

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative Extension Disaster Education Network

FUNDING YEAR: Fiscal Year (FY) 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 21, 2026

ANTICIPATED PROGRAM FUNDING: \$382,400

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: USDA-NIFA-ES-011939

ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 10.304

ANNOUNCEMENT

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture

Assistance Listing Number (ALN): The Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative (FADI) Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) is listed in the Assistance Listings under number 10.304.

Table 1: Key Dates and Deadlines

Task Description	Deadline
Application:	5:00 P.M. Eastern Time, July 24, 2026 [Ref to Part I, C 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 Notice of Funding Opportunity (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 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 FADI-EDEN NOFO.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of the FADI-EDEN program is to support the Cooperative Extension System's (CES) ability to maximize the resilience of the U.S. food and agriculture sector to biosecurity risks, weather events and disasters, cyber threats, and other shocks through the EDEN. EDEN is a national, collaborative network of CES professionals who are dedicated to 1) improving all-hazards management of domestic disasters and 2) supporting all-hazards capacity-building efforts for peer CES professionals so that they are prepared for and skilled in directly providing education and technical assistance to farmers, youth and families, small businesses, and communities. The FADI-EDEN program provides coordination support to EDEN so that they can achieve their mission.

The FADI-EDEN program will fund one Extension Project that will address the FY 2026 Scope of Work. The amount available in FY 2026 is approximately \$382,400. If the award recipient's performance is satisfactory, appropriations are available for this purpose, and continued support is in the best interest of the Federal government and the public, additional funds may be provided in FY2027 and FY 2028.

This notice identifies the objectives for FADI-EDEN projects, deadlines, funding information, eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and application forms and associated instructions.

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PART I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority

The Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative was authorized in section 1484 of [National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 \(NARETPA\)](#), [7 U.S.C 3351](#). Under this authority available to the Secretary, the Secretary shall use funds made available to carry out agricultural research, education, and extension activities for continuation of partnerships with institutions of higher education and other institutions to help form stable, long-term programs to enhance the biosecurity of the U.S. These agreements are issued using NIFA's authority section 1472 of the [National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 \(NARETPA\)](#), [7 U.S.C. 3318](#).

B. Purpose and Priorities

Background

It is necessary to mitigate threats to sustain the overall competitiveness of U.S. agriculture to maintain an abundant, safe food supply for people and livestock; to support the farmers, ranchers who drive the U.S. food and agriculture sector; to maintain the vitality of rural communities; and to ensure profitability across the agricultural sector and affiliated industries. The CES, with its local and direct-education delivery model, is positioned to reach individuals, families, businesses, and communities to reduce biosecurity risks, weather events and disasters risks, cyber threats, and exposures to other shocks.

Diseases that affect livestock and backyard flocks can have a significant impact on animal health and production, live animal trade, and consumer confidence in meat and other animal products. Preventing the introduction and/or spread of plant pests and diseases is a critical component to plant life and health and are vital strategies to securing a crop production system that supports a safe and affordable food supply for people and livestock. Weather events and disasters, caused by natural hazards such as droughts, floods, wildfires, tornadoes, derechos, and hurricanes impact lives and livelihoods. Such incidents pose significant threats to the food and agriculture sector and can escalate biosecurity risks. As the food and agriculture sector becomes more dependent on technology and online services, cyber threat actors pose legitimate risks to breaching such systems.

The FADI-EDEN program is aligned with the following USDA Research and Development Priorities:

- Increasing Profitability for Farmers and Ranchers
- Protecting the Integrity of American Agriculture from Invasive Species
- Promoting Soil Health to Regenerate Long-Term Productivity of Land
- Improving Human Health through Precision Nutrition and Food Quality

FADI-EDEN Program

The goal of the FADI-EDEN program, under assistance listing 10.304, is to support CES's ability to maximize the resilience of the U.S. food and agriculture sector to biosecurity risks, weather events and disasters, cyber threats, and other shocks through the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). EDEN is a national, collaborative network of CES professionals who are dedicated to improved all-hazards management of domestic disasters. EDEN supports

all-hazards capacity-building efforts for peer CES professionals so that they are prepared for and skilled in directly providing education and technical assistance to farmers, youth and families, small businesses, and communities. The FADI-EDEN program provides coordination support and administrative leadership to EDEN so that it can achieve its mission.

The strength of the FADI-EDEN program has been its direct support to EDEN. CES professionals who are engaged with EDEN have expertise in agriculture and natural resources, individual and family health and well-being, youth development, and community and economic development. Through EDEN, CES professionals collaborate to respond to incidents that impact the U.S. food and agriculture sector; create and deliver educational resources and experiences aimed at the phases of the disaster management cycle; develop and/or enhance their skills and expertise in technical topics and direct education; and partner with local, state, Tribal, territorial, and Federal organizations and agencies to strengthen collaborations and reduce duplication of efforts and services.

The primary purpose of the FADI-EDEN program is to support a project that provides coordination support and administrative leadership for long-term and effective, all-hazards public outreach activities across the CES through EDEN. It is expected that such coordination support and leadership activities for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of multi-faceted extension activities will enhance and expand the CES's abilities to share science-based information with intended audiences at the local, regional, and national levels.

The project will be administered for the CES by a cooperating entity that will be selected competitively. The FADI-EDEN program will fund one project that addresses the priorities as presented as a FY 2026 Scope of Work.

FY 2026 Scope of Work

1. **Executive Committee Support:** The successful applicant will participate in and coordinate logistics for virtual monthly Executive Committee meetings and two in-person annual meetings (EDEN annual meeting in the spring and the mid-year meeting in the fall); participate in Standing Committee meetings; collaborate with Officers and Executive Committee members to provide administrative support for EDEN business that includes but is not limited to calendars, virtual meeting platforms, and committee meetings and projects; monitor and facilitate, as needed, efforts related to the implementation of EDEN's 2026-2028 strategic plan; and allocate \$35,000 or greater to the Executive Committee in broader support of EDEN. *Anticipated outputs: Monthly Executive Committee meetings, at least two in-person meetings, calendar invitations, virtual meeting platform, committee meetings, and committee deliverables.*
2. **Advisory Boards and Liaisons Support:** The successful applicant will participate in and coordinate logistics for virtual and in-person 1890 Land-grant University Advisory Board meetings and 1994 Land-grant Institution Advisory Board meetings; collaborate with the Advisory Board liaisons and the Sea Grant liaisons to provide administrative support for business that includes but is not limited to calendars, virtual meeting platforms, projects, and Advisory Board and Liaisons meetings; provide technical assistance related to the development and delivery of outreach programs and resources; and allocate \$60,000 or greater to the Advisory Board and Liaisons efforts in broader

support of EDEN. ***Anticipated outputs:*** *Advisory Boards and Liaisons meetings, calendar invitations, virtual meeting platform, and outreach, resources, and programmatic deliverables.*

3. **Administrative Logistics for Programming:** The successful applicant will collaborate with EDEN Officers and Executive Committee members and coordinate logistics, as needed, related to onboarding new EDEN state points of contact, delegates, and Executive Committee members; support the work of Standing Committees; work directly with EDEN Officers to review and refresh EDEN operating documents to ensure accurate and timely content; oversee EDEN databases and information (i.e., committee listings, Directory), make recommendations to EDEN, and implement enhancements as directed; oversee the logistics to capture incident impacts across the CES through Response Notes or a similar tool; provide frequent and substantive updates on project progress at Executive Committee meetings; and allocate \$25,000 or greater to the Executive Committee in broader support of EDEN. ***Anticipated outputs:*** *Onboarding meetings, onboarding documents and resources, EDEN databases and information, incident reporting tool, progress and budget drawdown reports, and Committee programmatic deliverables.*
4. **Project Management:** In collaboration with EDEN, the successful applicant will manage a co-developed project for the CES that promotes innovation for and integration of extension activities and applied disaster research activities; oversee, with Executive Committee input, the process for any subawards and/or contracts which includes pre-award, award, post-award management strategies, and opportunity announcements; implement post-award management strategies that include impact reporting and monitoring subaward and/or contract recipient performance; and allocate \$30,000 or greater to the project in broader support of EDEN. ***Anticipated outputs:*** *Protocol that includes all stages of the subaward and/or process, list of subaward and/or contract recipients with their project objective(s), subaward and/or contract recipient performance reports, opportunity announcement, subaward and/or contract recipient announcement, and a repository of project processes and data used to support EDEN.*
5. **Website Administration:** The successful applicant will manage the EDEN website and collaborate with the Executive Committee members and EDEN's state points of contact and delegates to ensure the public-facing Directory, Resource Dashboard, and Annual Meeting page are accurate and timely; facilitate reviews of website content that includes but is not limited to calendars, news and events, EDEN operating documents and information for CES professionals, and CES resources; work with Executive Committee members and EDEN's state points of contact to perform regular updates; oversee the website's security, domain registration, and software license; and allocate \$15,000 or greater for expenses. ***Anticipated outputs:*** *EDEN directory, directory update reports, Resource Dashboard, documentation of annual review of Resource Dashboard, calendar invitations, news and events announcements, website domain registration confirmation with expiration date, list of software licenses purchases with expiration dates, and website revision reports.*
6. **Communication:** The successful applicant will provide a platform to send regular newsletters and special communications (i.e., annual conference information) to the CES and partners to keep them informed and to promote EDEN efforts; collaborate with the Executive Committee members and the Marketing Standing Committee chair to plan and

prepare communications, outreach, and brand products; implement an internal communication platform for EDEN state points of contact and delegates to crowd-source answers to timely questions, find relevant resources, and share situational awareness; provide administrative support for regular (as determined by the Professional Development committee) professional development webinars and learning opportunities; and allocate \$15,000 or greater for expenses. ***Anticipated outputs:*** *EDEN newsletters, communication deliverables about the EDEN annual meeting, internal communication platform, internal communication platform usage reports, professional development webinars and events, webinar reports with participant data, and EDEN resources for outreach activities.*

7. **Annual Meeting Administration and Coordination:** The successful applicant will collaborate with the EDEN Officers and the annual meeting host institution liaison to coordinate logistics, as needed, for the annual meeting (held in the spring); allocate \$8,000 or greater for a subaward to the meeting host institution to support the development and/or enhancement of CES professionals' skills and expertise in technical topics and direct education that ultimately benefit farmers, families, and communities; and oversee timely updates to the EDEN website related to the annual meeting that includes but is not limited to meeting announcements, calls for proposals, meeting agenda, and post-meeting updates. ***Anticipated outputs:*** *Annual Meeting webpage with 2027 and subsequent years' information, co-developed prospectus for Extension professionals' skills and expertise development, post-meeting report with participant data, and list of recommendations to improve participant experiences at future EDEN meetings so that they are better equipped to directly help farmers, families, and communities.*
8. **Task Force Support and Administration:** The successful applicant will participate in and coordinate logistics for existing and/or emerging EDEN task forces to support ongoing and future work; and provide administrative support for EDEN business that includes but is not limited to calendars, virtual meeting platforms, and task force meetings and projects. ***Anticipated outputs:*** *Calendar invitations, virtual meeting platform, task force meetings, and task force deliverables.*
9. **Partnerships and Public Engagement:** The successful applicant will collaborate with and represent EDEN, when permitted, at various partnership meetings and public engagement opportunities that include but are not limited to National Animal Health Laboratory (NAHLN); the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN); Sea Grant Institutions; Federal Emergency Support Function #11/USDA APHIS, and the Food & Agriculture Sector Councils; prepare and give EDEN presentations as necessary; provide communications products to the EDEN, as needed, for their outreach and engagement activities; and support the EDEN's efforts to incorporate the CES into response frameworks at the local, state, Tribal, territorial, and Federal levels. ***Anticipated outputs:*** *Presentation slide decks, official reports and communications deliverables for partners and potential partners, post-meeting reports, communications products, and documentation of engagement with partners and potential partners.*
10. **Evaluation and Assessment:** The successful applicant will oversee the project's evaluation activities; identify and determine evaluation metrics that capture project activities and impact that support the FY 2026 Scope of Work; provide updates on project progress at Executive Committee meetings using data; prepare a mid-year progress report

for NIFA and Executive Committee members; and prepare an annual progress report through NIFA’s reporting system and share the report with Executive Committee members. ***Anticipated outputs:*** *Project evaluation metrics, regular progress reports with data, mid-year progress report, and official annual progress report.*

11. **Timely and Responsive Support:** Due to the highly evolving nature of EDEN, there may be times when the FADI-EDEN project needs to provide EDEN with timely and responsive support, especially as new priorities emerge. The successful applicant will manage project tasks in flexible ways to ensure the EDEN’s and CES’s needs are met; collaborate with the EDEN Officers and Executive Committee members to identify and prioritize efforts; meet with NIFA and EDEN Officers on a regular basis (to be determined) to provide updates on progress and to receive feedback on upcoming plans; and participate in post-incident debrief discussions with EDEN and NIFA to improve support efforts for EDEN operations and to update FADI-EDEN project plans. ***Anticipated outputs:*** *Calendar invitations, virtual meeting platform, meetings, related deliverables, and post-incident debrief reports.*

The project budget must reflect all elements of the FY 2026 Scope of Work using a tentative project period of November 1, 2026, to October 31, 2027. Budgetary guidance is provided for some elements of the Scope of Work. Funds may be used for salary of personnel, travel expenses, supplies, and indirect cost.

Table 2: Program Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code:	AA-G
Program Code Name:	FADI-EDEN
ALN:	10.304
Project Type:	Extension Project
Grant Type:	Cooperative Agreement
Application Deadline	September 21, 2026
Grant Duration:	12 months
Anticipated # of Awards:	1

PART II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

The amount available for the FADI-EDEN program in FY 2026 is approximately \$382,400. If the award recipient's performance is satisfactory, appropriations are available for this purpose, and continued support is in the best interest of the Federal government and the public, additional funds may be provided in FY2027 and FY 2028.

The award will be issued as a cooperative agreement, which is a legal instrument reflecting a relationship between the United States Government and a State, local government, or other recipient when:

1. The principal purpose of the relationship is to transfer a thing of value to the state, local government, or other recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stipulation authorized by a law of the United States instead of acquiring (by purchase, lease, or barter) property or service for the direct benefit or use of the United States Government.
2. Substantial involvement is expected between the executive agency and the state, local government, or other recipient when carrying out the activity contemplated in the agreement ([31 U.S.C. 6305](#)).

Through the cooperative agreement, NIFA agrees to:

1. Assign a National Program Leader (NPL) with appropriate expertise who will monitor the project as it is being implemented and operated, maintain communication between the project director (PD), key personnel and the EDEN Executive Committee, and make recommendations concerning planning and procedures to be followed to ensure that the FY 2026 Scope of Work is achieved.
2. Provide FY 2026 funds in the approximate amount of \$382,400 for project costs that are allowable, allocable, and reasonable as specified on the Notice of Award and the budget.
3. Review and, if determined appropriate, approve annual plans of work, progress reports, and financial status reports.
4. Coordinate with the PD to review the annual progress reports and the final technical report to determine effectiveness.
5. Provide technical assistance and guidance regarding the project, specifically related to project opportunities and ways to address implementation challenges.

NIFA is issuing the cooperative agreement on a continuation basis. A continuation award is an award instrument by which NIFA agrees to support a specified level of effort for a pre-determined period of time 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.

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. Application for FY2026 is 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).

C. Project and Grant Types

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

1. Project Type: Applicants must propose an **Extension Project**.
2. Grant Type: Applicants must select a **Cooperative Agreement**.

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 FADI-EDEN 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.

In accordance with section 1472(c) of the [National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 \(NARETPA\)](#), applicants may be: State Agricultural Experiment Stations, state Cooperative Extension services, all colleges and universities, other research or education institutions and organizations, Federal and private agencies and organizations, individuals, and any other contractor or recipient, either foreign or domestic, to further research, Extension, or teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences of the Department of Agriculture. Failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the application deadline may result in the application being excluded from consideration or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

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

Duplicate or Multiple Submissions – duplicate or multiple submissions are not allowed. NIFA will disqualify both applications if an applicant submits duplicate or multiple submissions.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

No Match Required - The FADI-EDEN 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 3** provides instructions on how to obtain an electronic application. **Part III** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) contains detailed information regarding the [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 3. 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 (Register Here).
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-ES-011939 , 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 4: 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 Key Information: Customer service business Hours 24/7, except federal holidays .	Email: grantapplicationquestions@usda.gov Key Information: 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 5** outlines other key instructions for applicants.

Table 5: 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

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 describe how the project will address the purpose and priorities of the FADI-EDEN program and EDEN's mission through the Scope of Work. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for instructions and suggested templates. The PS must include the following elements: 1) Project title, 2) list of project director and co-project directors and institution/organization affiliations, and 3) concise description of the project (250 words or less).
2. **Field 8. Project Narrative (PN).** The PN must not exceed 20 pages; this page limit includes the Project Timeline and any tables and figures. The page limit ensures fair competition. The PN must be formatted using 1-inch margins, single line spacing (i.e., no more than six lines per vertical inch), and 12-point, Times New Roman font. A one-page Table of Contents is permitted and does not count towards the PN's 20-page limit.

Appendices to the PN are allowed if they are directly germane to the proposed project. Do not add appendices to circumvent the page limit. In the PN, do not link to external references; proposals must be self-contained. The PN must address Year 1 (12 months) of the proposed FADI-EDEN project. Applicants must organize the PN using the sections listed below and are strongly encouraged to use the header titles below as prompts for each section:

- a. Introduction:** Describe the critical elements necessary to address the resilience of the U.S. food and agriculture sector related to biosecurity risks, weather events and disasters, cyber threat actors, and other shocks. Describe the state of all-hazards disaster education across the Cooperative Extension System. Explain the value of EDEN across local, state, Tribal, territorial, and Federal levels. Describe EDEN's need for coordination support and strategic administrative leadership through a FADI-EDEN project.
- b. Rationale and Significance:** Describe the target audience(s) of the project and explain the potential benefit of the proposed project to them. Provide background information on the applicant organization's capabilities and capacity to implement the FADI-EDEN project. Justify the applicant organization's strength to the FADI-EDEN project, EDEN, and target audience(s). Describe how the proposed project will support the continuity of previously funded FADI-EDEN projects.
- c. Scope of Work:** In lieu of goals and objectives, the proposed project must incorporate all elements of the FY 2026 Scope of Work as presented in Part 1, B of this NOFO. Describe the reasonable activities that can be accomplished within the resource and time constraints (FY 2026, Year 1) for all 11 elements of the Scope of Work. Include a Project Timeline of activities, with key milestones, over the course of Year 1 using a tentative project period of November 1, 2026, to October 31, 2027.
- d. Description of Approaches:** Describe the intended approaches for and philosophies about coordination support and strategic administrative leadership that will be used to co-strengthen EDEN operations. Explain techniques and activities that will be used to collaborate and/or communicate with EDEN Officers, EDEN Executive Committee members, state points of contact, and delegates. Explain techniques and activities that will be used to collaborate and/or communicate with the NIFA National Program Leader. Describe familiarity and past experiences in working with a group that uses a collaborative decision-making model and explain how related experiences may be applied to the proposed project. Acknowledge the limitations and anticipated challenges related to carrying out the FY 2026 Scope of Work and describe the ways in which the limitations and challenges will be addressed.
- e. Project Management Plan:** Provide a detailed description for how the FADI-EDEN project will be managed as it relates to the FY 2026 Scope of Work. Describe the roles, responsibilities, and qualifications of the proposed project's key (senior and other) personnel, including the percentage of time each person will dedicate to the project. Justify the roles of non-key personnel (contracts and/or consultants) on the proposed project and include their responsibilities and percentage of time each person will dedicate to the project. If the proposed FADI-EDEN project represents collaboration with at least one or more partners, provide an explanation of how the relationship, responsibilities, and communication will be managed. Describe relevant work that demonstrates each partner's ability to successfully execute the applicable

f. Fiscal Oversight: Identify the fiscal and administrative oversight activities that will be used for the project. Such activities may include how the EDEN Officers, the Executive Committee, EDEN, the CES, and USDA NIFA are informed about the financial status and budget transparency of the proposed project and FY 2026 Scope of Work achievements. Define the process for subawards and/or contracts, which includes pre-award, award, and post-award management strategies. Explain the process to select subaward and/or contract recipients. Describe post-award management strategies that include reporting and monitoring performance. Describe specific activities related to the Scope of Work to be performed by subaward and/or contract recipients. Describe the organizational commitment to the project including the institutional resources (administrative, facilities, equipment, and/or materials) available to carry out the Scope of Work. *Do not describe the budget in this section; the project budget and budget narrative will include a breakdown of costs.*

g. Project Performance Assessment: Indicate how the anticipated outputs associated with each FY 2026 Scope of Work element will be measured. Explain how the proposed project's activities will be evaluated and its impact measured. Describe how evaluation data will be shared with EDEN Officers, the Executive Committee, EDEN, the CES, and USDA NIFA. Provide details about how the evaluation data will improve overall project performance and effectiveness. Explain who on the project team will provide the project performance assessment oversight. Applicants are strongly encouraged to include people with expertise in and skills related to project performance measurement and/or evaluation and who can support the project's efforts to carry out the Scope of Work.

Field 9. Bibliography & References Cited. See Part V of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#). Title the attachment as "Bibliography & References Cited" in the document header and save the file as Bibliography. There is no page limit for the Bibliography. All work cited in the proposal should be referenced in this section of the application. All references must be complete and include titles and all co-authors, conform to an acceptable journal format, and be listed in alphabetical order using the last name of the first author or listed by number in the order of citation.

Field 12. Add Other Attachments. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

a. Data Management Plan (DMP). A DMP is required for this program. Applicants should clearly articulate how the project director (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 NOFO, NIFA's [NIFA's Data Management Plan](#)) and is not to exceed 2 pages. Title the attachment as "Data Management Plan" in the document header and save the file as DMP.

b. Appendices to the PN. Appendices to the PN are allowed if they are directly germane to the proposed project. Do not add appendices to circumvent the page limit. Title the attachment as "Appendices to the Project Narrative" in the document header and save the file as Appendices.

- c. **Key Organization Commitment.** Attach signed letters from key organizations involved in the project acknowledging their contributions and/or commitment. Letters are limited to no more than 2 pages per key organization. Combine all letters into one file and save the file as Letters. *Other more general letters of support (i.e., from those who are not committing to a specific role in the project) are not needed and should not be included.*

Do not add any other attachments not specifically requested in this NOFO. For example, do not attach examples of curricula or other appendices. Attaching additional narrative or figures or tables other than those specifically requested in this NOFO will result in disqualification from review.

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.

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 “FADI-EDEN” and the program code “AA-G”. Accurate entry is critical.
2. **Field 8. Conflict of Interest List.** See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

C. Funding Restrictions

1. **Legislative mandated Indirect Cost (IDC).** [Section 704 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 \(Pub. L. 117-328\)](#) limits indirect costs for FADI-EDEN to 10 percent of the total direct cost of the agreement. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants must limit their requests for recovery of IDC to 10 percent of total funds requested.

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.

2. 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, NIFA screens 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 targeted 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 NIFA program staff will recommend that your project is either approved for support from currently available funds or declined due to insufficient funds or review results.

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 equally weighted criteria to evaluate applications to this program:

1. **All-Hazards Disaster Education and EDEN Competency.** The extent to which the

project team exhibits knowledge of the EDEN framework which includes historical context and status. The extent to which the project team understands EDEN's need for coordination support and administrative leadership through a FADI-EDEN project. The extent to which the project will support the continuity of previously funded FADI-EDEN projects. The extent to which the target audience(s) are clear, appropriate, and will directly benefit from the project. The extent to which the applicant organization has the knowledge and capability to lead the FADI-EDEN project.

2. **Approaches to Project Implementation.** The extent to which the action plan was developed in response to the Scope of Work (11 elements) and is descriptive and appropriate. The extent to which the Project Timeline adequately addresses Scope of Work activities including key milestones. The extent to which the Scope of Work activities will be implemented in Year 1. The extent to which the approaches for and philosophies about coordination support and administrative leadership are sound and relevant. The extent to which the techniques and tactics proposed to collaborate and communicate across the FADI-EDEN project are tested and practical. The extent to which there is an understanding of and experience with a collaborative decision-making model. The extent to which the limitations and challenges are addressed. The extent to which the Data Management Plan is descriptive and feasible.
3. **Project Management and Assessment.** The extent to which the project adequately justifies the roles and responsibilities of all project personnel. For partner involvement, the extent to which there is sufficient explanation to justify their involvement and that partner responsibilities and communication strategies to be used are clearly defined. The extent to which the project team will collaborate and communicate with EDEN and NIFA. The extent to which project continuity is addressed. The extent to which the project performance will be monitored and measured. The extent to which evaluation activities are practical and appropriate for the Scope of Work activities. The extent to which there are dedicated people to monitor project performance. The extent to which evaluation data will be shared.
4. **Key Persons and Capacity.** The extent to which the PD, co-PD(s), and key persons are qualified and have the necessary expertise to carry out the project which includes implementing Scope of Work activities and supporting evaluation plans. The extent to which the PD's percentage of time committed to the project is practical for the FY 2026 Scope of Work. The extent to which the number of people involved in the project is reasonable. If a partner organization or organizations will be included in the implementation of the project, the extent which their involvement, including roles and responsibilities, is clear and defined. Letters of commitment from partners are included.
5. **Fiscal Oversight and Budget.** The extent to which the budget accurately includes dollar investments provided in the Scope of Work. The extent to which the total budget adequately supports the project and is appropriate, achievable, and cost-effective. The extent to which the time committed to the project by the key personnel is adequate. The extent to which the project maximizes the use of limited resources. The extent to which there is a defined process for subawards and/or contracts that includes pre-award, award, and post-award management strategies. The extent to which the applicant's organization is committed to the project, and the institutional resources (administrative, facilities, equipment, and/or materials) are available to carry out the Scope of Work are suitable.

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](#) (see [NIFA's Terms and Conditions](#)).

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. In addition, the following are required for this program:

The award recipient is expected to submit progress reports to NIFA and the EDEN Executive Committee and to submit a final technical report to NIFA and the EDEN Executive Committee. The award recipient is also expected to provide updates as described in the FY 2026 Scope of Work.

The award recipient will also be required to provide data and information, as needed, through USDA-sponsored evaluation activities and calls for programmatic data.

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 [45 CFR Part 75 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

Program Contacts

SM.FADI.EDEN@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

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative – AFRI

Assistance Listing Number – ALN

Authorized Representative – AR

Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 – AREERA

Cooperative Extension System – CES

Coordinated Agricultural Project – CAP

Data Management Plan – DMP

Extension Disaster Education Network – EDEN

Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative - FADI

National Institute of Food and Agriculture – NIFA

Notice of Funding Opportunity – NOFO

Project Narrative - PN

Project Summary - PS

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

Continuation Award:

An award instrument by which NIFA agrees to support a specified level of effort for a predetermined period of time 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.

Matching:

The process through which a grant recipient match awarded USDA funds with cash and in-kind contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The matching funds must derive from non-Federal sources.

New Application:

An application not previously submitted to a program.