

Notice of Funding Opportunity 1890 Institution Teaching, Research, and Extension Capacity Building Grants Program

FUNDING YEAR: Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and 2027

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FY 2026: November 4, 2026
FY 2027: August 25, 2027

ANTICIPATED PROGRAM FUNDING: FY 2026: \$56,000,000
FY 2027: \$28,000,000

AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL AWARD \$50,000 - \$750,000
RANGE:

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: USDA-NIFA-CBGP-011698

ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 10.216

ANNOUNCEMENT

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture

Assistance Listing Number (ALN): The *1890 Institution Teaching, Research, and Extension Capacity Building Grants (1890 CBG) Program* is listed in the Assistance Listings under number 10.216.

Table 1: Key Dates and Deadlines

Task Description	Deadline
Application:	FY 2026: 5:00 P.M. Eastern Time, November 4, 2026 FY 2027: 5:00 P.M. Eastern Time, August 25, 2027 [Ref to Part I, B of this NOFO]
Applicants Comments:	Within six months from the issuance of this notice (NIFA may not consider comments received after the sixth month)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), to the extent permitted by law, will no longer make grants or otherwise fund programs or activities that improperly discriminate on the basis of race or sex, including discrimination in the name of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies. Instead, USDA will prioritize merit and efficiency. USDA recognizes programs and initiatives will have the greatest impact when these programs and initiatives put American farmers, ranchers, and foresters first by:

- solving the most pressing challenges they face;
- protecting America's food, fuel, and fiber supply to enhance national security;
- supporting production of healthy and safe food for consumers;
- expanding and developing domestic markets;
- training the next generation of agriculturalists; and
- fueling innovation to keep American farmers at the forefront of productivity.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is committed to advancing these principles and encourages applicants to actively engage farmers, ranchers, and foresters when applying for funding opportunities to ensure relevancy and adherence to them. NIFA also encourages agricultural leaders to engage in the peer review panel process to ensure American producers are better served through research, education, and extension activities.

Projects submitted under this NOFO should align with [USDA Secretary's Memorandum 1078-020](#) Directive on Departmental Research and Development Priorities:

1. Increasing Profitability of Farmers and Ranchers
2. Expanding Markets and Creating New Uses of U.S. Agricultural Products
3. Protecting the Integrity of American Agriculture from Invasive Species
4. Promoting Soil Health to Regenerate Long-Term Productivity of Land
5. Improving Human Health through Precision Nutrition and Food Quality

Stakeholder Input. NIFA seeks comments on all Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) so it can deliver programs efficiently, effectively, with integrity, and with a focus on customer service. NIFA considers comments to the extent possible when developing NOFOs and uses comments to help meet the requirements of Section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 ([7 U.S.C. 7613\(c\)\(2\)](#)). Applicants may submit written comments to Policy@usda.gov. Please use the following subject line: Response to the 1890 Institution Teaching, Research and Extension Capacity Building Grants Program NOFO.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NIFA requests applications for the 1890 CBG Program for FY 2026 and FY 2027 to strengthen education, research, and Extension capacity needed to advance fundamental sciences as well as applied research and development in support of food and agricultural sciences at the 1890 Land-grant Universities.

The amount available for grants in FY 2026 is approximately \$56,000,000, which includes \$28,000,000 from FY 2026 funding as well as \$28,000,000 from FY 2025 funding. The anticipated program funding for FY 2027 is \$28,000,000.

Eligible institutions may submit applications for up to sixteen Standard/Collaborative Grants, three Professional Development Grants, and one Workshop Grant per institution in FY 2026 and FY 2027. This notice identifies the objectives for 1890 CBG projects, deadlines, funding information, eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and application forms and associated instructions.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
TABLE OF CONTENTS	5
TABLE OF KEY INFORMATION.....	6
PART I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION	7
A. Legislative Authority.....	7
B. Purpose and Priorities.....	7
C. Program Area Description.....	8
PART II. AWARD INFORMATION	12
A. Available Funding	12
B. Application Restrictions	12
C. Project and Grant Types	12
D. Ethical Conduct of Funded Projects	19
PART III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION.....	20
A. Eligibility Requirements.....	20
B. Cost Sharing or Matching.....	21
PART IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION	22
A. Method of Application	22
B. Content and Form of the Application	22
C. Funding Restrictions.....	31
PART V. APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS	34
A. NIFA's Evaluation Process	34
B. Evaluation Criteria.....	34
C. Organizational Management Information.....	37
D. Application Disposition.....	37
PART VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION	38
A. General	38
B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.....	38
C. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements	38
PART VII. OTHER INFORMATION	39
A. Use of Funds and Changes in Budget.....	39
B. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards.....	40
C. Regulatory Information	40
D. Language Access Services.....	40
APPENDIX I: AGENCY CONTACT.....	41
APPENDIX II: GLOSSARY OF TERMS.....	42
APPENDIX III: DEFINITIONS	43

TABLE OF KEY INFORMATION

Table 1: Key Dates and Deadlines.....	2
Table 2: Education Projects Key Information	8
Table 3: Research Projects Key Information	9
Table 4: Extension Projects Key Information.....	10
Table 5: Integrated Projects Key Information	10
Table 7. Steps to Obtain Application Materials.....	22
Table 8: Help and Resources	22
Table 9: Key Application Instructions.....	23

PART I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority

This program is authorized in [7 U.S.C. 3152\(b\)\(4\)](#) and pursuant to annual appropriations made available specifically for the 1890 Capacity Building Program. [Section 7107 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 \(FCEA\) \(Pub. L. 110-246\)](#) amended the authority for the 1890 Capacity Building Grants Program to allow for Extension capacity building, as well as teaching and research.

B. Purpose and Priorities

The 1890 CBG program, under Assistance Listing Number 10.216 is designed specifically to build the institutional teaching, research, and extension capacities of the eligible institutions through cooperative programs with Federal and non-Federal entities. The 1890 CBG Program supports Executive Order [14283](#), “White House Initiative to Promote Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU),” in order to foster excellence and innovation at HBCUs.

The 1890 CBG Program is designed to achieve three major goals:

1. Advance the professional workforce by attracting and educating students in the food and agricultural sciences
2. Strengthen linkages among the 1890 Universities, other colleges and universities, USDA, other Federal agencies, and private industry
3. Enhance and strengthen the quality of education, research, and Extension programs at the 1890 Universities to establish them as full partners in the U.S. food and agricultural sciences higher education system

1890 CBG Priority Areas (at least one of these priorities areas needs to be addressed)

1. Human health, nutrition security, obesity as it relates to nutrition, and human sciences
2. Rural communities for the 21st century (expanding opportunities for small businesses, small farms, and domestic markets)
3. Bioenergy/biofuel and natural resources
4. Strengthening agricultural systems
5. Production of healthy and safe food
6. Youth development
7. Water quality
8. Family and consumer sciences
9. Food security and agricultural biosecurity
10. Agriculture workforce development
11. Addressing emerging threats in agriculture
12. Other Areas in General Food & Agricultural Sciences - Projects in this area may not fit any of the priority areas listed 1-11, but address an emerging local, regional, or national issue.

Building Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) Capacity for Education, Research, and Extension at 1890 Institutions

The 1890 CBG Program is seeking projects that provide significant education, research, and/or extension/outreach components using AI and ML in the food and agricultural sciences. Projects

may include creating educator training opportunities, efforts that address research needs or outreach services that help to effectively integrate AI-based knowledge, tools, and modalities to benefit workforce development, farmers, ranchers, foresters or domestic markets.

Applicants are encouraged to develop projects that may include:

1. Equipping students with foundational knowledge and skills in AI
2. Preparing students and adult learners in Extension program to thrive in an increasingly digital society
3. Training programs that equip participants with essential skills and competencies in AI linked to program priority areas mentioned above
4. Supporting educators with tools and training is needed not only to train students about AI, but also to use AI in their classrooms to improve educational outcomes.
5. Advancing research at 1890 universities in innovative agricultural technologies such as AI, data science, robotics, and other cutting-edge digital tools to address emerging needs in US agriculture.
6. Implementing AI in Extension programming

Leadership Skills Development. The development of leadership skills, knowledge, and qualities are necessary to prepare students for agricultural and related careers in the private sector, government, and academia. 1890 CBG Program Education Projects must demonstrably incorporate a leadership development component to equip students with technical and leadership abilities upon graduation. Specific activities may include:

1. Developing practical applications to increase understanding of leadership roles, including critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills; ethics and professionalism; and working in teams.
2. Connecting the academic classroom experience with daily leadership roles and organizational activities.
3. Providing opportunities for mentoring and shadowing; and
4. Organizing leadership academies, workshops, trainings, etc.

C. Program Area Description

NIFA is soliciting applications under the following program areas:

1. Education
2. Research
3. Extension

Education Projects seek to:

1. Support projects to develop national workforce needs in food and agricultural sciences.
2. Support training and forums to enhance education in agriculture, food, nutrition, or forestry.

Table 2: Education Projects Key Information

Title Description	
Program Code:	EP
Program Code Name:	1890 Capacity Building Grants Program
ALN:	10.216

Project Type:	Education Project
Grant Type:	i. Standard Grant ii. Collaborative Grant iii. Professional Development Grant iv. Workshop Grant
Application Deadline	November 4, 2026, at 5:00 pm ET for FY 2026 August 25, 2027, at 5:00 pm ET for FY 2027
Grant Duration:	12-36 Months
Anticipated # of Awards:	17
Minimum Award Amount:	\$50,000
Maximum Award Amount:	i. Standard: \$300,000 ii. Collaborative: \$500,000 iii. Professional Development: \$150,000 iv. Workshop: \$50,000

Research Projects seek to:

1. Support fundamental research activities impacting agriculture, food, nutrition, or forestry.
2. Support applied research that includes expansion of the findings of fundamental research to uncover practical and innovative ways in which new knowledge can be advanced to benefit farmers, ranchers and small and mid-sized farms.

Table 3: Research Projects Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code:	EQ
Program Code Name:	1890 Capacity Building Grants Program
ALN:	10.216
Project Type:	Research Project
Grant Type:	i. Standard Grant ii. Collaborative Grant iii. Professional Development Grant iv. Workshop Grant
Application Deadline	November 4, 2026, at 5:00 pm ET for FY 2026 August 25, 2027, at 5:00 pm ET for FY 2027
Grant Duration:	12-36 Months
Anticipated # of Awards:	30
Minimum Award Amount:	\$50,000
Maximum Award Amount:	i. Standard: \$400,000 ii. Collaborative: \$500,000 iii. Professional Development: \$150,000 iv. Workshop: \$50,000

Extension Projects seek to:

1. Support projects that innovate instructional methodologies appropriate for informal educational programs in agriculture, food, nutrition, or forestry.
2. Support informal educational programs for farmers, ranchers, producers and small and mid-sized farms to help them make practical decisions.

Table 4: Extension Projects Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code:	EWE
Program Code Name:	1890 Capacity Building Grants Program
ALN:	10.216
Project Type:	Extension Project
Grant Type:	i. Standard Grant ii. Collaborative Grant iii. Professional Development Grant iv. Workshop Grant
Application Deadline	November 4, 2026, at 5:00 pm ET for FY 2026 August 25, 2027, at 5:00 pm ET for FY 2027
Grant Duration:	12-36 Months
Anticipated # of Awards:	17
Minimum Award Amount:	\$50,000
Maximum Award Amount:	i. Standard: \$300,000 ii. Collaborative: \$500,000 iii. Professional Development: \$150,000 iv. Workshop: \$50,000

Integrated Projects seek to:

1. Promote profitability for farmers and ranchers or expanding market opportunities for US Agricultural products.
2. Focus on a problem or issue through two of the three functions of the agricultural knowledge system (i.e., education, research, Extension).

Table 5: Integrated Projects Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code:	EP/EQ/EWE
Program Code Name:	1890 Capacity Building Grants Program
ALN:	10.216
Project Type:	Integrated Project*
Grant Type:	i. Standard Grant ii. Collaborative Grant
Application Deadline	November 4, 2026, at 5:00 pm ET for FY 2026 August 25, 2027, at 5:00 pm ET for FY 2027

Grant Duration:	12-36 Months
Anticipated # of Awards:	19
Maximum Award Amount:	i. Standard: \$600,000 ii. Collaborative: \$750,000

*There is no program code specifically for integrated projects. Therefore, it is imperative that applicants clearly identify the primary project type in their project summary and select the corresponding program code for this area.

PART II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

The amount available for the 1890 CBG Program in FY 2026 is approximately \$56,000,000, which includes \$28,000,000 from FY 2026 funding as well as \$28,000,000 from FY 2025 funding. The anticipated amount available in FY 2027 is approximately \$28,000,000. USDA is not committed to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards.

The [Automated Standard Application for Payments](#), operated by the Department of Treasury, Bureau of Fiscal Service, is the designated payment system for awards resulting from this NOFO.

B. Application Restrictions

NIFA will evaluate applications using the criteria described in [Part V](#) of this NOFO.

Applications for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are limited to the following application types:

1. *New application*: New applications will be evaluated using the criteria described in [Part V](#) of this NOFO and are subject to the due dates herein (see [Appendix III](#) for definition).
2. *Resubmitted application*: Resubmitted applications must include the response to the previous review panel summary and are subject to the same criteria and due dates herein. Resubmitted applicants must enter the NIFA-assigned proposal number of the previously submitted application in the *Federal Field (Field 4)* on the application form (see [Appendix III](#) for definition).
3. *Renewal application*. Renewal applications must contain the same information as required for new applications and must contain a *progress report*. The progress report must include the implementation of the data management plan (DMP) of the previously funded project. Renewal applications are subject to the same criteria and due dates herein. Applicants submitting a renewal application must enter the NIFA-assigned proposal number of the previously approved application in the *Federal Field (Field 4)* on the application form (see [Appendix III](#) for definition).

The maximum number of applications allowed per institution are:

1. Standard/Collaborative Grants: 16
2. Professional Development Grants: 3
3. Workshop Grants: 1

The maximum number of awards vary by Project Type:

1. Standard/Collaborative Grants: No limit, but institutions cannot receive more than 10% of available funds
2. Professional Development Grants: One award per faculty member
3. Workshop Grants: One award per institution

C. Project and Grant Types

The following describes the types of *projects* or *grants* that are eligible for funding:

1. Project Types. Applicants must propose one of the following Project Types:
 - a. **Education Projects**
Single-function Education Projects should develop human capital to help meet current and future national food and agricultural sciences workforce needs. Examples of

relevant activities under this Project Type include (but are not limited to): formal classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, and practicum experience, as well as faculty development, student recruitment and services, curriculum development, instructional materials and equipment, innovative teaching methodologies, and workshops that support trainings and forums to enhance educational or teaching need areas.

Need areas

Education projects must demonstrate how the chosen Priority Area is addressed when selecting one of the following education need areas.

(1) *Curricula Design and Materials Development*

This Need Area promotes developing new (or adapting existing) curricula and related materials to meet changes anticipated within the food and agricultural sciences. Projects must be integrated and multidisciplinary and use learner-centered instruction that demonstrates an improvement in teaching and student learning towards core course objectives. Applicants are expected to demonstrate how the project will reach large audiences efficiently, demonstrate that outcomes are scalable or measurable; and provide hands-on learning experiences that extend learning beyond the classroom, reinforce recent research on how to motivate students to learn, retain, apply, and transfer knowledge, skills, and competencies, integrate and synthesize knowledge, and work collaboratively in teams.

(2) *Faculty Preparation and Enhancement for Education*

This Need Area is intended to enhance training to address emerging student needs (learning styles, digital applicability), improve teaching competency (subject matter expertise and pedagogy), or develop student recruitment, retention, and advising skills (career opportunities in emerging agricultural sciences fields). Training of targeted faculty recipient(s) must be intentional and relevant to the identified educational needs of the students, who will be the beneficiaries of such faculty development.

(3) *Scientific Instrumentation for Teaching*

This Need Area provides students with the necessary experience using suitable, up-to-date equipment to involve them in work central to understanding advances in the food and agricultural sciences and to prepare them for work or further graduate/professional training. Additionally, this Need Area will support the acquisition of instructional laboratory and classroom equipment.

(4) *Student Experiential Learning*

This Need Area encourages the development of new student learning opportunities where students are placed in team-oriented, problem-solving, and decision-making situations in the context of real-world experiences. Experiential learning through laboratory research or other internships with business and industry, community organizations, Federal agencies, and other domains that provide knowledge and skills for graduate study are desired.

(5) *Student Recruitment and Retention*

This Need Area aims to enhance student recruitment and retention programs to strengthen the Nation's scientific and professional workforce. Recruitment and retention efforts should be summarized quantitatively (i.e., numbers of students

recruited as compared to those contacted) and qualitatively (i.e., lessons learned that improve future recruitment strategies). *Students receiving tuition benefits or educational costs from the award are limited to U.S. citizens, nationals or permanent residents as defined in Appendix III.*

Education Discipline Codes Applicants must identify a primary discipline code and may identify one additional discipline code that categorizes the project in the cover page. At review, each application is evaluated by three peer reviewers. The discipline codes selected by the applicants are used to match reviewers' education and expertise to the applications.

T1: Agribusiness Management & Marketing

T2: Agricultural Engineering

T3: Animal Sciences

T4: Aquaculture

T5: Data Science

T6: Entomology

T7: Environmental Science & Natural Resource Conservation

T8: Food Science/Technology/Food Waste

T9: General Agricultural Science

T10: Human Sciences

T11: Human Nutrition

T12: Plant Sciences

T13: Related Biological Sciences

T14: Rural Development/Social Sciences

T15: Veterinary Science

T16: Other Education Areas

b. Research projects

Single-function Research Projects support fundamental or applied research conducted by individual investigators, co-investigators within the same discipline, or multidisciplinary teams. The following must be considered when developing Research Projects:

- Fundamental research means research that: increases knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and has the potential for broad application and impacts agriculture, food, or nutrition.
- Applied research means research that includes expansion of the findings of fundamental research to uncover practical and innovative ways in which new knowledge can be advanced to benefit individuals and society.
- Multidisciplinary projects are those in which investigators from two or more disciplines collaborate closely to address a common problem. These collaborations, where appropriate, may integrate the biological, physical, chemical, or social sciences.

Need Areas

Research projects must demonstrate how the chosen Priority Area is addressed when selecting one of the following research need areas.

(1) Studies and Experimentation in Food and Agricultural Sciences

The purpose of this Need Area is to advance the body of knowledge in basic and applied food and agricultural sciences, in food production systems, forestry systems, and managed rangelands. Projects addressing this Need Area are encouraged to focus on multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research activities addressing critical issues rather than single discipline-specific research studies.

(2) Centralized Research Support Systems

The purpose of this Need Area is to establish centralized research support systems that:

Meet national needs or serve regions or 1890 university clientele that cannot otherwise afford or do not have access to such support

- (a) Provide research support more economically, thereby freeing up resources for other research uses; applicants must demonstrate how the chosen Priority Area is addressed when selecting this Need Area
- (b) Provide suitable equipment to involve in research-related activities

Research Discipline Codes Applicants must identify a **primary discipline code** and may identify one additional discipline code that categorizes the project in the cover page. During review, each application is evaluated by three peer reviewers. The discipline codes selected by the applicants are used to match reviewers' education and expertise to the applications.

R1: Agribusiness Management & Marketing

R2: Agricultural Engineering

R3: General Agricultural Sciences

R4: Animal Sciences

R5: Aquaculture

R6: Natural Resource Conservation

R7: Data Science

R8: Entomology

R10: Food Science/Technology/Food Waste

R11: Human Nutrition

R12: Plant Sciences

R13: Related Biological Sciences

R14: Soil Sciences

R15: Human Sciences

R16: Rural Development/Social Sciences

R17: Veterinary Science

R18: Other Research Areas

c. Extension Projects

Single-function Extension Projects conduct programs and activities that deliver science-based knowledge and informal educational programs to farmers, ranchers, producers and small and mid-sized farmers enabling them to make practical decisions. Program delivery may range from community-based to national audiences and may use communication methods including face- to-face, electronic, or combinations thereof. Extension Projects may also include related activities such as

workshop grants, certification programs, in-service training, client recruitment and services, curriculum development, instructional materials and equipment, and innovative instructional methodologies appropriate for informal educational programs. These projects must lead to measurable, documented changes in learning, actions, or conditions in an identified audience or stakeholder group. These projects must also synthesize and incorporate a wide range of the latest relevant research results.

Need Areas

Extension projects must demonstrate how the chosen Priority Area is addressed when selecting one of the following extension.

(1) Extension Program Development Support Systems

The purpose of this Need Area is to increase the quality of Extension programming through training for Cooperative Extension Service specialists, educators, paraprofessionals, technicians, and volunteers. The training may focus on professional development, leadership development, collaborative research development, application of the Extension program development model, development of train-the-trainer models, volunteer development, and/or volunteer delivery systems. This Need Area will also support program accountability systems that enhance the expertise and tools available to effectively report impacts and evaluate Extension programs, ultimately enabling the delivery of more effective systems.

(2) Extension Technology Upgrades

The purpose of this Need Area is to provide funds to upgrade traditional equipment and instruments, establish mobile delivery systems (e.g., laboratories and food safety kitchens), and support emerging delivery technologies (e.g., IT applications such as distance education, web conferencing, podcasting, and social media interfaces).

(3) Extension Delivery/Methodology

The purpose of this Need Area is to develop effective methodologies, strategies, or delivery systems to enhance services including developing new or modifying existing curricula; establishing program centers, experiential learning programs, or after-school programs; and utilizing research results to strengthen community-based programs. Outreach to develop new or improve existing curriculum with agricultural organizations such as 4H, Future Farmers of America, Ag in the Classroom, etc. are encouraged.

(4) Other Extension Initiatives

The purpose of this Need Area is to support projects that may not fit the Need Areas above, but are creative initiatives designed to provide enhancement of the institutions' Extension capacity.

Extension Discipline Codes Applicants must identify a **primary discipline code** and may identify one additional discipline code that categorizes the project in the cover page. During review, each application is evaluated by three peer reviewers. The discipline codes selected by the applicants are used to match reviewers' education and expertise to the applications.

E1: 4-H and Youth Development
E2: Agriculture
E3: Leadership Development
E4: Natural Resources
E5: Family and Consumer Sciences
E6: Community Economic Development
E7: Rural Development/Social Sciences
E8: Other Extension Areas

d. Integrated Projects

An Integrated Project must include at least two of the three functions of the agricultural knowledge system (i.e., education, research, Extension). Projects should promote profitability of farmers and ranchers; expand market opportunities for U.S. agricultural products; address precision nutrition; or other USDA priorities. The project must name one of the project types (education, research, or Extension) as the primary project type as well as any related discipline code(s). The primary project type is defined as the area that will receive most of the funding (up to two-thirds of the total funding). There is no program code for the Integrated Project. Therefore, it is imperative that applicants clearly identify the primary project type in their project summary and select the appropriate program code for this area.

The functions addressed in the project must be focused on a problem or issue and be interwoven throughout the life of the project to complement and reinforce one another. The functions must be interdependent and necessary for the success of the project, and no more than two-thirds of the project's budget may be focused on a single component. Integrated Projects must include individuals on the project team with significant expertise in each component of the project (education, research, and/or Extension). Integrated Projects may be submitted by a single eligible institution, where the expertise for all areas (education, research, and/or Extension) are within the Project Director's (PD) institution, or multi-institutions, where the expertise for one or two of the areas is from another institution(s).

For additional information on Integrated Projects, see [Integrated Programs Application Information](#). Applicants are also encouraged to contact the [Program Contact](#) to discuss the anticipated project parameters and outcomes to ensure the application content appropriately meets the requirements of an Integrated Project.

2. Grant Types

Applicants must select the appropriate grant type:

a. Standard Grant

A Standard Grant is an award instrument by which NIFA agrees to support a specified level of effort for a predetermined project period without the announced intention of providing additional support at a future date. Standard Grants support targeted original scientific education, research, Extension, or integrated projects. An eligible, individual institution, independent branch campus, or branch

institution of a State system may submit a grant application for project activities to be undertaken principally on behalf of its own students or faculty, and to be managed primarily by its own personnel. The project is to be executed, without the requirement of sharing grant funds with other project partners (subaward budgets are not allowable). Applications for Standard Grants must address local or regional problems or opportunities in one of the listed Priority Areas ([Part I, 1890 CBG Priority Areas](#)). The application must have the potential to encourage regional or national program delivery in one of the selected Priority Areas. A PD may receive only one new award as the lead individual in a Need Area that focuses on a single subject or discipline. Funds do not have to be equally divided among project years.

b. Collaborative Grant

Collaborative Grants support projects with at least one additional partner or a multi-partner approach to enhance education, research, and Extension programs. Collaborative Grants should build linkages to generate a critical mass of expertise, skill, and technology to address programs related to the food and agricultural sciences (applicants should address one of the listed Priority Areas ([Part I, 1890 CBG Priority Areas](#))). Projects should be multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary and address issues at the local, state, regional, and/or national level(s). Grants can reduce duplication of efforts and/or build capacity and should be organized and led by a strong PD with documented project management knowledge and skills to organize and carry out the initiative. Collaborative Grants are expected to be larger than Standard grants (refer to [Part I, Maximum Request Allocation](#) for the maximum fund amounts). The partners must share grant funds, and no more than 50 percent of the total dollars of this award may be subcontracted to another party(is).

c. Professional Development Grant

Professional Development Grants are intended to provide an opportunity for individual faculty members (i.e., each award is to support one faculty member at the applicant university) to enhance the quality of their education, research, and/or Extension work. Examples of projects addressing this area include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Gaining experience with recent developments or innovative technology relevant to their professional responsibilities
- (2) Working under the guidance and direction of experts who have substantial expertise in an area related to project/career goals
- (3) Working with professionals or peers in government, industry, or colleges or universities to learn new applications and enhance networks within a field
- (4) Expanding competence with new methods of information delivery related to education and Extension

Professional Development projects that support education, research, and/or Extension faculty may include approaches such as:

1. Sabbaticals

2. Mini sabbaticals for short-term training
3. Faculty exchanges
4. Continuing education

The training must address critical U.S. food and agricultural sciences issues at the local, state, regional, and national level(s). The project should align with the university's strategic plan for food and agricultural sciences. Projects should also address one or more of the 1890 CBG Program priority areas identified in [Part I, 1890 CBG Priority Areas](#).

Funds may be used for salary and benefits (up to one year), travel, supplies, and training/course fees. Funds will not be awarded to support activities in fulfillment of degree requirements or travel to make presentations at conferences or meetings.

d. Workshop Grant

Workshop Grants support efforts to gather subject matter experts to identify research, education and/or Extension needs to prepare outcomes such as white papers, scientific assessment, grant proposals, etc. They can support trainings and forums to enhance research need areas. Projects may involve any type of workshop, education, or training of students or other individuals including K-12 students, educators, professionals, farmers, ranchers, or any other individual receiving any type of formal or nonformal training on the proposed project.

Workshop Grants must develop activities and programing that bring stakeholders together to discuss, coordinate, and advance innovations or provide training in areas supportive of food and agriculture-related disciplines and workforce development. Activities should be interactive learning sessions with the goal of producing collaborative results including collective skill enhancement. NIFA will not fund Workshop Grants with the sole purpose of supporting travel and subsistence to attend or sponsorship of conferences. Workshop proposals that solely support existing conferences will be returned without review.

D. Ethical Conduct of Funded Projects

In accordance with sections [2, 3, and 8 of 2 CFR Part 422](#), institutions that conduct USDA-funded extramural research must foster an atmosphere conducive to research integrity, bear primary responsibility for prevention and detection of research misconduct, and maintain and effectively communicate and train their staff regarding policies and procedures. In the event an application to NIFA results in an award, the Authorized Representative (AR) assures, through acceptance of the award, that the institution will comply with the above requirements. Award recipients must, upon request, make available to NIFA the policies, procedures, and documentation to support the conduct of the training. See [Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research](#) for further information.

PART III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants for the 1890 CBG Program must meet all the requirements discussed in this NOFO. Failure to meet the eligibility criteria by the application deadline may result in exclusion from consideration or, preclude NIFA from making an award. For those new to Federal financial assistance, NIFA's [About Grants](#) provides highly recommended information about grants and other resources to help understand the Federal awards process.

Applications may only be submitted by eligible 1890 Land-grant Universities ([7 U.S.C. 3152\(d\)\(2\)](#)).

The eligible institutions are:

1. Alabama A&M University
2. Alcorn State University
3. Central State University
4. Delaware State University
5. Florida A&M University
6. Fort Valley State University
7. Kentucky State University
8. Langston University
9. Lincoln University (MO)
10. North Carolina A&T State University
11. Prairie View A&M University
12. South Carolina State University
13. Southern University and A&M College
14. Tennessee State University
15. Tuskegee University
16. University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff
17. University of Maryland-Eastern Shore
18. Virginia State University
19. West Virginia State University

Faculty may not serve as PD on more than two active 1890 CBG projects. If an applicant has two active projects, at least one project must be scheduled to expire by the end of the current fiscal year. Faculty may submit multiple applications for Standard and/or Collaborative Grants as the lead PD to the 1890 CBG Program in FYs 2026 and 2027. Additionally, there is no limit on the number of grants for which faculty may be listed as co-PD or key personnel.

All Collaborative or Integrated Education, Research, and Extension Projects may subcontract, as deemed appropriate, to organizations not eligible to apply, provided such organizations are necessary to conduct a successful project. The subcontract must advance capacity building at the 1890 LGU in the area of the proposed project.

USDA **will not accept** competitive applications for grant and cooperative agreements submitted for dangerous gain-of-function research, as defined in [Section 8 of E.O. 14292](#).

Duplicate or Multiple Submissions – Submissions of duplicate or predominantly overlapping projects are not allowed. An eligible applicant may submit multiple applications on behalf of the institution whereas they are not essentially duplications of the same project or portions of the same project to multiple programs.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

No Match Required - The 1890 CBG Program has no matching requirement. NIFA will not factor matching resources into the review process as an evaluation criterion. While not required, cost share is encouraged.

PART IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION

A. Method of Application

Applicants must apply to this NOFO electronically; no other method or response is accepted. The electronic application for this NOFO and additional resources are available on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and [Grants 101](#). **Table 7** provides instructions on how to obtain an electronic application. **Part III** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) contains detailed information regarding the [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) registration process. [The NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) is contained in the specific funding opportunity package or a sample of the guide can be found [here](#). When applying for a NIFA award, it is important to reference the version of the guide that is included in the specific funding opportunity application package.

Table 6. Steps to Obtain Application Materials

Steps	Action
Step One: Register	<i>New Users</i> to Grants.gov must register early with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application.
Step Two: Download Adobe	Download and Install Adobe Reader (see Adobe Software Compatibility for basic system requirements).
Step Three: Find Application	Using this funding opportunity number USDA-NIFA-CBGP-011698 , search for application here: Opportunity Package .
Step Four: Assess Readiness	Contact an AR prior to starting an application to assess the organization's readiness to submit an electronic application.

Table 7: Help and Resources

Grants.gov Support	NIFA Support
Grants.gov Online Support Telephone support: 800-518-4726 Toll-Free or 606-545-5035 Email support: support@grants.gov Self-service customer-based support: Grants.gov iPortal Customer service business Hours 24/7, except Federal holidays .	Email: grantapplicationquestions@usda.gov Business hours: Monday thru Friday, 7a.m. – 5p.m. ET, except Federal holidays .

B. Content and Form of the Application

The [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) is part of the corresponding application package for this NOFO. The NOFO overrides the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) if there is a discrepancy between the two documents. Applicants that do not meet the application requirements, to include partial applications, risk being excluded from NIFA's review. NIFA will assign a proposal number to all applications that meet the requirements of this NOFO. Applicants must refer to the proposal number when corresponding with NIFA. **Table 9** outlines other key instructions for applicants.

Table 8: Key Application Instructions

Instruction	References (All references are to the NIFA Grants Application Guide)
Attachments must be in a portable document format (PDF) format.	Part IV
Check the manifest of submitted files to verify attachments are in the correct format.	Part IV
Conduct an administrative review of the application before submission.	Part IV
Follow the submission instructions.	Part IV
Provide an accurate email address, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R.	Part V
Contact the Grants.gov helpdesk for technical support and keep a record of the correspondence.	N/A
Contact NIFA if applicant does not receive correspondence from NIFA regarding an application within 30 days of the application deadline.	N/A

We recommend that you conduct an administrative review of the application before submission of it via Grants.gov to ensure that it complies with all preparation instructions.

Check the application for completeness. The application should be checked for the following required items, which must include:

1. Project Summary/Abstract
2. Project Narrative
3. Data Management Plan (if applicable)
4. Accomplishment Report of Previously Funded Projects (if applicable)
5. Collaborative Arrangement Letter(s) (if applicable)
6. Institution/School/Department Goals and Objectives
7. Logic Model (if applicable)
8. References Cited
9. Mentoring Plan (if applicable).
10. Curriculum Vitae
11. Current and Pending
12. Conflict of Interest
13. Budget
14. Budget Justification

This is not an exhaustive list of required items; it only serves to highlight items that may be overlooked. Refer to the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for additional information. **Failure to include any of the three critical required documents of Project Summary/Abstract, Project**

Narrative, or Budget and Budget Justification as PDF attachment will result in the application not being reviewed or considered for funding by NIFA.

SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for the required certifications and assurances.

SF 424 R&R Project/Performance Site Location(s). See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

R&R Other Project Information Form. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

1. **Field 7. Project Summary (PS)/Abstract.** The PS must show how the project goals align with the project goals of the 1890 CBG Program. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for instructions and suggested templates.
2. **Field 8. Project Narrative (PN).**
For Standard and Collaborative Grant, the PN must not exceed 18 pages (1.5-spaced, 1-inch margins), including figures and tables. The font size for the PN and tables should be no smaller than 11 points, Times New Roman.

For Professional Development Grant and Workshop Grant applications, the PN must not exceed 8 pages (1.5-spaced, 1-inch margins), including figures and tables. The font size for the PN and tables should be no smaller than 11 points, Times New Roman.

Proposals with project narratives that exceed the page limit requirement will be returned without review.

Applicants must address all components of the Evaluation Criteria in their Project Narrative (see [Part V, B](#)).

Project Narrative

All applicants should arrange their narrative in the following order:

Cover Page. The cover page is required, does not count toward the page limit of the Project Narrative, and should include the following:

- a. Type of Application (see [Part II, Application Restrictions](#))
- b. Project Type (see [Part II, Project and Grant Types](#))
- c. Grant Type (see [Part II, Project and Grant Types](#))
- d. Need Area Addressed (see [Part II, Project and Grant Types](#))
- e. Program Code (see [Part I, Capacity Building Grants Program Key Information](#))
For Integrated Projects, only list the program code for the primary component. For example, if the primary component of an Integrated Project is Research, then the applicant must indicate “EQ” as the program code.
- f. Primary 1890 CBG Priority Areas (see [Part I, 1890 CBG Priority Areas](#))
- g. Discipline Code (see [Part II, Discipline Codes](#))

Table of Contents A table of contents is encouraged in the Project Narrative and will not count toward the page limit.

Response to Previous Review (if applicable) The response to previous review must not exceed 2 (*1.5 spaced, 1-inch margins*) pages. The font size should be no smaller than 11 points, Times New Roman. The response to previous review does not count toward the page limit of the Project Narrative and is only required for resubmitted applications.

Progress Report (if applicable) This requirement only applies to Renewal applications ([see Part II, B.](#)). These applications must include a progress report within the applicable page limit of the Project Narrative.

Standard and Collaborative Grants

To facilitate proposal review and evaluation, the applicant must include the following headings in the Project Narrative (A. through D.).

a. **Potential for Building and Strengthening Capacity and Advancing the Quality of Education, Research, or Extension**

- (1) **Significance of the Problem and Opportunity.** Clearly state the specific education, research, or Extension problem or opportunity to be addressed and the connection(s) with the institutional goals, strategic plan, or Plan of Work.
- (2) **Project Justification.** Summarize the body of knowledge justifying the need for the proposed project using graphical and tabulated format when possible. Discuss how the project will be of value at the local, state, regional, or national level(s). Describe any ongoing or recently completed significant activities related to the proposed project for which previous funding was received under this program or other funding programs (including projects supported under the NIFA 1890 Facilities Grants Program and 1890 Formula Programs).
- (3) **Impact on Building and Strengthening Capacity.** Describe the institution's capability to perform the project and the degree to which the project will enhance its education, research, or Extension capacity. Include a description of baseline information/preliminary data. Additionally, include the project's potential for adoption by other institutions.
- (4) **Continuation Plans.** Describe specific plans for continuation or expansion of the project beyond the period of USDA support. Applicants must indicate if eventual self-support is built into the project and if plans are being made to institutionalize the program if it is successful.
- (5) **Innovation.** Describe the creative approach to (1) improving the quality of food and agricultural sciences; (2) solving a scientific problem or advancing a field of science that addresses objective(s) of high importance at the 1890 university; and (3) strengthening institutional capacity building.
- (6) **Multidisciplinary and/or Problem-based Focus.** Indicate how the Education project is relevant to multiple disciplines in the food and agricultural sciences, or with other academic curricula, and how the Research or Extension project is multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary, and/or involves integrated (education, research, and extension/outreach) activities. Identify the field of science and the objective(s) that are of high importance and will be addressed at the applicant's institution. If partners are included, provide a concise plan on how they will be

managed and coordinated. Identify potential results in 1890 institutional capacity building.

- (7) **Products and Results.** Explain, including metrics, the expected products, results, and outputs, and their potential impacts on strengthening food and agricultural sciences education, research, and Extension in the United States. Metrics to assess products and outputs are to be clearly delineated in the proposal. Describe the economic, and/or social gains resulting from the project outcomes (see [Definitions-Appendix III, 'Outcomes'](#)). If the project has a collaborator(s), include a clear identification of the role of the collaborator(s), and the expected outcomes for the 1890 university.
 - (8) **Institutional Commitment.** Explain the institutional resources (administrative, facilities, equipment, and/or materials) that are available to carry out the project.
 - (9) **Alignment to USDA Research and Development Priorities** Explain the project aligns with one or more of the USDA Research and Development Priorities.
- b. **Overall Approach, Cooperative Linkages, and Quality of the Proposal**
- (1) **Proposed Approach and Cooperative Linkages.** Cite and discuss the specific project objectives to be accomplished. For Collaborative Grant and Integrated Project proposals, identify the individual(s) responsible for accomplishing each objective.
 - (2) **Plan of Operation and Methodology.** Describe procedures for accomplishing the project's objectives. Describe plans for managing the project to ensure its proper and efficient administration. Clearly identify and describe the metrics for evaluating successful project management. Discuss the extent to which students from the 1890 Universities will be involved in the Education, Research, Extension, or Integrated project. Describe experimental designs and relevant statistical analyses, if applicable.
 - (3) **Timetable.** Provide a timetable for conducting the project. Identify all important project milestones and dates as they relate to project start-up, execution, evaluation, dissemination, and closeout. Identify limitations that may impact the timetable and provide strategies to avoid or compensate for the limitations. For Collaborative Grants, include the responsibilities of all partners in the project timetable.
 - (4) **Metrics.** Applications must describe and assess the expected products, results, outcomes, and their potential impacts on strengthening food and agricultural education, research, or Extension in the United States. Quantified metrics should be summarized in table format.
 - (5) **Evaluation Plan.** Program evaluation is a systematic method for collecting, analyzing, and using information to answer basic questions about proposed initiatives to build or strengthen capacity of the institution in a specific area in the food and agricultural sciences. Provide a methodology and implementation plan for evaluating the accomplishment of stated objectives, results, and measurable outcomes during the project. Clearly identify the performance measure(s) by which the project's success will be assessed. In the evaluation plan, indicate the criteria and corresponding weight of each to be used in the evaluation process. Describe any data to be collected and analyzed and explain the methodology that

will be used to determine the extent to which the needs underlying the project are met. Indicate how the evaluation will determine whether and to what degree the project had an impact on education, research, and extension/outreach capacity and the impact of the efforts throughout the course of the project. Identify those personnel who will be responsible for assessing project results and administering the project evaluation and reporting process and include a description of their expertise or credentials. The evaluation plan is a crucial component of the application. The following outline may be used as a guide when developing an evaluation plan to monitor institutional capacity building/strengthening:

- (a) Section I. A description of the evaluation framework that specifies what you want to evaluate, what questions are to be addressed in the evaluation, and the timeframe for conducting the evaluation.
 - (b) Section II. A description of the program implementation objectives.
 - (c) Section III. A description of the program outcome objectives, performance measures, and impact.
 - (d) Section IV. Procedures for managing and monitoring the evaluation and reporting.
 - (6) **Dissemination Plan.** Document how project accomplishments (products, results, and impacts) will be disseminated to the broadest extent to the academic or scientific community; policy makers; farmers, ranchers and producers; rural communities served by the 1890 LGUs; and the American public. Discuss the institution's commitment to disseminate project results and products. Identify audiences and explain methods of communication.
 - (7) **Partnership and Collaborative Efforts.** Explain how the project will maximize partnership and collaborative efforts to strengthen food and agricultural sciences across education, research, and Extension (e.g., the involvement of faculty in related disciplines at the same institution; the submission of Collaborative Grants with other educational institutions; or the expansion of cooperative activities with business or industry at the 1890 university). As appropriate, clearly describe the collaborative management plan to ensure successful outcomes toward project goals.
 - (8) **Potential Pitfalls, Limitations, and Alternatives.** Identify and explain any potential challenges that might impede progress during the duration of the project. Additionally, describe any potential strategies or alternatives that might be implemented to address such challenges.
- c. **Key Personnel.** Discuss the adequacy and specific attributes and project responsibilities of each key person associated with the project. Also include the background and qualifications of those personnel who will be responsible for assessing project results and administering the project evaluation and reporting process.
- d. **Budget and Cost-Effectiveness**
- (a) **Budget:** In addition to the separate, required budget forms and budget justification, discuss how the budget specifically supports the proposed project activities in the project narrative. Explain how such budget items as professional

or technical staff time and salary, travel, equipment, etc., are necessary and reasonable to achieve project objectives. If travel is part of your budget, virtual or hybrid meetings may be considered based on local and national conditions. Justify how funds requested from USDA are allocated between the applicant and any collaborating institution/organization(s) and will be appropriate to carry out project activities.

- (b) **Cost effectiveness:** Justify the project's cost-effectiveness. Show how the project maximizes the use of limited resources, optimizes educational value for the dollar, achieves economies of scale, or leverages additional funds. For example, discuss how the project has the potential to generate a critical mass of expertise and activity focused on a need area.

Professional Development Grants

To facilitate grant review and evaluation, the applicant must include the following headings in the Project Narrative (A. through D.), followed by the applicant's response for each item below.

- a. **Merit of the Proposed Activities as a Means of Enhancing the Capabilities and Competitiveness of the Applicant.** Describe the merit and appropriateness of the proposed activities and how they will support professional development for the applicant. Explain the relevant methods that will be involved with the professional development activities. Describe the collaborators that will be involved and their respective roles with the project and ensure they are directly linked to the proposed objectives and activities. Identify all products, outputs, outcomes, and overall impacts of the project, and ensure they are appropriately linked to the project's objectives and activities. Include a realistic timetable that will ensure successful completion of the project. Applications must describe and assess the expected products, results, outcomes, and their potential impacts on strengthening food and agricultural education, research, or Extension in the United States. Quantified metrics should be summarized in table format.
- b. **Potential Pitfalls, Limitations, and Alternatives.** Identify and explain any potential challenges that might impede progress during the duration of the project. Additionally, describe any potential strategies or alternatives that might be implemented to address such challenges.
- c. **Merit of Applicant's Experience.** Describe the applicant's previous experience and background, including (but not limited to) the following:
 - (1) Relevant professional development experience that provided appropriate knowledge and expertise in a food and agricultural science discipline.
 - (2) Relevant experience in education, research, and/or extension.
- d. **Relevance to 1890 University and U.S. Agriculture.** Describe the relevance of the project/training to the food and agricultural sciences strategic plan at the institution. Additionally, explain the relevance of the project/training to long-range improvements in U.S. agriculture, human health and well-being, and rural communities.
- e. **Budget and Cost-Effectiveness.** Refer to [Standard/Collaborative Grants requirement.](#)

Workshop Grants

To facilitate grant review and evaluation, the applicant must include the following headings in the Project Narrative (A. through C.), followed by the applicant's response for each item below.

- a. **Significance of Proposed Workshop as a Means of Strengthening Capacity and Advancing the Quality of Research, Education, or Extension.** Justify the need for the proposed workshop; summarize activities and expected outputs; explain relevant methods and activities involved in the workshop; and highlight the impact to the audience.
 - b. **Relevance to 1890 University and U.S. Agriculture.** Describe the workshop's relevance to the institution's food and agricultural sciences strategic plan. Additionally, explain the workshop/training's relevance to long-range improvements in U.S. agriculture, human health and well-being, and rural communities.
 - c. **Budget and Cost-Effectiveness.** Refer to [Standard/Collaborative Grants requirement](#).
3. **Field 12. Add Other Attachments.** See Part V of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).
- a. **Data Management Plan (DMP).** A DMP is required for standard/collaborative applications (*not required for professional development grants and workshop grants*). Applicants should clearly articulate how the PD and co-PDs plan to manage and disseminate the data generated by the project. The DMP will be considered during the merit review process (see [Part V, B](#) of this RFA, [NIFA's Data Management Plan](#)).
 - b. **Accomplishment Report on Previously Funded Projects (if applicable).** Project directors with an active or previously received 1890 Capacity Building Grant Program award must submit a one-page accomplishment report (one report per project, up to two awards). The report must include the funded project's impacts and outcomes and briefly describe how the new proposal is related to the outcomes of the previous award.
 - c. **Collaborative Arrangement Letter(s).** Any formal consulting or collaborative arrangements should be explained and justified in the project narrative ([Partnership and Collaborative Efforts, Part IV, B](#)). Letters of collaboration should be provided from the collaborating entity that indicates the roles, responsibilities, and anticipated outcomes from each member of the partnership. These letters describe the services to be performed and identify the name, phone, and email of the person(s) at the institution/organization who will serve as liaison or technical contact for the project. Collaborative Arrangement Letters must be signed by Authorized Representatives (ARs). Letter from USDA collaborator(s), should be signed by the USDA Unit Director (supervisor of the USDA staff member) and the USDA collaborator. Identify the person(s) at each agency or office who will serve as liaison or technical (scientists, educator) contact for the project and provide their phone number and email address. Letters should be submitted in PDF format, and there is no page limit. If the consultant(s) or collaborator(s) are known at the time of the application, a curriculum vitae or resume should be provided, and the budget justification should include need for collaboration and the rate of pay.
 - d. **Institution/School/Department Goals and Objectives.** Include an institutional letter indicating that the project is within the institution's strategic plan for the food and

- agricultural sciences. The letter must describe which school or department at the applicant's institution would potentially benefit from funds to build or strengthen capacity. The letter **must** be developed on official university letterhead and signed by the dean of the agricultural college/school, agricultural research director, or Extension administrator (limit to one page). An institutional letter is **required** for all applications. Applications that do not include the institutional letter will be returned without review.
- e. **Logic Model.** Required for all applications, except for Professional Development and Workshop. The logic model planning process is a tool that should be developed before writing your proposal. It should detail the activities, outputs, and outcomes of the proposed work. More information and resources related to the logic model planning process are provided at [Logic Model Planning Process](#).
 - f. **References Cited**
 - g. **Mentoring Plan (MP).** If the proposal anticipates requesting funding for any student support, it must include a one- to two-page MP for all recipients. Title the attachment as 'Mentoring Plan' in the document header and save the file as a PDF named 'Mentoring Plan High School Students,' 'Mentoring Plan Undergraduate Students,' 'Mentoring Plan Graduate Students,' or 'Mentoring Plan Postdoctoral Associate,' as applicable. If various tiers of student are represented in the proposal, please provide detailed MPs for each educational or professional level (e.g., high school students, undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral associates etc.). The MP should incorporate the following:
 - (1) Roles and responsibilities of the project director and co-project directors in managing the mentoring process
 - (2) Training for and/or credentials of individuals who will serve as mentors (i.e., mentor training)
 - (a) Mentors may be experienced mentors from academia, industry, or government, or student peers at various levels who are expected to provide guidance and sense of community with the activities and facilitate the amplification of program-specific perspectives and accomplishments of the mentees.
 - (3) A description of mentoring activities that may include, but are not limited to, peer mentoring or layered mentoring, whereby a set of mentees are progressively mentored by others at a higher level in their careers; please incorporate these activities into the overall project timeline
 - (4) A description of processes to ensure reasonable accommodation for program participants with disabilities or challenges with accessing program activities

Professional Development Grants (e.g., sabbaticals and faculty exchanges). In addition to the preceding Other Attachments a-e of the [Field 12](#), provide documentation that arrangements have been made with a relevant expert(s) to serve as host, including:

- a. A letter from the home institution detailing the arrangements at the home institution with respect to salary, date, and duration of the professional development experience

- b. A letter from the host or training institution indicating willingness to serve in this capacity and a description of the host's contribution to the proposed activities, both scientifically and regarding the use of facilities and equipment
- c. A statement signed by the department head or equivalent official at the host institution indicating a commitment to provide teaching/education, research, and/or extension/outreach-related space and facilities for the period of the applicant's presence.

Workshop Grants. Other Attachments a-e of the [Field 12](#) are required.

R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded). See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for profile requirements, details about the biographical sketch, and suggested support templates.

R&R Personal Data. This information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award (see **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#)).

R&R Budget. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

1. Indirect Costs (IDC) – See [Part IV, C](#) of this NOFO for funding restrictions regarding IDC, and **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for additional information.
2. Subawards. See **Part V.170** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).
3. Collaborators. Additional information regarding consultants and collaborators is required in the detailed budget justification, including the rate of pay, letter of commitment, and vitae. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

Supplemental Information Form. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

1. **Field 2. Program to which the applicant is applying.** Enter the program name “1890 CBG” and the program code “EQ” for research projects, “EP” for teaching projects, “EWE” for extension projects. Accurate entry is critical.
2. **Field 8. Conflict of Interest List.** See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

C. Funding Restrictions

1. Indirect Cost Limitation

Indirect Cost (IDC) is not to exceed 30 percent of the recipient’s Total Federal Funds Awarded (TFFA). [7 U.S.C. 3310](#) limits the recovery of IDC for the overall award to 30 percent of the TFFA under a research, education, or extension grant. The maximum allowable IDC amount recoverable under the award, including the IDC charged by the sub-awardee(s), if any, is the lesser of the following and is determined by calculating the amount of IDC using:

- a. the sum of an institution’s negotiated indirect cost rate and the indirect cost rate charged by sub-awardees, if any; or
- b. 30 percent of TFFA.

If the result of number one is the lesser of the two amounts, the grant recipient is allowed to charge the negotiated IDC rate on the prime award and the sub-award(s), if any. Any sub-awards would be subject to the sub-awardee’s negotiated IDC rate. The sub-awardee

may charge its negotiated IDC rate on its portion of the award, provided the sum of the IDC amount charged under the award by the prime awardee and the sub-awardee(s) does not exceed 30 percent of the TFFA.

If the result of number two is the lesser of the two amounts, then the maximum IDC allowed for the overall award, including any sub-award(s), is limited to 30 percent of the TFFA. That is, the IDC of the prime awardee plus the sum of the IDC charged by the sub-awardee(s), if any, may not exceed 30 percent of the TFFA.

In the event of an award, the prime awardee is responsible for ensuring the maximum indirect cost allowed for the award is not exceeded when combining IDC for the Federal portion (i.e., prime and sub-awardee(s)) and any applicable cost-sharing. Amounts exceeding the maximum allowable IDC are considered unallowable. See sections [408](#) and [410](#) of [2 CFR 200](#).

If the applicant does not have a negotiated rate and NIFA is the cognizant agency, the applicant may request an IDC rate. Applicants are not required to complete the IDC package during the application process and need only to calculate a rate to serve as a basis for requesting IDC. If awarded, the applicant will be required to submit a complete IDC proposal package to obtain a negotiated rate.

Organizations that do not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate, may elect the de minimis rate ([2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#)). The Uniform Guidance offers the option of electing to charge a de minimis rate of 15 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. As described above and in [2 CFR 200.403](#), costs must be charged consistently as either indirect or direct costs but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If elected, this methodology must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as a non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which it may do at any time.

See [NIFA Indirect Costs](#) for information including [additional resources](#) and [NIFA Indirect Cost Guidance Chart](#).

2. Use of Funds for Facilities

The use of grant funds to plan, acquire, or construct a building or facility is not allowed. With prior approval, grant funds may be used for minor alterations, renovations, or repairs deemed necessary to retrofit existing teaching or research spaces in order to carry out a funded project. However, requests to use grant funds for such purposes must demonstrate that the alterations, renovations, or repairs are incidental to the major purpose for which a grant is made ([7 CFR 3406.10](#)).

3. NIFA awards may not be used to support the procurement of unmanned aircraft systems to process, store, or transmit Federal information (as defined in [OMB Circular A-130](#)) unless the grant is specifically available for procurement of such equipment and grantees describe in their application how they will comply with the information security requirements outlined in Appendix B of [M-26-02 Ensuring Government Use of Secure](#)

[Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Supporting United States Producers](#) and develop a risk-based approach to applying those requirements to procurement solicitations to potential vendors under the resulting Federal award. This information, if provided, will be evaluated by NIFA as part of its evaluation process. If such procurement is approved, specific information security requirements may be included in the terms and conditions of the grant to ensure that the grantees will incorporate those requirements in procurement solicitations of unmanned aircraft systems under the Federal award. Additionally, projects must ensure that they are in adherence to [Secretary's Memorandum \(SM\) 1078-014](#) and are not using unallowable 3-D printers which can be found at [National Security and Unallowable Costs](#).

PART V. APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. NIFA's Evaluation Process

NIFA evaluates each application in a two-part process. First, we screen each application to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements set forth in this NOFO. All administrative requirements must be met in order for the application to proceed to the next level of review. Second, a scientific peer-review process will be used to technically evaluate applications that have met the administrative requirements using a review panel (see [NIFA Peer Review Process](#)).

Scientific Peer Review Process:

NIFA selects reviewers for the review panel based upon their training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

1. The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities.
2. The need to include experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields.
3. The need to include other experts (e.g., agricultural producers, range or forest managers/operators, researchers, educators, evaluators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to audiences and to program needs.
4. The need to include experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, and private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations.
5. The need to maintain a balanced composition with regard to the reviewer's area of expertise, geographic area, and entity type, as appropriate.
6. The need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness of each application to producers and the general public.

After each peer review panel has completed its deliberations, the responsible program staff of NIFA will recommend that your project is either approved for support from currently available funds or declined due to insufficient funds or unfavorable review.

NIFA reserves the right to negotiate with the PD/PI and/or the submitting organization or institution regarding project revisions (e.g., reductions in the scope of work, funding level, period, or method of support) prior to recommending any project for funding.

After the review process has been completed, NIFA sends copies of reviews, *not* including the identity of reviewers, and a summary (if applicable) of the review panel comments to the PD.

Conflicts of interest. NIFA takes extreme care to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may influence the review or evaluation (see [NIFA Peer Review Process for Competitive Grant Applications](#)).

B. Evaluation Criteria

NIFA will use the following criteria to evaluate applications to this program:

Standard and Collaborative Grants

Each application will be evaluated by three peer reviewers. The evaluation criteria below (which are listed in priority order of importance) will be used to review Standard and Collaborative Grants submitted in response to this NOFO:

1. **Potential for Building and Strengthening Capacity and Advancing the Quality of Education, Research, or Extension.** This criterion is used to assess the likelihood that the project will have an impact on and advance the quality of the food and agricultural sciences by strengthening institutional capacities to meet clearly delineated needs of the 1890 university's objectives, strategic plan, or Plan of Work. Elements considered include: (1) institutional goals in the food and agricultural sciences and how they align to NIFA/USDA's Strategic Goals and/or Objectives; (2) identification of a problem or opportunity to be addressed as one of the Priority Areas; (3) justification for the project; (4) innovation; (5) multidisciplinary and/or problem-based focus; (6) the institution's capability to perform the project and the degree to which the project will strengthen its education, research, or extension/outreach capacity; and (7) potential for adoption by other institutions. Other elements under consideration include the institution's commitment to the project; the adequacy of institutional resources (administrative, facilities, equipment, and/or materials) available to carry out the project; data management plan; potential for academic, research, or extension/outreach enhancement; and plans for project continuation or expansion beyond the period of USDA support.
2. **Overall Approach, Cooperative Linkages, and Quality of the Proposal.** This criterion relates to the soundness of the proposed approach, with an emphasis on the following: objectives that show a clear connection to the institutional goals or strategic plan or Plan of Work; methodology; plan of operation; and timetable that describes limitations and strategies to avoid or compensate for identified limitations.
 - (a) **For Collaborative Grants.** A timetable that includes the responsibilities of all partners in the project timetable; expected products and results; an evaluation plan that includes performance measures to assess project success; and dissemination plans.
 - (b) **For Education, Research, Extension, and Integrated Projects.** Emphasis is placed on the identified core competencies that students and/or clients will attain through new knowledge; the quality of educational, research, and/or extension/outreach support provided to the applicant institution through its partnerships and collaborative initiatives; and the potential cooperative linkages likely to evolve as a result of this project that clearly identifies the key personnel responsibilities for products, outputs, outcomes, and potential impacts. Metrics to assess products, outputs, and outcomes are to be clearly delineated in the proposal to include clear identification of the role of the partners and the outcomes for the 1890 university. Participation of a USDA agency cooperator(s) is optional; however, if the project includes a USDA cooperator(s), their role must be clearly identified.
3. **Personnel Resources.** This criterion relates to the adequacy of the number and qualifications of key personnel who will develop and carry out the project, and the qualifications of project personnel who will manage the: (1) successful attainment of the

proposed outcomes; (2) assessment of project results and impacts; and (3) dissemination of these findings. Proposals must clearly identify for all key personnel their role, responsibilities, and outcomes, and describe the management plan to assure successful project outcomes. Qualified and sufficient personnel are critical for meeting the capacity building objective of a project.

4. **Budget and Cost-Effectiveness.** This criterion relates to the extent to which the total budget adequately supports the project and is cost-effective. Elements considered include the necessity and reasonableness of costs to carry out project activities and achieve project objectives; the appropriateness of budget allocations between the applicant and any collaborating institution(s); the adequacy of time committed to the project by key project personnel; and the degree to which the project maximizes the use of limited resources, optimizes educational value for the dollar, achieves economies of scale, leverages additional funds, and focuses expertise and activity on high-priority education, research, or extension need areas based on the 1890 institutional objectives, strategic plan, or Plan of Work.
5. **Suitability and Feasibility of the Data Management Plan.** Accessibility of data from NIFA-funded projects is critical to achieving NIFA's vision to catalyze transformative discoveries, education, and engagement to address agricultural challenges. The data management plan is important for consideration for evaluation of NIFA project. Instructions and FAQs can be found at: [Data Management Plan for NIFA-Funded Research, Education, and Extension Projects | NIFA](#).

Professional Development Grants

The evaluation criteria below will be used to review (which are listed in priority order of importance) Professional Development Grants submitted in response to this NOFO:

1. **Merit of the Proposed Activities as a Means of Enhancing the Capabilities and Competitiveness of the Applicant**
 - a. Relevant methods and appropriate activities
 - b. Appropriate collaborators
 - c. Clear objectives and targeted outcomes
 - d. Realistic timetable for completion
2. **Merit of Applicant's Experience**
 - a. Applicant's professional development experience
 - b. Applicant's experience in education, research, and/or extension/outreach
3. **Relevance to 1890 University and U.S. Agriculture**
 - a. Relevance of the project/training to the food and agricultural sciences strategic plan at the applicant's institution
 - b. Relevance of the project/training to long-range improvements in U.S. agriculture, human health and well-being, and rural communities
4. **Appropriateness and Cost-effectiveness of the Proposed Budget**
 - a. Budget, including justification

b. Cost-effectiveness

Refer to Standard and Collaborative grants evaluation criteria above for more details on each criterion.

Workshop Grants

The evaluation criteria below will be used to review (which are listed in priority order of importance) Workshop Grants submitted in response to this NOFO:

1. **Significance of Proposed Workshop, Overall Approach, and Quality of the Proposal.** This criterion relates to the soundness of the proposed activities, with an emphasis on work plan methodology, appropriateness of key personnel, assessment of impact on audience, timetable that describes limitations and strategies to avoid or compensate for identified limitations, and focus of expertise and activity on high-priority Education, Research, or Extension Need Areas based on the 1890 institutional objectives or strategic plan.
2. **Budget and Cost-Effectiveness.** This criterion relates to the extent to which the total budget adequately supports the workshop and is cost-effective. Elements considered include the necessity and reasonableness of costs to conduct workshop activities, adequacy of time committed to the workshop by key project personnel, and the degree to which the project maximizes the use of limited resources, optimizes training value for the dollar, and achieves economies of scale.

Refer to Standard and Collaborative grants evaluation criteria above for more details on each criterion.

C. Organizational Management Information

Applicants must submit specific management information prior to an award and update the information as needed. Applicants may only need to provide an update if there was a change in previously provided information under this or another NIFA program. NIFA provides the requisite forms during the pre-award process. Although an applicant may be eligible for award under this program, there are factors that may exclude an applicant from receiving Federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual, or a determination that an applicant is not responsible).

D. Application Disposition

Applicants may withdraw at any time before NIFA makes a final funding decision. NIFA will retain all applications, including withdrawn applications and unfunded applications.

PART VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

A. General

Within the limit of funds authorized, the NIFA awarding official will make grants to responsible and eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this NOFO. The date specified by the NIFA awarding official as the effective date of the grant must be no later than September 30 of the Federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law. The project need not be initiated on the grant effective date, but as soon thereafter as practical so that project goals may be attained within the funded project period.

All funds granted by NIFA under this NOFO may be used only for the purpose for which they are granted in accordance with the program-specific laws and regulations, NIFA General Awards Administrative Provisions ([7 CFR part 3430, subparts A through E](#)), USDA Regulations for Grants and Agreements ([2 CFR Chapter IV](#)), Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance ([2 CFR part 200](#)), [NIFA-specific terms and conditions](#), [USDA General Terms and Conditions for Federal Awards](#), and approved budget and project plans.

The Notice of Award document will provide pertinent instructions and information as described in [2 CFR 200.211](#).

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Several Federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications and the projects outlined in this NOFO (some are listed here: [Federal Regulations](#)). Unless specifically noted by statute or award-specific requirements, [NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide](#) applies to all NIFA awards.

C. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

Output and reporting requirements are included in the [award terms and conditions](#). If there are any program or award-specific award terms, they will be identified in the Award Notice.

PART VII. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Use of Funds and Changes in Budget

Delegation of fiscal responsibility. Unless the terms and conditions of the award state otherwise, awardees may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of award funds.

Changes in Budget or Project Plans. In accordance with [2 CFR 200.308](#), awardees must request prior approval from NIFA for the following program or budget-related reasons (the awardee is subject to the terms and conditions identified in the award):

1. Change in the scope or the objective of the project or program without prior written approval (even if there is no associated budget revision required);
2. Change in a key person specified in the application or the Federal award;
3. Disengagement from the project for more than three months, or a 25 percent reduction in time devoted to the project;
4. Inclusion of costs that require prior approval in accordance with [2 CFR 200 Subpart E \(Cost Principles\)](#), or [2 CFR Part 300 Appendix IX, \(Principles for Determining Costs Applicable to Research and Development under Awards and Contracts with Hospitals\)](#), or [48 CFR](#), unless waived by the Federal awarding agency, [48 CFR Part 31, Contract Cost Principles and Procedures](#);
5. Transfer of funds budgeted for participant support costs to other categories of expense ([2 CFR 200.456 Participant support costs](#));
6. Sub-awarding, transferring or contracting out of any work under a Federal award, including fixed amount sub-awards (see [2 CFR 200.333, Fixed Amount Sub-awards](#)), unless described in the application and funded in the approved Federal awards. This provision does not apply to the acquisition of supplies, material, equipment, or general support services;
7. Changes in the approved cost-sharing or matching provided by the non-Federal entity;
8. The need for additional Federal funds to complete the project;
9. Salary rates of pay exceeding an Executive Level IV salary range (see “Rates of Pay for the Executive Schedule” under the “Executive & Senior Level Employee Pay Tables” header at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/>) require prior NIFA approval. This rate does not include any fringe benefits, general and administrative (G&A), overhead, or other expenses. Requests for approval must include the salary rate of pay and a justification for the rate and be sent to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) to awards@usda.gov;
10. No more than 50 percent of the total dollars of this award may be subcontracted to another party(ies) without prior written approval of the ADO, except subcontracts to Federal agencies;
11. Transferring funds between the construction and non-construction work under a Federal award; and
12. A no-cost extension (meaning, an extension of time that does not require the obligation of additional Federal funds) of the period of performance, other than any one-time extension authorized by the Federal agency in accordance with paragraph [2 CFR 200.308\(g\)\(2\)](#). All requests for no-cost extensions should be submitted at least 10 calendar days before the conclusion of the period of performance. The Federal agency may approve multiple no-cost extensions under a Federal award if not prohibited by Federal statute or regulation.

B. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

When an application results in an award, it becomes a part of NIFA transaction records, which are available to the public. Information that the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be confidential, privileged, or proprietary in nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, applicants should clearly mark any information within the application they wish to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary. NIFA will retain a copy of an application that does not result in an award for three years. Such an application will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An applicant may withdraw at any time prior to the final action thereon.

C. Regulatory Information

This program is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with state and local officials. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 ([44 U.S.C. Chapter 35](#)), the collection of information requirements contained in this notice have been approved under [OMB Document No. 0524-0039](#).

D. Language Access Services

NIFA offers language access services, such as interpretation and translation of vital information, free of charge. If you need interpretation or translation services, please visit [NIFA Language Access Services](#).

APPENDIX I: AGENCY CONTACT

For Programmatic questions please email 1890.CBG@usda.gov.

For administrative questions related to;

1. Grants.gov, see [Part IV](#) of this NOFO
2. Other NOFO or application questions, please email grantapplicationquestions@usda.gov
3. Awards under this NOFO, please email awards@usda.gov

U.S. Postal Mailing Address:

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 419205, MS 10000
Kansas City, MO 64141-6205

Courier/Package Delivery Address:

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
2312 East Bannister Road, MS 10000
Kansas City, MO 64141-3061

APPENDIX II: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Glossary of Terms

Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning – AI/ML

Assistance Listing Number – ALN

Authorized Departmental Officer – ADO

Authorized Representative – AR

Data Management Plan – DMP

Mentoring Plan – MP

National Institute of Food and Agriculture – NIFA

Notice of Funding Opportunity – NOFO

Research, Education, and Economics – REE

United States Department of Agriculture – USDA

APPENDIX III: DEFINITIONS

Refer to [7 CFR 3430 Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Federal Assistance Programs – General Award Administrative Provisions](#) for additional definitions.

Definitions

Capacity Building:

Enhancing and strengthening the quality and depth of an institution's research, academic and/or extension/outreach programs as evidenced by its: faculty expertise, scientific and technical resources, research environment, curriculum, student experiential learning opportunities, scientific instrumentation, library resources, academic standing, faculty and student recruitment and retention programs, Extension delivery systems, organizational structures and reward systems for attracting and retaining first-rate research faculty or students at the graduate and postdoctoral levels.

Continuation Award:

An award instrument by which NIFA agrees to support a specified level of effort for a predetermined period with a statement of intention to provide additional support at a future date, provided that performance has been satisfactory, appropriations are available for this purpose, and continued support would be in the best interest of the federal government and the public.

Extension Capacity:

The quality and depth of an institution's Extension infrastructure as evidenced by its curriculum, instructional delivery systems, Extension faculty, and other program support systems, use of technology in program delivery, and library resources.

New Application:

An application not previously submitted to a program.

Outcomes:

Specific, measurable project results and benefits that indicate the project's plan of operation has been achieved. Measurable outcomes include:

- a. Results are intended or unintended consequences of the project, e.g., "...additional course materials now available online to reinforce student learning during non-classroom hours"
- b. Products may be actual items or services acquired with funds, e.g., "...mechanisms and content to transition existing course(s) or elements of course(s) for web-based access" or "created new and innovative prevention and intervention initiatives"
- c. Impacts are a measure of the results by comparing what might have happened in the absence of the funded project.

Plan of Operation:

A detailed, step-by-step description of how the applicant intends to accomplish the project's outcomes. At a minimum, the plan should include a timetable indicating how outcomes are achieved, a description of resources to be used or acquired, and the responsibilities expected of all project personnel.

Renewal Application:

A project application that seeks additional funding for a project beyond the period that was approved in an original or amended award.

Research Capacity:

The quality and depth of an institution's research infrastructure as evidenced by its faculty expertise in the natural or social sciences, scientific and technical resources, research environment, library resources, and organizational structures and reward systems for attracting and retaining first-rate research faculty or students at the graduate and postdoctoral levels.

Resubmitted Application:

A project application that was previously submitted to a program, but the application was not funded.

Teaching:

Formal classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, and practicum experience in the food and agricultural sciences and related matters (such as faculty development, student recruitment and services, curriculum development, instructional materials and equipment, and innovative teaching methodologies) conducted by colleges and universities offering baccalaureate or higher degrees.

and addressed by the applicant's proposal. (Also see Education Need Area)

Teaching Capacity:

The quality and depth of an institution's academic programs infrastructure.

U.S. Citizen or national of the United States:

A citizen or native resident of a State; or a person defined in the Immigration and Nationality Act, [8 U.S.C. 1101\(a\)\(22\)](#), who, though not a citizen of the United States, owes permanent allegiance to the United States.

USDA Agency Cooperator:

Any agency or office of the Department which has reviewed and endorsed an applicant's request for support and indicates a willingness to make available non-monetary resources or technical assistance throughout the life of a project to ensure the accomplishment of the objectives of a grant awarded under this program.