

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**National Institute of Food and Agriculture****Notice of Intent To Extend and Revise a Previously Approved Information Collection**

AGENCY: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, this notice announces the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) intention to extend and revise a previously approved information collection, entitled *NIFA Application Kit*.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by September 5, 2025 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Givens, 816-527-5379, Laura.Givens@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: NIFA Application Kit.

OMB Control Number: 0524-0039.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: 8/31/2025.

Type of Request: Notice of intent to extend and revise a previously approved information collection for three years.

Abstract: NIFA sponsors ongoing agricultural research, extension and education programs under which competitive, formula (capacity), and special awards of a high-priority nature are made. Because competitive applications are submitted, many of which necessitate review by peer panelists, it is important that applicants provide the information in a standardized process to ensure consistency for all applicants. Standardization is also important to applicants in other programs as it creates a more efficient process and minimizes administrative burden. For this reason, NIFA uses standard forms in the SF-424 Research and Related (R&R) form category which includes agency-specific forms for the application process. NIFA issues

Requests for Application (RFAs) that include the instructions for preparation and submission of applications. NIFA requires submission of applications electronically through *Grants.gov*.

The forms and narrative information are mainly used for application evaluation and administration purposes. While some of the information is used to respond to inquiries from Congress and other government agencies, the forms are not designed to be statistical surveys.

NIFA is proposing to revise the collection by adding the "NIFA Disclosure of Foreign Relationships" form. This form will allow NIFA to perform legislatively mandated Due Diligence of Foreign Influence review of USDA's SBIR and STTR applicants. NIFA also proposes to add new general support templates that address confidentiality, conflict of interest, and summaries germane to the application submission. NIFA is also requesting approval to use additional OMB Research and Related (R&R) Common forms as part of this collection.

NIFA is seeking to make minor revisions to previously approved forms for purposes of making the forms easier to understand and use.

Finally, NIFA proposes to retire the "NIFA Entry/Exit Fellowship Form," which is used to document demographic data, program progress, and performance outcomes of fellow/scholar recipients.

Respondents: Universities, non-profit institutions, State, local, or Tribal government, and a limited number of for-profit institutions and individuals.

Estimated Number of Respondents by form:

Letter of Intent: 3,000.

Form NIFA-2008 Assurance

Statement(s): 3,000.

Supplemental Information: 6,000.

AFRI Project Type: 2,500.

Foreign Disclosure Form: 3,000.

The individual form burden is as follows (calculated based on a survey of grant applicants conducted by NIFA):

Letter of Intent: 2 hours.

Form NIFA-2008 Assurance

Statement(s): 30 minutes.

Supplemental Information: 2 hours.

AFRI Project Type: 15 minutes.

Foreign Disclosure Form: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on the public for all forms: 18,354 hours.

Frequency of Respondents: Annually.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's

estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request to OMB for approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Obtaining a Copy of the Information Collection: A copy of the information collection and related instructions may be obtained free of charge by contacting Laura Givens as directed above.

Drenda Williams,

Associate Director for Operations, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 2025-12606 Filed 7-7-25; 8:45 am]

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AGENCY: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations this notice announces the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) intention to extend and revise a previously approved information collection, entitled *NIFA Proposal Review Process*.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by September 8, 2025 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Givens, 816-527-5379, Laura.Givens@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: NIFA Proposal Review Process.

OMB Control Number: 0524–0041.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: 9/30/2025.

Type of Request: Notice of intent to extend and revise a previously approved information collection. The burden for this collection remains unchanged.

NIFA is requesting a three-year extension for the current collection entitled “NIFA Proposal Review Process.”

NIFA is also proposing to update the collection so that the previously approved Reviewer Questionnaire, as well as the Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Certification Form are both available on NIFA’s Peer Review System (PRS) web-based portal. Additionally, NIFA is proposing some minor updates to the wording of questions in the Reviewer Questionnaire to ensure that peer review panels have the required scientific and technical expertise while remaining in compliance with statistical directives from OMB.

Abstract: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is responsible for performing a review of proposals submitted to NIFA competitive award programs in accordance with section 103(a) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, 7 U.S.C. 7613(a). Reviews are undertaken to ensure that projects supported by NIFA are of high quality and are consistent with the goals and requirements of the funding program.

Proposals submitted to NIFA undergo a programmatic evaluation to determine justification of Federal support. The evaluations consist of a peer panel review and may also entail an assessment by Federal employees and electronically submitted (ad-hoc) reviews in the Peer Review System.

The information collected from the evaluations is used to support NIFA grant programs. NIFA uses the results of the proposal evaluation to determine whether a proposal should be declined or recommended for award. When NIFA has rendered a decision, copies of reviews (excluding the names of the reviewers) and summaries of review panel deliberations, if any, are provided to the submitting Project Director.

Given the highly technical nature of many of these proposals, the quality of the peer review greatly depends on the appropriate matching of the subject matter of the proposal with the scientific and technical expertise of the potential reviewer. To obtain this information, an electronic questionnaire is used to collect information about

potential panel and ad-hoc reviewers. If the reviewer is already in the NIFA database, the questionnaire asks potential reviewers to update their basic biographical information including address, contact information, professional expertise, and their availability to review for NIFA in the future. If the reviewer is new, they are prompted to complete the questionnaire. This information has been invaluable in the NIFA review process, which has been recognized by the grantee and grantor community for its quality.

The applications and associated materials made available to reviewers, as well as the discussions that take place during panel review meetings, are strictly confidential and are not to be disclosed to or discussed with anyone who has not been officially designated to participate in the review process. While each panelist certifies at the time of preparing a review they do not have a conflict-of-interest with a particular application and will maintain its confidentiality in the Peer Review System, a certification of their intent at the time of the panel review proceedings is collected to emphasize and reinforce confidentiality not only of applications and reviews but also panel discussions. On the Conflict-of-Interest and Confidentiality Certification form, the panelist affirms they understand the conflict-of-interest guidelines and will not be involved in the review of the application(s) where a conflict exists. The panelist also affirms their intent to maintain the confidentiality of the panel process and not disclose to another individual any information related to the peer review or use any information for personal benefit.

Estimate of Burden:

Estimated number of respondents by form/process:

Reviewer Questionnaire: 1,000.

Conflict-of-Interest and

Confidentiality Certification: 1,000.

Proposal Review Process: 4,600.

The individual form/process burden hours are as follows:

Reviewer Questionnaire: 167 hours.

Conflict-of-Interest and

Confidentiality Certification: 167 hours.

Proposal Review Process: 92,000 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on the public for all forms and processes: 92,334 hours.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency’s

estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request to OMB for approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Obtaining a Copy of the Information Collection: A copy of the information collection and related instructions may be obtained free of charge by contacting Laura Givens as directed above.

Drenda Williams,

Associate Director for Operations, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

[Docket No. RHS–25–CF–0006]

Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) for Fiscal Year 2025

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service (RHS or the Agency), a Rural Development (RD) agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), announces the acceptance of applications under the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) program for fiscal year (FY) 2025. Approximately \$5 million in funding is available for FY 2025. These grants will be made to qualified intermediary organizations that will provide financial and Technical assistance to Recipients to develop their capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development that will support the community. Applicants are responsible for any expenses incurred in developing their applications.

DATES: Completed applications must be submitted using one of the following methods:

- *Paper submissions:* Paper applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. local time by the Rural Development State Office where the