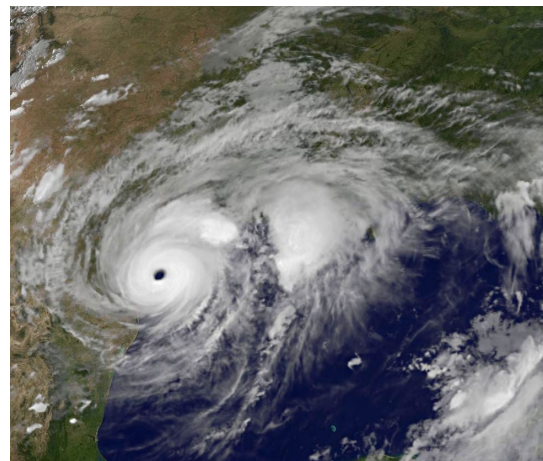
- Farm Production and Conservation
- Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services
- Food Safety
- Marketing and Regulatory Programs
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Research, Education and Economics
- Rural Development
- Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs

<https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/mission-areas>

Broad Reach in action

Example: Agency preparedness and response to disasters

- Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
- Rural Development (RD)
- Food Safety and Inspection (FSI)
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)



Hurricane Harvey (Aug 25, 2017)
Credit: NASA/NOAA GOES Project

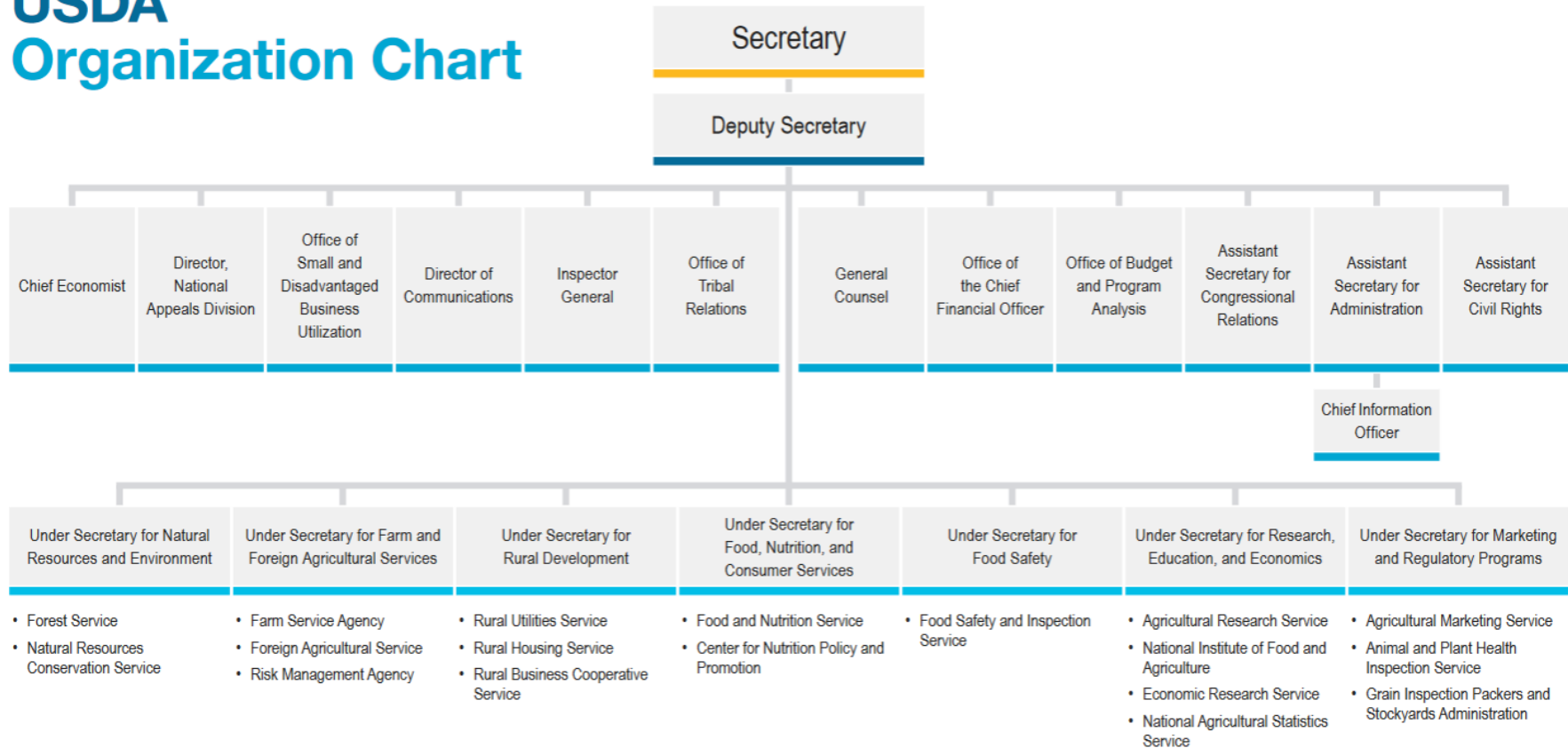
USDA Disaster Resources Reference Guide: <https://www.usda.gov/topics/disaster/reference-guide-usda-disaster-resources-farmers-ranchers-and-communities>

Org Chart early 2017



United States Department of Agriculture

USDA Organization Chart



This organization chart displays the names of USDA offices, agencies, and mission areas. Each office, agency, and mission area is placed within a cell connected by lines to show the structure and hierarchy (Under Secretary, Deputy Secretary, or Secretary) for which they fall under. An HTML version that lists [USDA Agencies and Offices](#) and [USDA Mission Areas](#) is also available on [usda.gov](#).

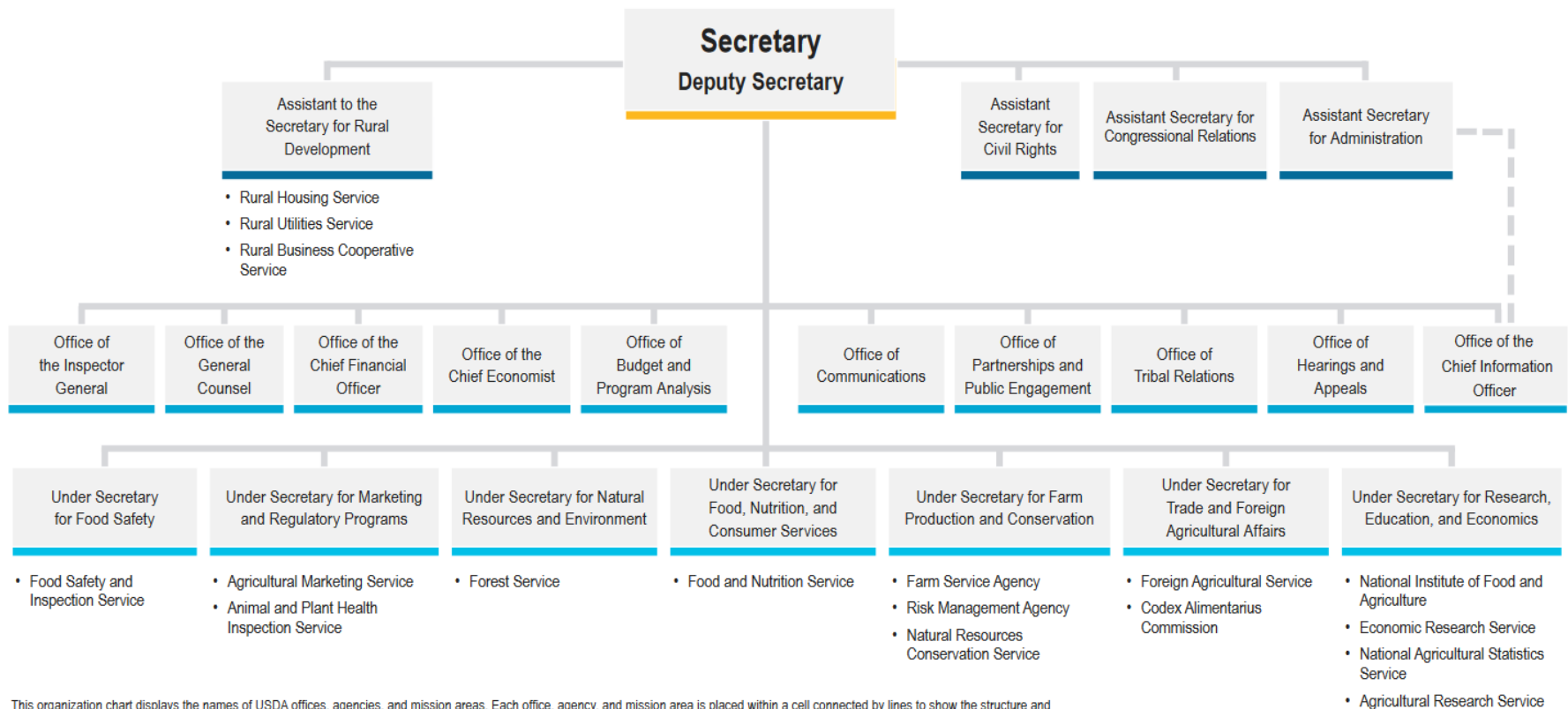


Org Chart (beginning 5/2017)



United States Department of Agriculture

USDA Organization Chart



This organization chart displays the names of USDA offices, agencies, and mission areas. Each office, agency, and mission area is placed within a cell connected by lines to show the structure and hierarchy (Under Secretary, Deputy Secretary, or Secretary) for which they fall under. An HTML version that lists [USDA Agencies and Offices](#) and [USDA Mission Areas](#) is also available on [usda.gov](#).



USDA Agencies

- Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
- Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
- Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP)
- Economic Research Service (ERS)
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
- Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
- Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)
- Forest Service (FS)
- Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)
- National Agricultural Library (NAL)
- National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Risk Management Agency (RMA)
- Rural Development (RD)

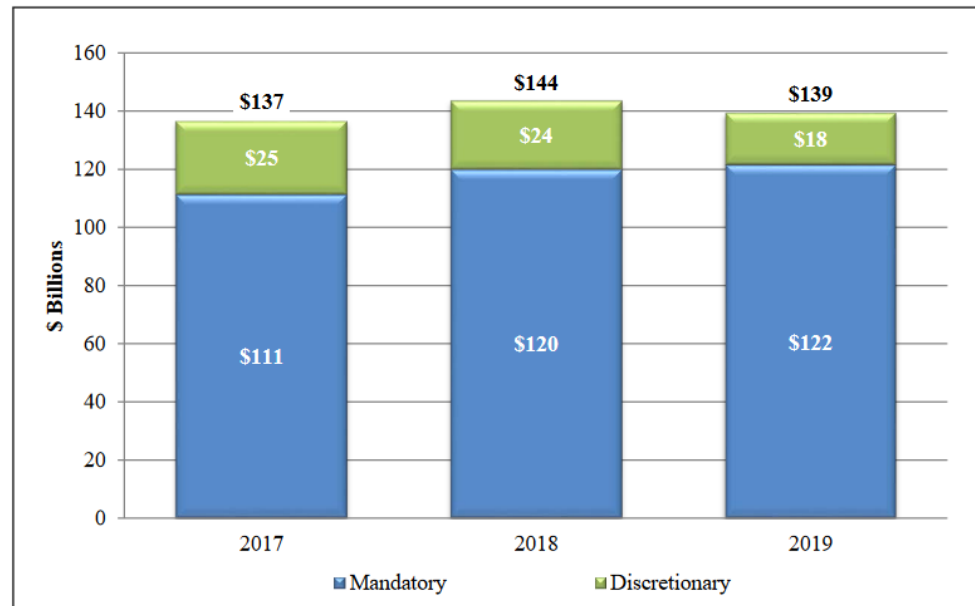
<https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/agencies>

Initiatives & Highlighted Programs

- Combined Federal Campaign
- Energy
- Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
- Feds Feed Families
- StrikeForce
- The People's Garden
- USDA for Kids
- Veterans
- Women in Agriculture

<https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/initiatives>

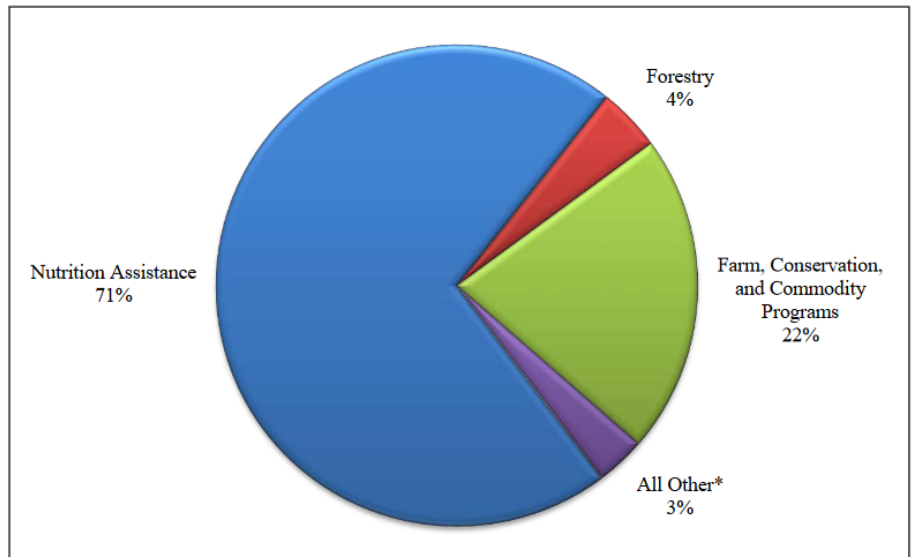
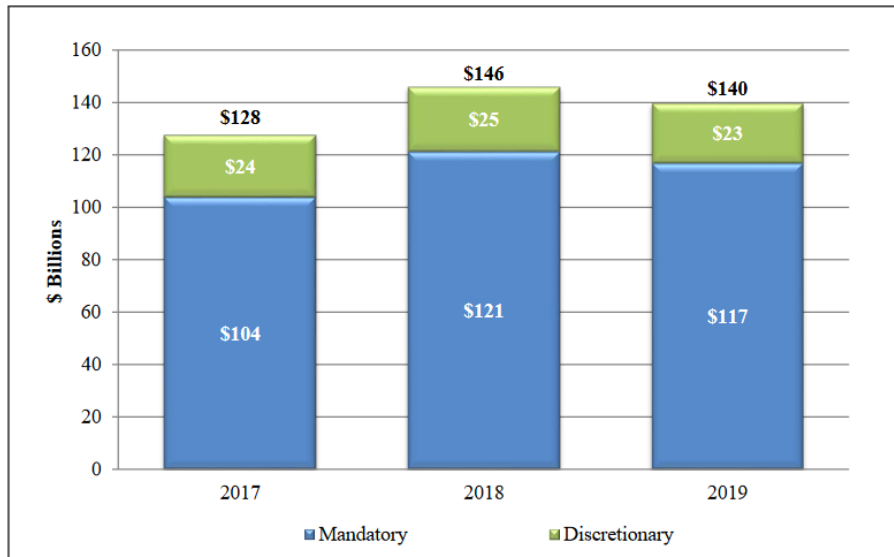
2019 Funding Overview



Discretionary authority (fund programs and operating expenses)	~ \$18 billion (\$5.8 billion less than 2018)
Mandatory programs	~ \$122 billion (\$1.7 billion greater than 2018)

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-fy19-budget-summary.pdf>

2019 Outlays



Roughly 84 percent of outlays, about \$117 billion, are for mandatory programs – providing services required by laws other than annual appropriations acts. These outlays include crop insurance, nutrition assistance programs, farm commodity and trade programs, and a number of conservation programs.

The remaining 16 percent of outlays, about \$23 billion, are associated with discretionary programs such as WIC; food safety; rural development loans and grants; research and education; soil and water conservation technical assistance; animal and plant health; management of national forests, wildland fire, and other Forest Service activities; and domestic and international marketing assistance.

*All Other includes Rural Development, Research, Food Safety, Marketing and Regulatory, and Departmental Management

Decentralized Approach to Sponsored Programs

- Application Instructions
 - NIFA: Grants.gov Application Guide + RFA
 - Rest of the agencies: RFA or No RFA
 - Eligibility varies per mechanism and agency
- Terms and Conditions
 - No single USDA-wide guidance, like the NIH Grants Policy Statement
 - For Grants & Cooperative Agreements, the underlying terms should follow 2 CFR 200
 - Exceptions to NIFA's General– Capacity, 1890 Facilities, SBIR
 - Additional program-specific – AFRI, BRDI

Partnering Organizations

- Other Federal Agencies

- NSF
- DOD
- DOE

- State Agencies

- Universities

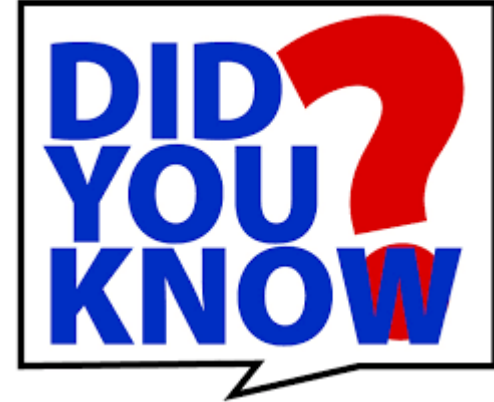
- Via Subawards
- Sun Grant Program (NIFA)
- Farm Financial Management: Risk Management Education Centers (4 regional centers under NIFA)



Trivia

What is USDA's motto?

- A. "Got Agriculture?"
- B. "Agriculture for all"
- C. "Innovate, produce, feed and conserve"
- D. "Do right and feed everyone"
- E. "Planting the seed"
- F. "Always on the mooooooove"
- G. "The time is ripe"



National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

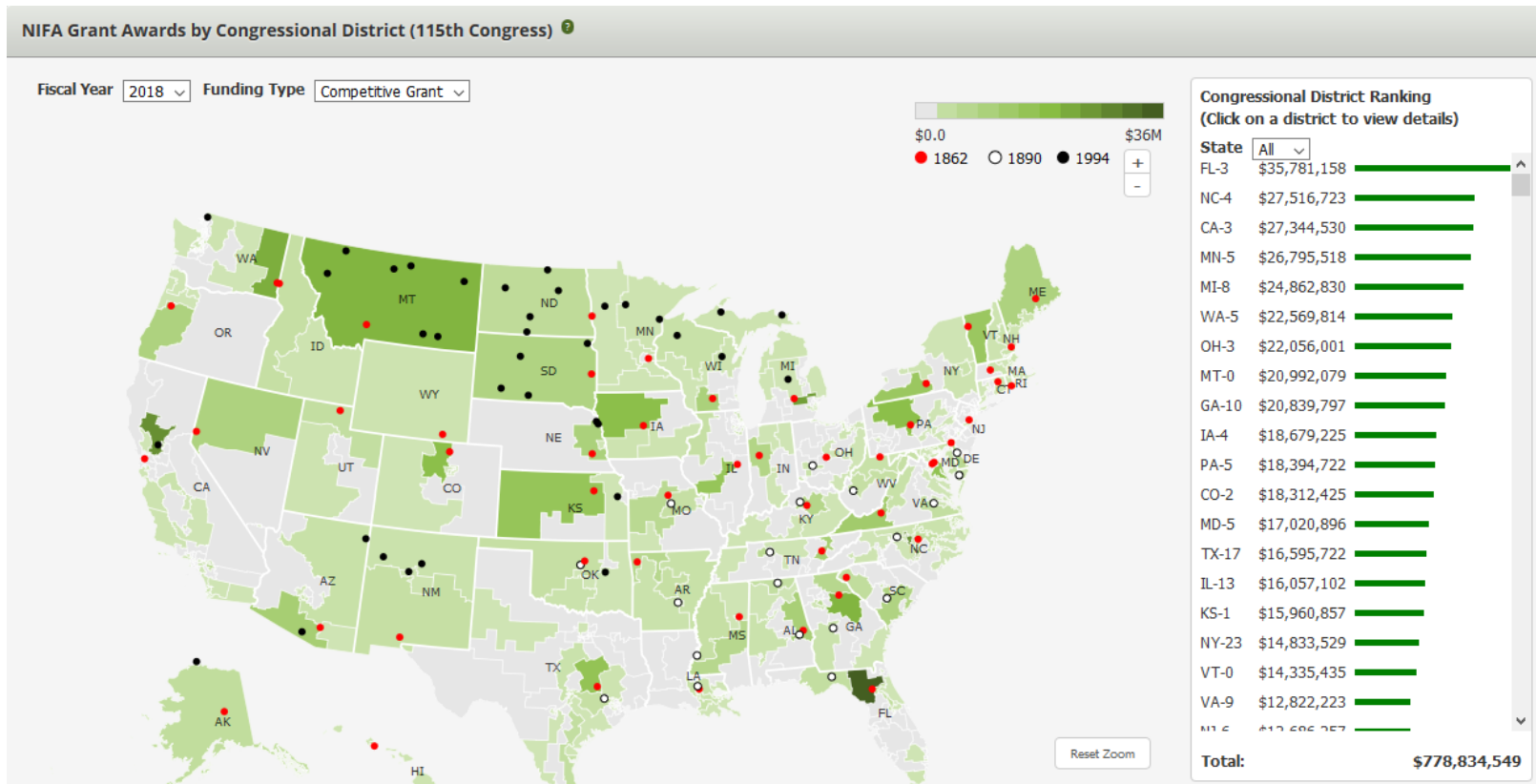


United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

NIFA

Supports extramural research, education, and extension programs in the Land-Grant University System and other partner organizations.



NIFA Data Gateway

The Data Gateway enables users to find funding data, metrics, and information about research, education, and extension projects that have received grant awards from NIFA.

- Recent Awards and Award Trends
- Searchable
- Drills down to individual projects



RECENT AWARDS

Recent Awards show the history of NIFA's funding from Fiscal Year 2002 (FY02) to the present.



The Congressional Funding Map shows the distribution of NIFA's competitive and capacity grants by Congressional district.



Knowledge Area (KA) is a taxonomy used to categorize NIFA's research, education, and extension projects by funding into related topics, such as animal diseases or soil.



Subject of Investigation (SOI) is a taxonomy used to group projects by funding with related focus areas, such as food or people and communities.



Field of Science (FOS) is a taxonomy used to organize NIFA's projects by funding and the type of science, such as genetics or molecular biology, used in projects.



AWARD TRENDS

Award Trends shows the dollar amount NIFA awarded by fiscal year – from FY02 to present – activity type, such as extension or integrated, and related trends.

<https://nifa.usda.gov/data>

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Program

- Nation's leading competitive grants program for agricultural sciences
- Education and training of almost 2,500 undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students
- Solicits projects based on program priority areas
- FY 2019: RFAs not posted (as of 2/18/2019)
- FY 2018: 3 RFA
 - AFRI Education and Workforce Development (replaced the Education and Literacy Initiative RFA)
 - AFRI Foundational and Applied Science
 - AFRI Sustainable Agricultural Systems (replaced the 2017 challenge areas RFAs)

AFRI cont.

Different Activity Types:

- Research, Extension, Education
- Integrated Projects

Different Grant Types:

- Standard Grants
- Conference Grants
- Coordinated Agricultural Project Grants
- Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement Grants

Project Type	
☐	Research
☐	Education
☐	Extension
☐	Integrated

Grant Type	
☐	Standard Grant
☐	Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) Grant
☐	Conference Grant
☐	Other:

AFRI FASE Grants

- New Investigator Grants
- Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellowship Grants
- Strengthening Grants:
 - Sabbatical Grants
 - Equipment Grants
 - Seed Grants
 - Strengthening Standard Grants
 - Strengthening CAP Grants
 - Strengthening Conference Grants

Food and Agriculture Science Enhancement (FASE) Grant	
☐	New Investigator
☐	Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant
☐	Predocutorial Fellowship Grant
☐	Strengthening
☐	Sabbatical
☐	Equipment
☐	Seed
☐	Strengthening Standard
☐	Strengthening CAP
☐	Conference Grant
☐	Other:

AFRI Exploratory Research Program

- Research that demonstrates extraordinary novelty with potential to position U.S. agriculture at the global forefront
- Transformative projects
- Application process – See AFRI Foundational Program RFA
Key points: Research Standard Grants only, \$100K and 2 year max, Letter of Intent necessary, Applications due 60 days after full proposal submission

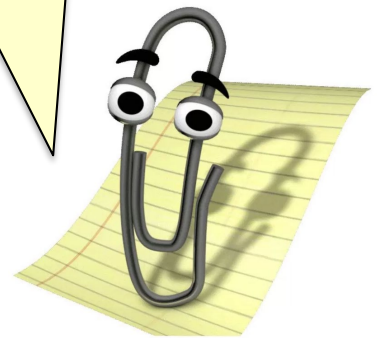


AFRI - Things to remember

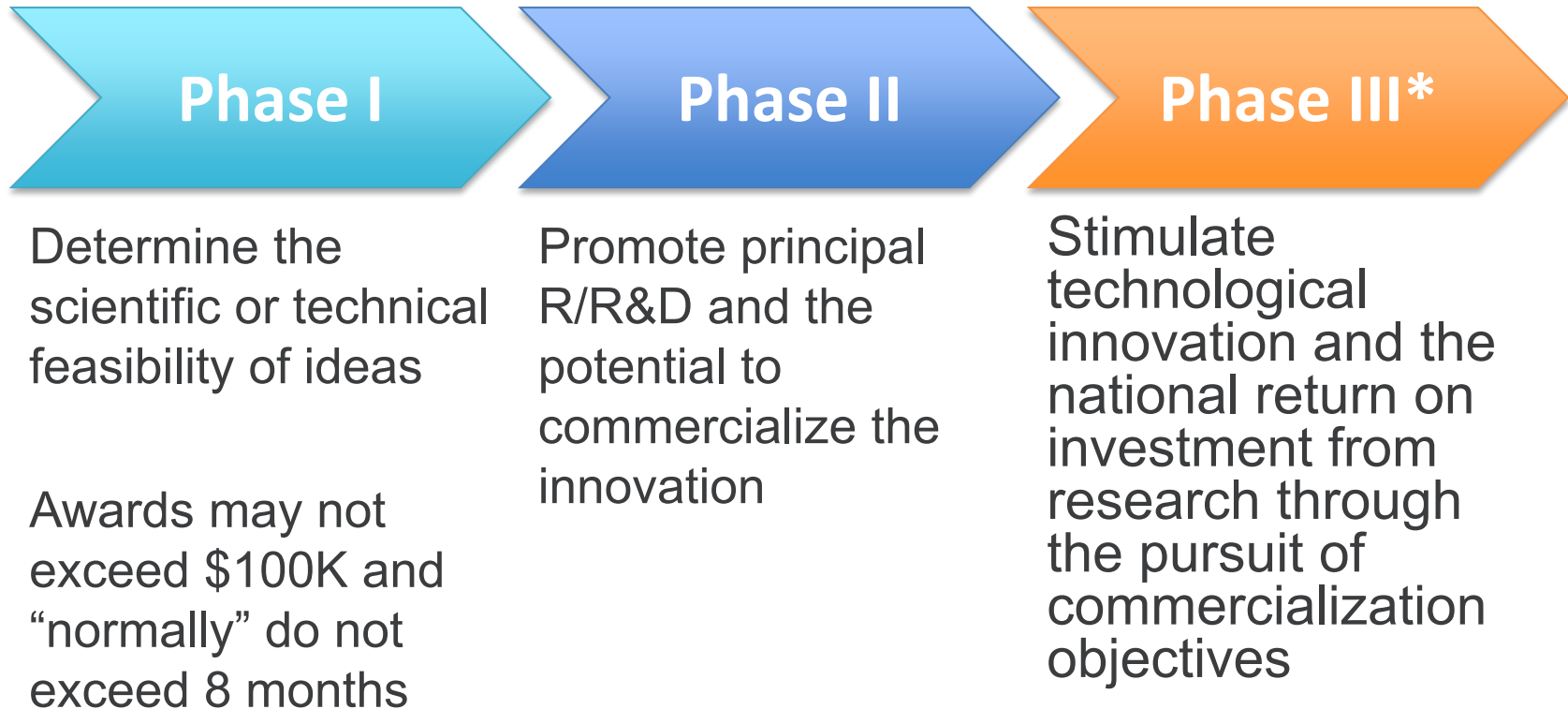
- Each program priority area will have specific guidance on:
 - Max proposed budget
 - Max project length
 - Project type
 - Grant types
 - Letter of intent requirements
 - Application deadline
 - Program contact information

It looks like you are applying for an AFRI.

Don't forget that the max budget includes indirect costs



SBIR Program



*Federal SBIR funds may not be used to support Phase III projects

SBIR Phase I

- At least 2/3 of work, as determined by budget expenditures, must be performed at proposing organization
- Equipment – May be requested, but should not exceed 10% of budget
- Consultant pay rate cannot exceed \$608/day or 8 hours/day
- Fee – May be requested. Not to exceed 7% of total Federal funds requested

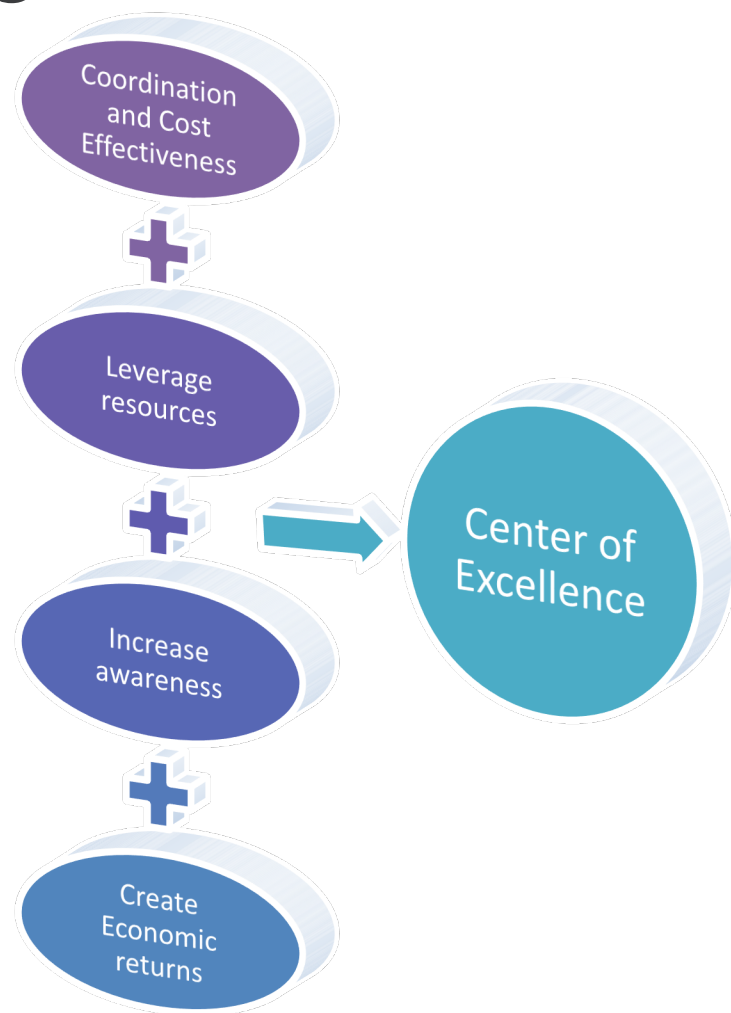
Other NIFA Grant Programs

- Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)
- Plant Feedstock Genomics for Bioenergy (joint with DOE)
- Biomass Research and Development Initiative (BRDI; joint w/DOE)
- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE)
- Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program (BRAG)
- National Integrated Water Quality Program (NIWQP)
- Higher Education Challenge Grants Program (HEC)

https://nifa.usda.gov/programs/field_program_type/grant-program-515

Center of Excellence

- Several NIFA programs allow for eligible applicants to be considered as a Center for Excellence
- Justification must be included as part of the proposal narrative and counts against the page limit
- Impact on Application Review – tie breaker
- COE designation is for a particular grant program



See COE Fact Sheet for more: <https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/Centers-of-Excellence-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

IDC Limitations

- Indirect Cost limitations are determined by the congressional authority under which the funding is made available
 - The cap is usually based on Total Federal Funds
 - Use the lesser of the capped rate or your NIDCR

Example: A 30% of TFF cap translates to a IDC rate of 42.857% (or 30/70)

	Use your NIDCR	Use TFF cap
Direct Cost	\$350,000	\$350,000
MTDC	\$290,000	\$315,000
IDC @ 51%	\$147,900	\$160,650
IDC @ NIFA Cap (42.857%)	\$150,000	\$150,000
Total Cost	\$497,900	\$500,000

IDC Limitations cont.

- These limitations also apply to joint-programs with other Federal agencies when USDA is your awarding agency
- If the program is funded by an Agency that does not have a statutory ceiling on IDC recovery, your full IDC should be applied.
 - Best practice: Use your NIDCR unless funding opportunity provides other instructions.

Example	DOE	USDA
Direct Cost	\$350,000	\$350,000
MTDC	\$315,000	\$315,000
IDC @ 51%	\$160,650	\$160,650
IDC @ NIFA Cap (42.857%)	\$150,000	\$150,000
Total Cost	\$510,650	\$500,000

Cost Sharing

- NIFA AFRI:
 - If an applied Research or Integrated Project with an applied research component, is commodity-specific and not of national scope, the grant recipient is required to match the USDA funds awarded 1-to-1
 - Equipment Grants: Federal funds may not exceed 50% or \$50,000 of the equipment cost.
- NIFA non-AFRI: depends on program (some waivers may apply)

NIFA Proposal Review Process



Panel review, score and discuss to rank proposals into 5 categories "outstanding," "high priority," "medium priority," "low priority," and "do not fund."

Other USDA Agencies

Other USDA Agencies

- May or may not have RFA
- Indirect cost restrictions and cost share requirements may be indicated in RFA or may depend on award instrument
 - Examples of cost share requirements:
 - NRCS CIG – 50% of total project costs
 - Forest Service – required/whenever possible (depends on award instrument)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Provides financial and technical assistance over a wide variety of programs.
 - Most are through direct assistance to producers
 - Conservation Innovation Grants are most likely source of grants for public and private sector sponsored programs
 - Submission requirements may include: submission to appropriate State Conservationist(s), Grants.gov, and via email to NRCS
- Guidance for Applicants:
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/financial/cig/?cid=stelprdb1046235>
- Guidance for Grantees:
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/financial/cig/?cid=stelprdb1045412>

Agricultural Marketing Service

AMS provides American agriculture with tools and services, such as grading, certification, and verification, that help create marketing opportunities



How do IHE typically interact with AMS?

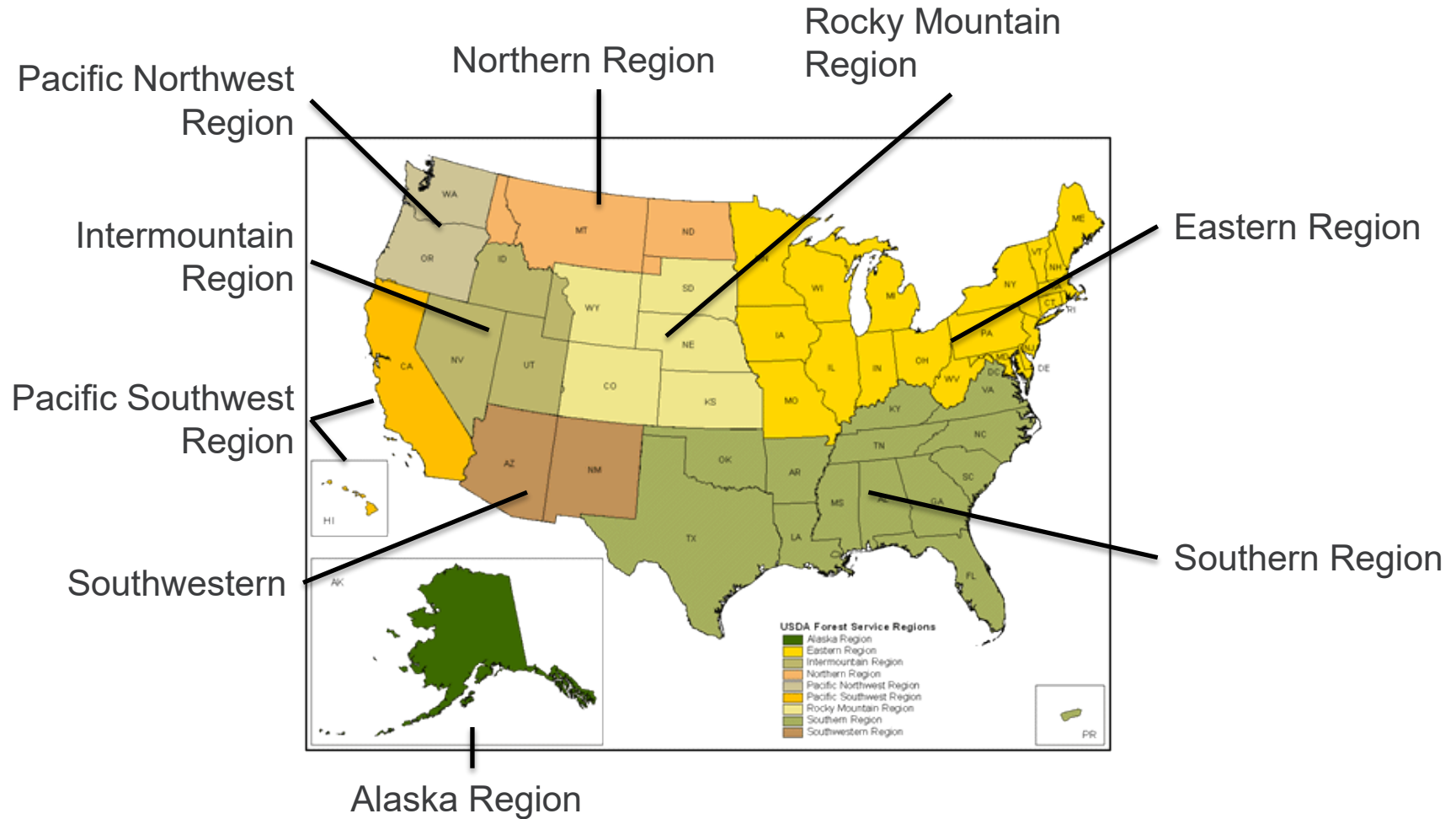
- Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (via the state department of agriculture)
- Federal State Marketing Improvement Program
- Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Programs

Forest Service

- Congress established the Forest Service in 1905 to provide quality water and timber for the nation's benefit
- Congress later directed the Forest Service to broaden its management scope
 - Current mission: To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.
- Manages and protects 193 million acres of land, roughly the size of Texas
 - 154 national forests and 20 grasslands in 43 states and Puerto Rico.
- Supports sustainable management on approx. 500 million acres of private, state and tribal forests



Forest Service Regions



Forest Service

- Instrument determines the rules for grant/cooperative agreement
 - Indirect Cost Limitation, Matching Requirements
- Required budget on a FS spreadsheet (FS1500-17b)
- Required compliance forms (including Financial Capability Questionnaire FS1500-22)

Examples of Forest Service forms

Note: This Financial Plan may be used when:
(1) No program income is expected and
(2) The Cooperator is not giving cash to the FS and
(3) There is no other Federal funding

Agreements Financial Plan (Short Form)
Financial Plan Matrix: Note: All columns may not be used. Use depends on source of funding.

COST ELEMENTS	FOREST SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS		COOPERATOR CONTRIBUTIONS
	(a) Noncash	(b) Cash to Cooperator	(c) Noncash
Direct Costs			
Salaries/Labor	\$0.00	\$106,556.00	\$0.00
Travel	\$0.00	\$11,163.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies/Materials	\$0.00	\$368.00	\$0.00
Printing	\$0.00	\$6,995.00	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00	\$40,340.00	\$0.00
Other			
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$165,422.00	\$0.00
Coop Indirect Costs		\$0.00	\$72,785.00
FS Overhead Costs	\$0.00		
Total	\$0.00	\$165,422.00	\$72,785.00
Total Project Value:			

Matching Costs Determination

Total Forest Service Share = (a+b) ÷ (e) = (f)	
Total Cooperator Share (c+d) ÷ (e) = (g)	
Total (f+g) = (h)	

USDA Forest Service

OMB 0596-0217
FS-1500-22

If you have tax forms

27. Does your property management system(s) provide for a physical inventory and reconciliation of property at least every two years? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

28. Does your property management system(s) provide controls to insure safeguards against loss, damage or theft of the property? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

PROCUREMENT STANDARDS

29. Does your organization maintain written procurement procedures which (1) avoid unnecessary purchases; (2) provide an analysis of lease and purchase alternatives; and (3) provide a process for soliciting goods and services? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

30. Does your procurement system provide for the conduct to ensure selection on a competitive basis and documentation of cost or price analysis for each procurement action? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

31. Does your procurement system include provisions for checking the "Excluded Parties List" system for suspended or debarred sub-grantees and contractors, prior to award? www.sam.gov ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

TRAVEL POLICY

32. Does your organization maintain a standard travel policy or, if no policy exists, does your organization adhere to rates and amounts established under 5 U.S.C. 5701-11, ("Travel and Subsistence Expenses; Mileage Allowances"), and policies under the Federal Acquisition Regulations at 48 CFR 31.205- 46(a)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

SUBRECIPIENT MANAGEMENT

33. (For Pass-through entities only). Does your organization have controls in place to monitor activities of subrecipients, as necessary, to ensure that Federal awards are used for authorized purposes in compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of the award and that performance goals are achieved. ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

INDIRECT COSTS

34. My organization has an established indirect cost rate ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

35. If my organization chooses to charge indirect costs to the Federal award or use indirect costs as a match, you understand that you must prepare an indirect cost rate proposal and submit it to your cognizant Federal agency for approval. Alternatively, you may use a de minimus rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

STANDARDS FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

PROPER

I certify that the above information is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

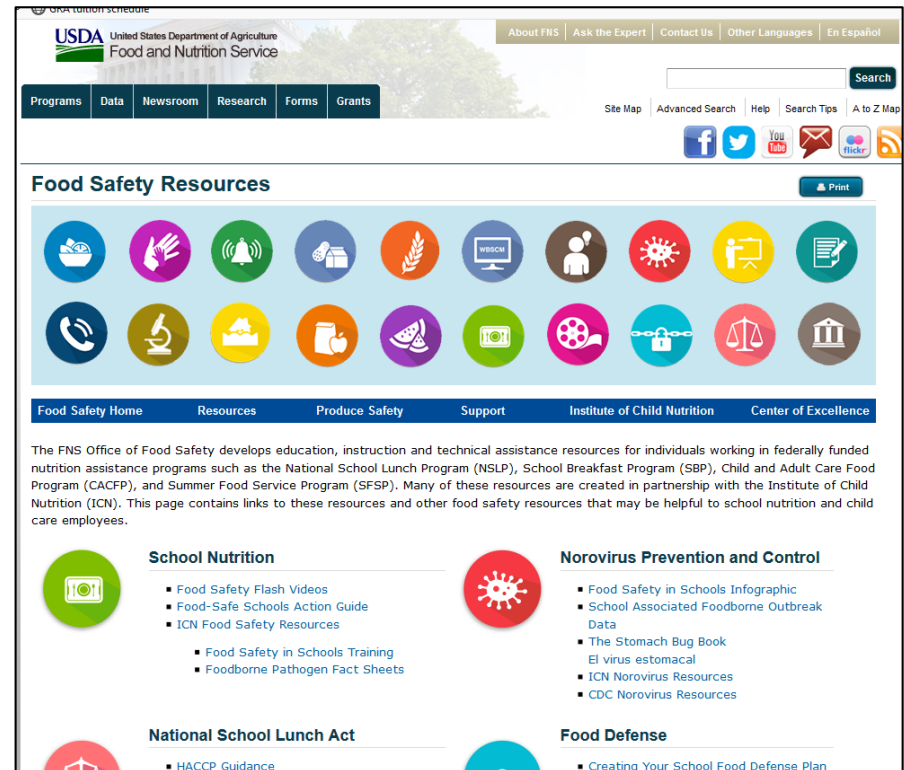
Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Food and Nutrition Service

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) - through States
- Farm to School
- Food Distribution
- Team Nutrition
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Summer Food Service Program



<https://www.fns.usda.gov/grant-opportunities>

Rural Development

- Mission: RD is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America.
- RD offers loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing, health care, first responder services and equipment, and water, electric and communications infrastructure.



<https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd>

Rural Development Focus

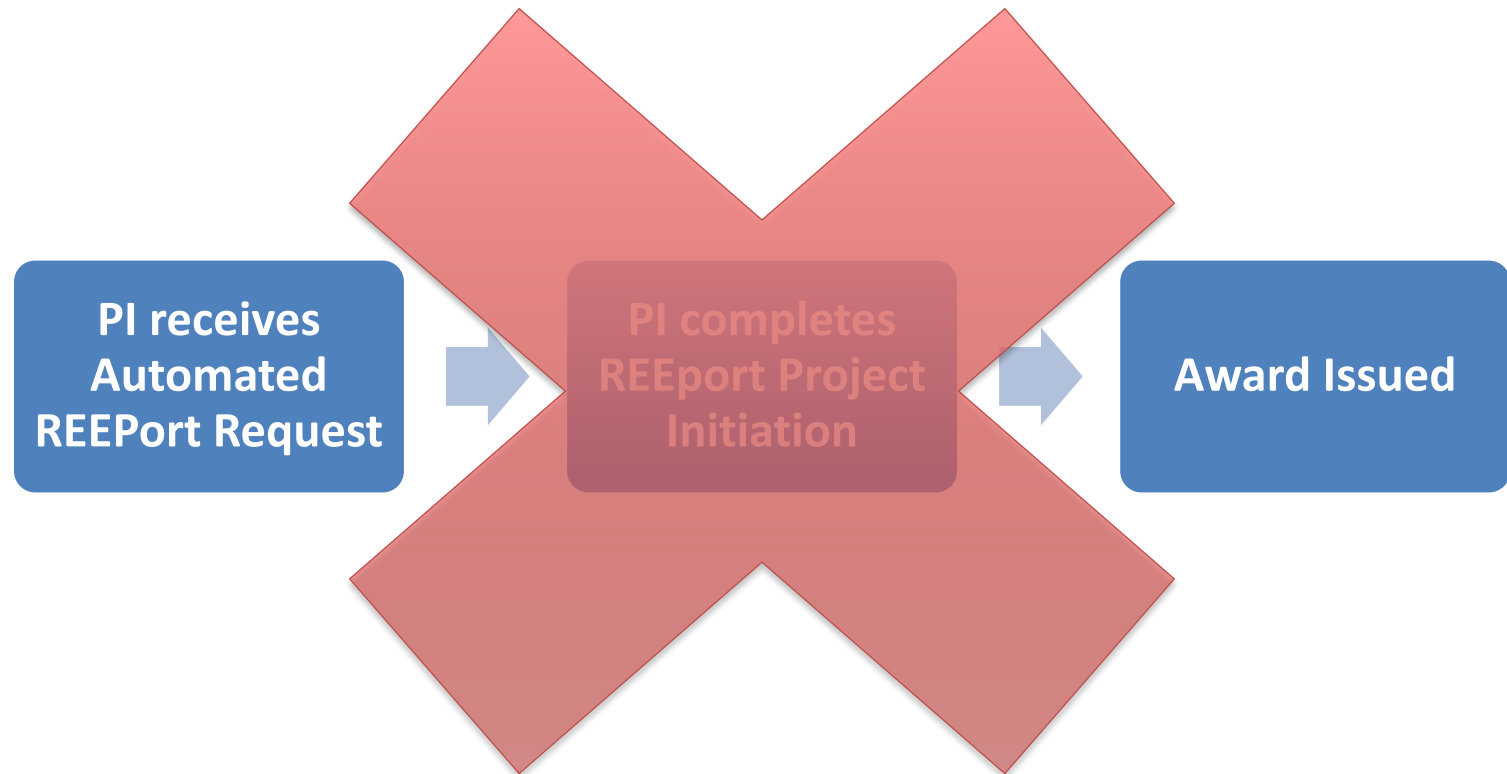


- Opportunities are typically not for research
- Look for IHE/non-profits/other public entities to provide technical assistance, training and other activities leading to the development or expansion of rural business, healthcare and infrastructure programs

POST AWARD

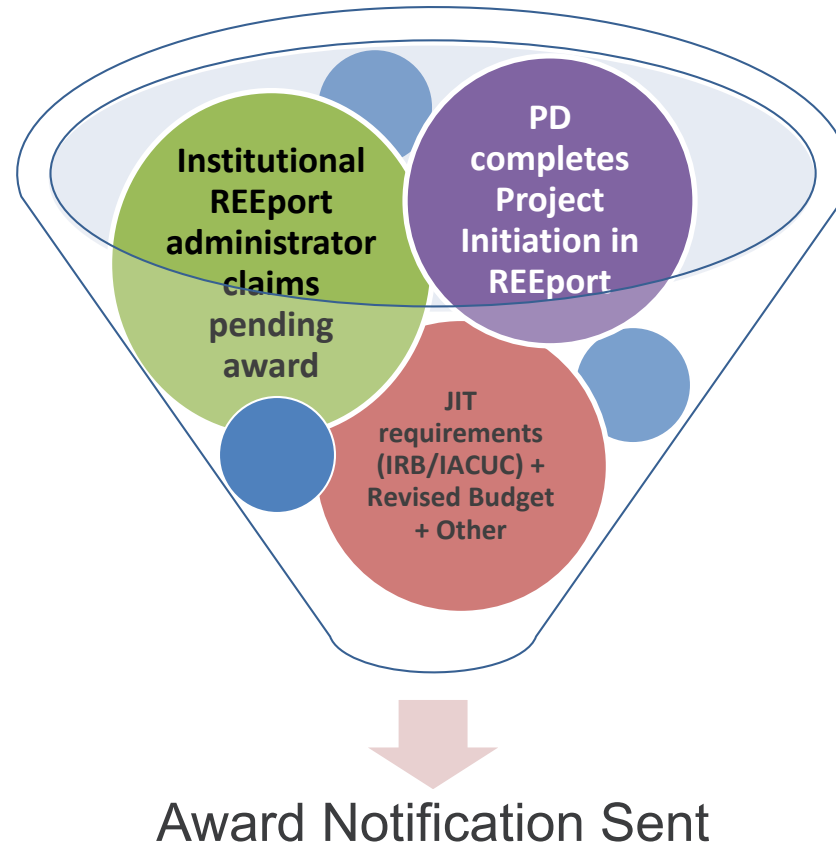
Getting Your NIFA Award

WHAT THE PI THINKS HAPPENS



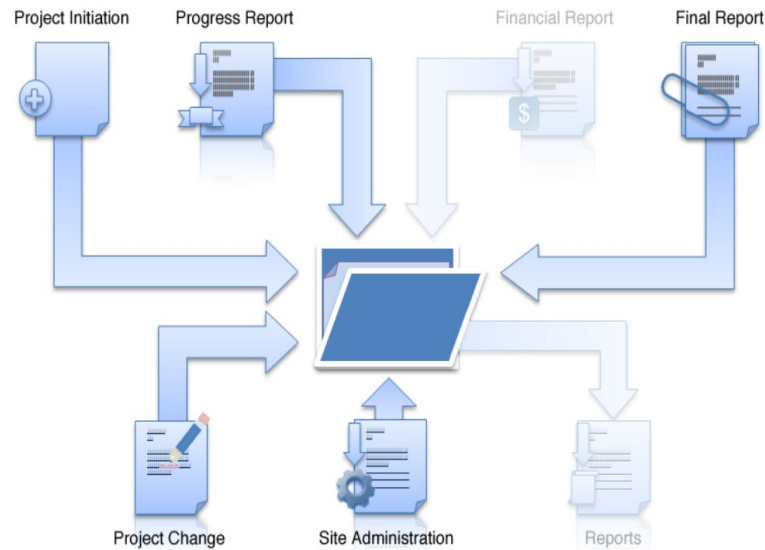
Getting Your NIFA Award

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS



REEport

- NIFA's project initiation and reporting system for formula and competitive grant funding
- Implements the RPPR
- Project must be initiated prior to USDA making an award



REEport Home Page

10% De Minimis IDCRC

If this option is selected, the application organization should submit an e-mail request to the NIFA mailbox at: electronic@nifa.usda.gov. The e-mail's subject line should read, "Request to Establish a 10% De Minimis Indirect Cost Rate".

Acceptance of the 10 percent de minimis rate is predicated upon the following conditions:

- 1) the non-Federal entity has never received a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) from a Federal agency and is therefore eligible for the 10 percent de minimis rate;
- 2) that no costs other than those incurred by the non-Federal entity will be recovered by using the 10 percent de minimis rate and such costs are legal obligations of the non-Federal entity,
- 3) that the same costs that have been treated as indirect costs have not been claimed as direct costs, and
- 4) that similar types of costs have been accorded consistent treatment.

<https://nifa.usda.gov/indirect-costs>

10% De Minimis IDCR cont.

May require a form to be completed by the subrecipient and signed by the application organization

SUBAWARDEE AWARD ELECTION OF 10 PERCENT DE MINIMIS INDIRECT COST RATE				
ORGANIZATION: ABC Organization 800 9th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20004		DATE: February 9, XXXX		
10 PERCENT DE MINIMIS INDIRECT COST RATE				
NAME	EFFECTIVE PERIOD FROM TO	RATE	BASE	
INDIRECT COSTS	01/01/15 UNTIL AMENDED	10%	(A)	
Rate Application Base:				
(A) Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC). MTDC means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards under the award). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000.				
NOTES & GENERAL TERMS				
APPLICABILITY AND TYPE OF RATE: The 10 percent de minimis rate is for use on subawards with prime recipients of direct awards from the Federal government to which 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards) applies. Once elected, the 10 percent de minimis rate must be used consistently for all subawards received by the non-Federal entity from the prime recipient until such time as the non-Federal entity negotiates for a rate with the prime recipient or a Federal agency.				
LIMITATIONS: Use of the 10 percent de minimis rate is subject to any applicable contractual or award limitations. Acceptance of the 10 percent de minimis rate is predicated upon the following conditions: (1) the non-Federal entity has never received a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) from a Federal agency and is therefore eligible for the 10 percent de minimis rate; (2) that no costs other than those incurred by the non-Federal entity will be recovered by using the 10 percent de minimis rate and such costs are legal obligations of the non-Federal entity; (3) that the same costs that have been treated as indirect costs have not been claimed as direct costs; and (4) that similar types of costs have been accorded consistent treatment.				
AUDIT: All costs, direct and indirect, Federal, and non-Federal are subject to audit. As a result, adjustments to subawards (grants and contracts) may result from audits.				

ORGANIZATION: ABC Organization	
NOTIFICATION TO FEDERAL AGENCIES: Copies of this document may be provided to other Federal offices as a means of notifying them of the non-Federal entity's election of the 10 percent de minimis rate.	
BY THE ORGANIZATION:	ON BEHALF OF:
Subrecipient Name	(Federal Grantee Name)
(Signature)	(Signature)
(Name)	(Name)
(Title)	(Title)
(Date)	(Date)
Telephone: (xxx) xxx-xxxx	

NIFA Award Terms and Conditions

Generally, no prior approval needed for:

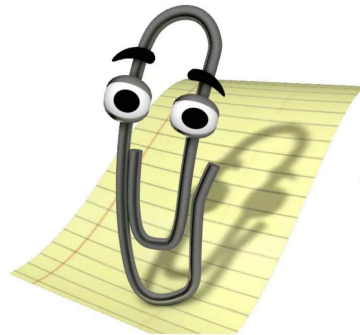
- Revision of budget and program plans
- Carry Forward of unobligated balances
- Fixed amount subawards
- Direct charge of administrative and clerical staff
- Pre-award costs
- Participant support costs
- Equipment over \$5K
- First NCE, up to 1 year



Per NIFA General Terms and Conditions, October 2016

NIFA Prior Approval

- More than 50% of the work subcontracted
- Additional NCE or NCE of more than 12 months
- Extension of SF-425 deadline



It looks like you want
to charge salary to
the award.

Would you like help?

Compliance

- USDA is holding up awards until IACUC and IRB approvals are received (NIFA)
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- USDA enforces Animal Welfare Act
- Tracking cost-share obligations

Auditing

USDA considerations for audit selection process:

- No previous NIFA audits
- Amount of annual funding
- Request from a National Program Leader, Awards Management Division, or the University/Institution
- Significant/unresolved A-133 audit findings
- OIG Hotline/whistleblower Complaints

Acknowledgements



Jane Burns

Interim Director & Compliance Officer
Office of Sponsored Programs
The University of Tennessee
Institute of Agriculture
janeburns@utk.edu

UTIA Office of Sponsored Program team: Cathy Creswell, Kathy Dalton, Elizabeth Hebert, Karin Langan, Everly Manes & DeeDee Wilder.

Questions?



Contacts

Will Helmrath

Helmrath@utk.edu

Additional Resources / Information

Grant Eligibility Charts

- Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Combined%20Grants%20Decision%20Trees.pdf>
- Strengthening Grant Eligibility
https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/flow_chart_strengthen_eligibility.pdf
- Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Loans & Grants <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency>

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agencies

- Agricultural Marketing Service ([AMS](#))
- Agricultural Research Service ([ARS](#))
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ([APHIS](#))
- Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion ([CNPP](#))
- Economic Research Service ([ERS](#))
- Farm Service Agency ([FSA](#))
- Food and Nutrition Service ([FNS](#))
- Food Safety and Inspection Service ([FSIS](#))
- Foreign Agricultural Service ([FAS](#))
- Forest Service ([FS](#))
- Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration ([GIPSA](#))
- National Agricultural Library ([NAL](#))
- National Agricultural Statistics Service ([NASS](#))
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture ([NIFA](#))
- Natural Resources Conservation Service ([NRCS](#))
- Risk Management Agency ([RMA](#))
- Rural Development ([RD](#))

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Offices

- Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships ([link](#))
- Departmental Management ([DM](#))
- National Appeals Division ([NAD](#))
- Office of Advocacy and Outreach ([OAO](#))
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights ([OASCR](#))
- Office of Budget and Program Analysis ([OBPA](#))
- Office of the Chief Economist ([OCE](#))
- Office of the Chief Financial Officer ([OCFO](#))
- Office of the Chief Information Officer ([OCIO](#))
- Office of the Chief Scientist ([OCS](#))
- Office of Communications ([OC](#))
- Office of Congressional Relations ([OCR](#))
- Office of Ethics ([OE](#))
- Office of Environmental Markets ([OEM](#))
- Office of the Executive Secretariat ([OES](#))
- Office of the General Counsel ([OGC](#))
- Office of Inspector General ([OIG](#))
- Office of the Ombudsperson ([link](#))
- Office of Tribal Relations ([OTR](#))

ezFedGrants

“ezFedGrants is the USDA solution that will let you apply for and manage USDA grants and agreements online. It’s USDA’s OMB Circular A-123 system of record for processing Federal financial assistance transactions.”

Current USDA Agency users:

- APHIS (currently non-competitive only)
 - Submitting “suggestions” that then get put into ezFedGrant as a non-competitive call.
- FAS (competitive/non-competitive)
- NIFA (Capacity Funds, not for proposal submission)