



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
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# NIFA/USDA Update

Federal Demonstration  
Partnership Meeting  
September 2015

# USDA Enterprise Solution for Grants Management

- Builds on and integrates with USDA's financial management system (FMMI)
- Approximately 10 USDA agencies using, designing, or exploring the use of the system



# NIFA Release #1

- FY 2017 Capacity Awards will be processed through the system
- Work scheduled to start September 2015 and be finished before October 2016
- Applicants will continue to apply through [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) and be paid through ASAP



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# New Capacity Award Process

## WILL INCLUDE

- Financial and Admin Functions
  - *Award Submission*
  - *Award Creation*
  - *Amendment*
  - *Closeout*
  - *Self service portal for applicants*

## WILL NOT INCLUDE Changes to

- Reporting:
  - *Plan of Work*
  - *REERPort*



# Additional Efforts

- Grants.gov Integration (*USDA-wide effort*)
- Application Review Process/Peer Review system (*USDA-wide effort*)
- ASAP Integration
- Competitive programs will be phased in during FYs 2017 & 2018



# Update – Farm Bill Implementation

- Centers of Excellence (Section 7128)
  - First FY15 awards with Center of Excellence designation are being made
  - FY16 RFAs will continue to provide priority funding across competitive research and extension programs
  - Stakeholder feedback webinars were held Aug. 27 and Sept. 3 to inform the rulemaking process
    - Written comments on the implementation strategy should be sent to [centers@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:centers@nifa.usda.gov) by Sept. 30



# Update – Farm Bill Implementation

- Commodity Boards for AFRI (Section 7404)
  - Commodity boards were invited to propose topics for AFRI's RFA – 100% match required
    - RFA deadline for FY 2016 is Sept. 22
  - Once topics have been evaluated, commodity boards will be notified and selected topics will be incorporated into FY 2016 AFRI RFAs
    - PDs seeking co-funding under these topics will be required to submit letters of support from commodity boards



# Update – Farm Bill Implementation

- New Matching Requirement of 100%
  - Guidance published on NIFA's website describing covered competitive programs, process for requesting a waiver
  - Majority of grantees excepted with no waiver needed
    - Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture can be certified, excepted – public with 4 year food and ag science degrees
    - List of certified Non-Land-Grants is available at <http://nifa.usda.gov/resource/nlgca-list>





# NIFA Policy Guide

- Comprehensive guidance document
- To undergo annual revision
- Comments to:
  - [policyguide@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:policyguide@nifa.usda.gov)



# Award Terms and Conditions

- Multi–agency Overlay Effort
- USDA Department-wide Grant and Cooperative Agreement General Terms and Conditions
  - NIFA-specific award terms
- NIFA Specific Award Terms
  - <http://nifa.usda.gov/terms-and-conditions>
  - July 27, 2015 memo
  - September 2015 memo



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# Award Notifications

- Batching Process
- July 20 – August 25
- Required a System Reboot
- Improvement of Internal Controls



# Progress/Financial Report Letters

- Letters sent about reports becoming due/overdue
- New language
  - Awardees must submit periodic technical and financial reports to NIFA to ensure proper stewardship of federal funds. Failure to submit this report may impact the availability of future grant funds or the approval of post-award actions.



# RFAs to be released in Sept '15

- Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI)
- Minor Crop Pest Management Program Interregional Research Project #4 (IR-4)
- Organic Transitions
- Higher Education Challenge (HEC)
- Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Ag in the K-12 Classroom Challenge (SPECA)

<http://nifa.usda.gov/request-application-rfa-schedule>



# Questions?

- Awards Management Division
  - (202) 401-4986
- Financial Operations Division
  - (202) 401-4527
- Policy and Oversight Division
  - (202) 205-5667
- Office of Grants and Financial Management
  - Cynthia Montgomery, Deputy Director  
(202) 401-6021; [cmontgomery@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:cmontgomery@nifa.usda.gov)