USDA/NIFA: Education Grants+

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USDA’s Education Portfolio
Spans Across Several Agencies

COMMON THEMES:
- Learning and Engagement
  - Internships, research experiences
    - Capacity Building
  - Workforce Development
- Educational Campaigns and Outreach
  - Workshops, seminars and trainings

- Rural Development
- Agricultural Research Service
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Economic Research Service
- Farm Service Agency
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- National Agricultural Statistics Service
- Forest Service
- Food Safety and Inspection Service
- Food and Nutrition Service
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

USDA’s principal extramural scientific research, education and extension agency

Research: to develop the knowledge to address national challenges

Education: to strengthen schools and universities that train the next generation of scientists, educators and producers

Extension: to bring knowledge gained through research and education to the public

nifa.usda.gov
National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

Mission: to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities

Annual Appropriation
~ $1.4 Billion

nifa.usda.gov
Education Strategies

- **Curriculum Development**
- **Improving Instructional Delivery Systems**
- **Expanding Student Career Opportunities**
- **Increasing Faculty Teaching Competencies**
- **Facilitating Institutional Collaborations**
Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom (SPECA) Challenge

Grants to institutions to promote and strengthen K-14 education in the food, agricultural, natural resources, and human sciences through:

- Curriculum Development, Instructional Delivery Systems and Expanding Student Career Opportunities
- Faculty preparation and enhancement for teaching.
- Interaction with Other Academic Institutions and Industry
- 100% Matching Requirement (HSACUS are exempt)

Award Max: $300,000
% Funded: 20%
Deadline: March 10, 2017
Planning Activity: $25,000.

Collaborative 1 (Applicant +1): $150,000

Regular Project (Single Institution): $50,000

Collaborative 2 (Applicant +2): $300,000
Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom (SPECA) Challenge Grants Program

- Total FY17 Funding Amount: $858,500
- Project Duration: 2-3 years
- Resources online: Applicant FAQs, Webinar Recording; Webinar FAQs
- Questions: K-14@nifa.usda.gov

nifa.usda.gov (search “SPECA”)
Higher Education Challenge ($1.2 Million)

Grants to colleges and universities to improve formal, baccalaureate or master’s degree level food, agricultural, natural resources, and human sciences education and first professional degree-level education in veterinary medicine (DVM).

- Curriculum Development, Instructional Delivery Systems and Expanding Student Career Opportunities
- Faculty preparation and enhancement for teaching.
- Facilitating Interaction with Other Academic Institutions

Award Max: $ 750,000
Contact: Antonio McLaren
Funded: 20%
RFA Release/Deadline: TBD
Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields (WAMS) Grants Program

$400,000

Grants to educational institutions, private organizations, and others, to support research and extension projects that increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in the context of food, agricultural, natural resources, and human sciences.

Award Max: $ 100,000
Contact: Victoria LeBeaux

Funded: 20%
RFA Release/Deadline: TBD
Hispanic-Serving Institutions

CFDA: 10.223

• Increase the diversity of the food and agricultural scientific and professional workforce
• Collaborations with employers and other academic institutions are encouraged

Award Range: Up to $500,000
Percent Funded: 6%
Applications Due: March 2017
Multicultural Scholars

- Scholarships (undergraduate) to encourage students from groups that are historically underrepresented to pursue and complete baccalaureate degrees in the Food, Agricultural, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences, or achieve a D.V.M.
- Any combination of 2-, 3-, and/or 4-year scholarships
- $6,500 /student/year, for up to four years + $2,500 /student/year for cost of education allowance
- Student Experiential Learning (SEL) – One-time $4,000 for each eligible USDA MSP Scholar
- Grants are given to Colleges and Universities.

Award Max: $200,000
Contact: Dr. Ray Ali
Funded: 24%
Deadline: TBD
National Needs Fellows

- Fellowships for MS & Doctoral level students in areas of specified, national need
- MS - $18,500 /student/year, for 2 years
- PhD - $24,500 /student/year, for 3 years
- Special (supplemental) International Study Stipend for current fellow up to $4,500 /MS student and $8,000 /PhD student
- Grants are given to Colleges and Universities.

Award Max: $262,500  
Funded: 21%  
Contact: Dr. Ray Ali  
Deadline: TBD
Why you should apply for other grants at NIFA:

Total Appropriation
~$1,430,000,000
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Competitive Grants Program (~$350 Million)

Funds research, education, extension, and integrated grants that address key problems of National, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of agriculture, including ...
AFRI

- farm efficiency and profitability,
- ranching,
- renewable energy,
- forestry (both urban and agroforestry),
- aquaculture,
- rural communities and entrepreneurship,
- human nutrition,
- food safety,
- biotechnology,
- conventional breeding.
Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants

Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants are designed to help institutions develop competitive projects, and to attract new scientists and educators into careers in high-priority areas of national need in agriculture, food, and environmental sciences.

Approximately 10 percent of AFRI funds are made available for Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants.
Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants

Strengthening Grants are available during each funding cycle to ensure that researchers at institutions and states that are underrepresented in terms of Federal research, education, and/or extension funding receive a portion of AFRI funds.

Types of Strengthening Grants

- Sabbatical Grants
- Equipment Grants
- Seed Grants
- Strengthening Standard Grants
- Strengthening Coordinated Agricultural Project Grants
- Strengthening Conference Grants.
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), established by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill, is the nation’s premier peer reviewed competitive grants program for fundamental and applied agricultural sciences. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) awards AFRI grants to support research in six Farm Bill categories: Plant health and production and plant products; Animal health and production and animal products; Food safety, nutrition, and health; Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment; Agriculture systems and technology; and Agriculture economics and rural communities.
AFRI Educational and Literacy Initiative (ELI)

- Professional Development for K-14 Educators (PD-STEP)
- Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU)
- NIFA Pre-doctoral Fellowships
- NIFA Postdoctoral Fellowships
AFRI Priority Areas

- Agriculture systems and technology
- Agriculture economics and rural communities
- Agricultural and Natural Resources Science
- Animal health and production and animal products
- Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment

- Food safety, nutrition, and health
- Food Safety
- Food Security
- Plant health and production and plant products
- Sustainable Bioenergy
- Water Resources
AFRI ELI

- Indirect: 30% PD-STEP; Not allowed for REEU, Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellowships
- Matching: If a funded project is commodity-specific and not of national scope, 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
Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educational Professionals (PDSTEP)

$2 million

- Provides immersive learning experiences in non-formal educational programs for K-14 educators, enabling them to identify and replicate best practices to enhance student outcomes in the FANH sciences
- Integrates innovations in science and pedagogy into teacher professional development programs
- Funds requested may include, but are not limited to, support for: K-14 participant stipends and travel; costs of continuing education units; provider personnel salaries; software; and curricula.

Award Max: $150,000
Contact: Victoria LeBeaux

% Funded: 27%
RFA Release/Deadline: TBD
Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates

Provides opportunities for undergraduate students to obtain:

- hands-on experience at land-grant and non-land-grant universities, USDA laboratories, with non-profits, and in industry
- strong mentoring, research, education and/or extension experiences required to be successful as upperclassmen and graduate students

Project costs: participant stipends, housing, meals, travel, and laboratory use fees

Award Max: $ 300,000
% Funded: 16%
Contact: Victoria LeBeaux
RFA Release/Deadline: TBD
Non-exhaustive examples of experiential projects include:

(a) research and/or extension apprenticeships, internships, or similar participatory learning

(b) practicums in agricultural laboratories, farms or Cooperative Extension Programs;

(c) externships in the private or public sector;

(d) study abroad focused on global food security issues to develop global
NIFA Pre-Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellows

$8.5 Million

- To prepare the next generation of research, education, and extension professionals.
- Focus upon
  - Technical and functional competence for predoctoral students
  - The research independence and teaching credentials of postdoctoral students
- Grants are normally provided to the predoctoral/postdoctoral scholar through the respective institution (e.g. colleges and universities).

Note: Pre-doc= Advanced to Candidacy Students/Fellows – Apply Directly (Student = the PI)

Pre Doc: $95,000
Deadline: TBD
Contact: Dr. Ray Ali

Post Doc: $152,000
RFA Release/Deadline: TBD
Funded: 17%
SARE

SARE is a Regional Program Administered by a Regional Administrative Council

- 25 Years
- about 400 projects/year
- $22,666,000/year
- 5,000+ projects to date
Community Facilities Program: USDA can provide colleges with loans and grants to construct and renovate classrooms and dormitories, and to purchase school student transportation vehicles.
USDA Rural Development

- **Distance Learning and Telemedicine** grants can cover the cost of video conferencing and distance learning equipment.
USDA Rural Development

- **Community Connect** program provides grants to build broadband infrastructure and establish community centers that offer free public access in rural areas where broadband service is least likely to be available.
USDA Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food (KYF2)
Helping communities scale up local and regional food systems and strengthen their economies.
USDA Summer Food Service Program

How To Help
- Find a site
- Sponsor a site
- Manage a site
- Raise Awareness

SFSP Tools
- Webcast Series
- Mapping Tools
- Program Guidance
- Summer Toolkit
- Best Practices
- SFSP Meal Patterns

Browse by Subject
- SFSP Fact Sheet
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Federal Register Documents
- Legislation
- Policy
- Regulations
- Expansion and Support
- Contact State Agency

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) ensures that low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. This summer, USDA plans to serve more than 200 million free meals to children 18 years and under at approved SFSP sites.

Help us ensure that no child goes hungry this summer.
Email Notifications

- **Subscribe to a specific grant opportunity**
  Receive notifications based on a Funding Opportunity Number (FON). Federal agencies assign unique FONs to their grant announcements.

- **Subscribe to saved searches for grant opportunities**
  Receive email notifications about grant opportunities associated with specific search criteria, such as funding instrument type, eligibility, and sub-agency.

- **Subscribe to new grant opportunities**
  Receive a daily email listing all new grant opportunities.
USDA: The People’s Department

Collaboration with other Federal Agencies

Land Grant Universities, Non Land Grants, Community Colleges +

- Extension
  - 4-H (Nonformal education)

USDA.gov and nifa.usda.gov

- Blogs, social media

Stakeholder Listening Sessions

Stakeholder Feedback solicited for all NIFA Grant Programs

Serve on a Award Review Panel
YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program offers the most personalized, generous scholarship and educational support to exceptionally promising students from families across the nation who have financial need. Young Scholars receive comprehensive educational advising and financial support from the 8th grade through high school to pursue their unique academic and talent goals. The application period is open from January to April. Up to 65 Young Scholars are selected for this program each year. Final notification is in the early fall.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation College Scholarship Program is an undergraduate scholarship program available to high-achieving high school seniors with financial need who seek to attend the nation’s best four-year colleges and universities. College Scholars receive up to $40,000 per year, college planning support, ongoing advising, and the opportunity to network with the larger JKCF Scholar community. The application period is open from early September to early November. Up to 40 College Scholars are selected for this program each year.

UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship is a highly-selective scholarship for the nation’s top community college students seeking to complete their bachelor’s degrees at selective four-year colleges or universities. The Foundation provides up to $40,000 per year for up to three years, making it the largest private scholarship for community college transfer students in the country. The application is now open through December 15, 2015. Up to 85 Undergraduate Transfer Scholars are selected each year.

Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Webinar

Watch the Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Informational Webinar for an overview of this program.
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Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture

To assist non-land grant colleges of agriculture (NLGCA) in maintaining and expanding their capacity to conduct education, research, and outreach activities relating to food, agriculture, natural and renewable resources, human sciences, and related disciplines

- NLGCA must be certified by NIFA

- **Project Types**
  - Conference Planning – up to $30,000
  - Regular Project – up to $150,000
  - Joint Project – up to $300,000
  - Large-Scale Project – up to $750,000
  - CFDA: 10.326

**Award Max:** $750,000  
**Deadline:** TBD  
**Contact:** Dr. Lewis