

Implementation Plans

NIFA plans to consider stakeholder input received from this public meeting as well as other written comments in developing the FY 2013 program guidelines. NIFA anticipates releasing the FY 2013 Request for Applications (RFA) by winter 2012–13.

Done at Washington, DC, this 25th day of January 2012.

Chavonda Jacobs-Young,

Acting Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 2012–2106 Filed 1–31–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Solicitation of Input From Stakeholders Regarding the Capacity Building Grants for Non Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture Institutions Program

AGENCY: National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for stakeholder input.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is implementing a newly funded competitive grants program called the Capacity Building Grants for Non Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture (NLGCA) Institutions Program. By this notice, NIFA is designated to act on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture in soliciting public comments and stakeholder input from interested parties regarding the development of the Capacity Building Grants for NLGCA Institutions Program.

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 26, 2012, from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.. All comments must be received by close of business on March 19, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in room 1410A–D, Waterfront Centre Building, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 800 9th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024. Meeting participants will need to provide photo identification to be admitted to the building. Please allow sufficient time to go through security.

You may submit comments, identified by NIFA–2012–0002, by any of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Email: tpowell@nifa.usda.gov. Include NIFA–2012–0002 in the subject line of the message.

Fax: (202) 720–2030.

Mail: Paper, disk or CD–ROM submissions should be submitted to NLGCA; Institute of Youth, Family, and Community; Division of Community and Education; National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2251, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–2251.

Hand Delivery/Courier: NLGCA, Institute of Youth, Family, and Community; Division of Community and Education, National Institute of Food and Agriculture; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4449, Waterfront Centre, 800 9th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and reference to NIFA–2012–0002. All comments received will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Tamia Powell, (202) 720–1973 (phone), (202) 720–2030 (fax), or tpowell@nifa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional Meeting and Comment Procedures

Persons wishing to present oral comments at the March 26th, meeting is requested to pre-register by contacting Ms. Powell as directed above. Participants may reserve one 10-minute comment. More time may be available, depending on the number of people wishing to make a presentation and the time needed for questions following presentations. Reservations will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. All other attendees may register at the meeting. All comments must be received by close of business March 19, 2012, to be considered. All comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when they become available, may be reviewed on the NIFA web page for six months. Participants who require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should contact Ms. Tamia Powell as directed above.

Background and Purpose

Section 1473F of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA), (7 U.S.C. 3319i), authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make competitive grants to assist the NLGCA Institutions in maintaining and expanding their capacity to conduct education, research, and outreach activities relating to agriculture, renewable resources, and other similar disciplines.

NIFA is holding a public meeting to obtain comments to use in developing the Request for Applications (RFA) for the newly funded NGLCA. The meeting is open to the public. Written comments and suggestions may be submitted at the address above.

Summary of Non Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture

For fiscal year (FY) 2012, \$5 million has been made available for the Capacity Building Grants for NLGCA Institutions program. NLGCA program funds will support efforts to maintain and expand the capacity of the NLGCA Institution to successfully compete for funds from Federal grants and other sources to carry out educational, research, and outreach activities that address priority concerns of national, regional, State, and local interest; to disseminate information relating to priority concerns to interested members of the agriculture, renewable resources, and other relevant communities; the public; and any other interested entity; and to encourage members of the agriculture, renewable resources, and other relevant communities to participate in priority education, research, and outreach activities by providing matching funding to leverage grant funds.

Implementation Plans

NIFA plans to consider stakeholder input received from this public meeting for developing the RFA. NIFA anticipates releasing a Request for Applications (RFA) by mid-May 2012.

Done at Washington, DC, this 25 day of January 2012.

Chavonda Jacobs-Young,

Acting Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 2012–2101 Filed 1–31–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Solicitation of Input From Stakeholders Regarding the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

AGENCY: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for stakeholder input.

SUMMARY: In Fiscal Year 2009, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), created a new research, education, and extension program called the Agriculture and

Food Research Initiative (AFRI), pursuant to the requirements of section 7406 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. In September of 2008 and June of 2010, NIFA solicited public comment from persons who use or conduct research, extension, or education regarding the implementing regulation to be developed for this new program. In addition, NIFA published an Interim Final Rule with request for comments regarding program-specific administrative provisions for the AFRI as subpart G of 7 CFR 3430, Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-Formula Federal Assistance Programs—General Award Administrative Provisions and Specific Administrative Provisions in the **Federal Register** on September 9, 2010 [75 FR 54759–54766]. It is anticipated that the Final Rule will be published in the **Federal Register** with request for comments within 90 days of this **Federal Register** notice.

In an effort to improve the quality of the AFRI program, NIFA is again holding a public meeting and soliciting public comments for consideration in the development of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 AFRI program solicitations and the FY 2014 Budget. All written comments received prior to the AFRI Listening Session on February 22, 2012, may be utilized in a question and response document and/or responded to during the session held on February 22, 2012 based on the applicability of the comment to the general population of AFRI stakeholders. However, all comments must be received by close of business on March 22, 2012, to be considered in the initial drafting of FY 2013 AFRI program solicitation documents.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2012, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern Standard Time (EST). All written comments must be received by 5 p.m. EST on Thursday, March 22, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in room 1410A–D, Waterfront Centre Building, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture, 800 9th Street SW., Washington, DC 20024. Meeting participants will need to provide photo identification to be admitted to the building. Please allow sufficient time to go through security.

You may submit comments, identified by NIFA–2012–0004, by any of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Email: AFRI@nifa.usda.gov. Include NIFA–2012–0004 in the subject line of the message.

Fax: (202) 401–6488.

Mail: Paper, disk or CD–ROM submissions should be submitted to AFRI, Institute of Food Production and Sustainability (IFPS), National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 2220, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–2220.

Hand Delivery/Courier: AFRI, IFPS, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 3444, Waterfront Centre, 800 9th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and reference to NIFA–2012–0004. All comments received will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Terri Joya, (202) 401–1282 (phone), (202) 401–6488 (fax), or tjoya@nifa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional Meeting and Comment Procedures

Persons wishing to present oral comments at the Wednesday, February 22, 2012 meeting are requested to pre-register by contacting Ms. Terri Joya at (202) 401–1282, by fax at (202) 401–6488 or by email to tjoya@nifa.usda.gov. Participants may reserve one 5-minute comment period. More time may be available, depending on the number of people wishing to make a presentation and the time needed for questions following presentations. Reservations will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. All other attendees may register at the meeting. Written comments may also be submitted for the record at the meeting. All comments must be received by close of business March 22, 2012, to be considered. All comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when they become available, may be reviewed on the NIFA Web page, http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri_listen_session.html, for six months. Participants who require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should contact Ms. Joya as directed above.

Additional Program-specific webinars will occur after the public meeting to obtain public comments for use in developing the following activities: Foundational priority areas; Childhood Obesity Prevention; Climate Change; Food Safety; Global Food Security; Sustainable Bioenergy; and NIFA

Fellowships Grant Program. The date and time for each webinar will be posted to the following URL: http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri_faq_webinars.html.

Background and Purpose

Section 7406 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110–246) (*i.e.*, the 2008 Farm Bill) amends subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a new competitive grant program to provide funding for fundamental and applied research, extension, and education to address food and agricultural sciences. AFRI supersedes the National Research Initiative. AFRI Grants shall be awarded to address priorities in United States agriculture in the following areas: (A) Plant health and production and plant products; (B) Animal health and production and animal products; (C) Food safety, nutrition, and health; (D) Renewable energy, natural resources, and environment; (E) Agriculture systems and technology; and (F) Agriculture economics and rural communities.

To the maximum extent practicable, NIFA, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE), will make grants for high priority research, education, and extension, taking into consideration, when available, the determinations made by the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board. The authority to carry out this program has been delegated to NIFA through the Undersecretary for REE.

The program authorizes grants for FY 2009–12, of which the Secretary may retain no more than 4 percent for administrative costs. Funds will be available for obligation for a two-year period beginning in the fiscal year for which funds are first made available. Grants will be awarded on the basis of merit, quality, and relevance and may have terms of up to 10 years.

Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out the AFRI program, the Secretary may award grants to State agricultural experiment stations; colleges and universities; university research foundations; other research institutions and organizations; Federal agencies; national laboratories; private organizations or corporations; individuals; or any group consisting of two or more of the aforementioned entities. Please see the details in the Request for Applications.

NIFA is holding a public meeting to obtain comments to consider in developing the Fiscal Year 2013 solicitations for the AFRI competitive grants program. The meeting is open to the public. Written comments and suggestions on issues that may be considered in the meeting may be submitted to the NIFA Docket Clerk at the address above.

Implementation Plans

NIFA plans to consider stakeholder input received from this public meeting as well as other written comments in developing the Fiscal Year 2013 solicitations for this program.

Done at Washington, DC, this 25th day of January 2012.

Chavonda Jacobs-Young,

Acting Director National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 2012-2100 Filed 1-31-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Inviting Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program Applications for Grants To Provide Technical Assistance for Rural Transportation Systems

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), an Agency within the USDA Rural Development mission area, announces the availability of two individual grants: one single \$500,000 grant from the rural transportation funds appropriated for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program and another single \$250,000 grant for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes (FRNAT) from funds appropriated for the RBEG program. RBS will administer these awards under the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program and 7 U.S.C. 1932(c)(2) for fiscal year (FY) 2012. Each grant is to be competitively awarded to an eligible applicant which historically has been a qualified national non-profit organization. One grant is for the provision of technical assistance to rural transportation (RT) projects and that the other grant will be for the provision of technical assistance to RT projects operated by FRNATs only.

Expenses incurred in developing applications will be at the applicant's risk.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of applications in the USDA Rural Development State Office is no later than 4:30 p.m. (local time) on April 2, 2012. Applications received at a USDA Rural Development State Office after that date will not be considered for FY 2012 funding.

ADDRESSES: Entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact the appropriate USDA Rural Development State Office to receive copies of the application package. A list of the USDA Rural Development State Offices addresses and telephone numbers are as follows:

Alabama

USDA Rural Development State Office, Sterling Centre, Suite 601, 4121 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL 36106-3683, (334) 279-3400/TDD (334) 279-3495.

Alaska

USDA Rural Development State Office, 800 West Evergreen, Suite 201, Palmer, AK 99645-6539, (907) 761-7707/TDD (907) 761-8905.

Arizona

USDA Rural Development State Office, 230 North First Avenue, Suite 206, Phoenix, AZ 85003-1706, (602) 280-8702/TDD (602) 280-8705.

Arkansas

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, 700 West Capitol Avenue, Room 3416, Little Rock, AR 72201-3225, (501) 301-3200/TDD (501) 301-3279.

California

USDA Rural Development State Office, 430 G Street, Agency 4169, Davis, CA 95616-4169, (530) 792-5800/TDD (530) 792-5848.

Colorado

USDA Rural Development State Office, Denver Federal Center, Building 56, Room 2300, P.O. Box 25426, Denver, CO 80225-0426, (720) 544-2903/TDD (800) 659-3656.

Delaware-Maryland

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1221 College Park Drive, Suite 200, Dover, DE 19904, (302) 857-3580/TDD (302) 857-3585.

Florida/Virgin Islands

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4440 NW 25th Place, P.O. Box 147010, Gainesville, FL 32614-7010, (352) 338-3400/TDD (352) 338-3499.

Georgia

USDA Rural Development State Office, Stephens Federal Building, 355 East Hancock Avenue, Stop 300, Athens, GA 30601-2768, (706) 546-2162/TDD (706) 546-2034.

Hawaii

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 311, 154

Waiuanue Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720, (808) 933-8302/TDD (808) 933-8321.

Idaho

USDA Rural Development State Office, 9173 West Barnes Drive, Suite A1, Boise, ID 83709, (208) 378-5601/TDD (208) 378-5644.

Illinois

USDA Rural Development State Office, 2118 West Park Court, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821, (217) 403-6201/TDD (217) 403-6240.

Indiana

USDA Rural Development State Office, 5975 Lakeside Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46278, (317) 290-3100 ext. 4/TDD (317) 290-3343.

Iowa

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 873, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309, (515) 284-4663/TDD (515) 284-4858.

Kansas

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-4040, (785) 271-2777/TDD (785) 271-2767.

Kentucky

USDA Rural Development State Office, 771 Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40503, (859) 224-7300/TDD (859) 224-7422.

Louisiana

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, LA 71302, (318) 473-7920/TDD (318) 473-7655.

Maine

USDA Rural Development State Office, 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, P.O. Box 405, Bangor, ME 04402-0405, (207) 990-9161/TDD (207) 942-7331.

Massachusetts/Rhode Island/Connecticut

USDA Rural Development State Office, 451 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002-2999, (413) 253-4302/TDD (413) 253-4590.

Michigan

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200, East Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 324-5190/TDD (517) 324-5169.

Minnesota

USDA Rural Development State Office, 410 Farm Credit Service Building, 375 Jackson Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-1853, (651) 602-7800/TDD (651) 602-3799.

Mississippi

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Suite 831, 100 West Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39269, (601) 965-4211/TDD (601) 965-5850.

Missouri

USDA Rural Development State Office, 601 Business Loop 70 West, Parkade Center, Suite 235, Columbia, MO 65203, (573) 876-0987/TDD (573) 876-9480.