

# **Notice of Funding Opportunity**

## **Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Education Competitive Grants Program**

FUNDING YEAR: Fiscal Year (FY) 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 16, 2026

ANTICIPATED PROGRAM FUNDING: \$9,577,000

AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL AWARD RANGE: \$150,000-\$1,500,000

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: USDA-NIFA-AHSI-011902

ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 10.228

**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
United States Department of Agriculture

**Assistance Listing Number (ALN)**

The Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Education Competitive Grants Program (ANNH) is listed in the Assistance Listings under number 10.228.

**Table 1: Key Dates and Deadlines**

Task Description	Deadline
<b>Application:</b>	5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, June 16, 2026
<b>Applicants Comments:</b>	Within six months from the issuance of this notice <i>(NIFA may not consider comments received after the sixth month)</i>

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](mailto:Policy@usda.gov). Please use the following subject line: Response to the ANNH NOFO.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

NIFA requests applications for the ANNH for FY 2026 to promote and strengthen the ability of Alaska Native-serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions to carry out education, applied research, and extension community development programs. The amount available in FY 2026 is approximately \$9,577,000 with \$4,788,000 from FY25 appropriations and \$4,789,000 from FY26 appropriations available.

This notice identifies the objectives for ANNH projects, deadlines, funding information, eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and application forms and associated instructions. Student scholarship recipients must be a citizen or national of the United States, or permanent resident.

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## **PART I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

### **A. Legislative Authority**

The ANNH is administered under the provisions of Section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 ([7 U.S.C. 3156](#)).

### **B. Purpose and Priorities**

The purpose of this program, under Assistance Listing Number 10.228, is to promote and strengthen the ability of Alaska Native-serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs. NIFA intends this program to address educational needs, as determined by each institution, within a broadly defined area of food, agricultural, natural resources, and human sciences (FANH).

#### **NIFA is soliciting applications for the ANNH that support:**

1. Activities of collaborative membership of Alaska Native-serving or Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions to enhance educational opportunities for students
2. Strengthening institutional education capacities, including libraries, curriculum, faculty, scientific instrumentation, instruction delivery systems, and student recruitment and retention, to respond to identified state, regional, or national educational needs in the FANH sciences
3. Preparation of domestic pipeline of undergraduate and graduate students for careers related to the FANH sciences, beginning with the mentoring of students from K-12 and continuing with the provision of financial support for students through their attainment of a doctoral degree
4. Cooperative initiatives between at least two or more Alaska Native-serving or Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions, which may work in cooperation with one or more other entities including units of State government and private sector organizations, to maximize the development and use of resources, such as faculty, facilities, and equipment, to improve FANH education programs
5. Applied research to uncover practical and innovative ways in which new knowledge can be advanced to benefit students and other learners, farmers, ranchers, and community members.

**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. ANNH teaching applications 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
4. Organizing leadership academies, workshops, trainings, etc.

**Incorporation of Social Sciences and Enhancing Impacts.** The ANNH supports social and behavioral science disciplines. NIFA encourages ANNH projects that integrate social and behavioral sciences to provide experiential learning opportunities for students in applied research and related community development programs. Incorporation of social and behavioral sciences is important for addressing many of the challenges facing agriculture and rural communities.

**Table 2:** Program Key Information

Title	Description
<b>Program Code:</b>	RD
<b>Program Code Name:</b>	Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Education Grant Program
<b>ALN:</b>	10.228
<b>Project Type:</b>	Education Projects Extension Projects Integrated Projects
<b>Grant Type:</b>	Standard Grants Collaboration Grants
<b>Application Deadline</b>	June 15, 2026
<b>Grant Duration:</b>	36-48 Months
<b>Anticipated # of Awards:</b>	10
<b>Minimum Award Amount:</b>	\$150,000 for Standard Grant \$550,000 for Collaboration Grant
<b>Maximum Award Amount:</b>	\$500,000 for Standard Grant \$1,500,000 for Collaboration Grant

There is no limit on the number of Standard Grants an eligible institution may submit as the lead institution. An eligible institution may submit up to two Collaboration Grants as a lead institution. An eligible institution may receive up to four awards with up to two awards being Collaboration Grants as the lead institution.

## PART II. AWARD INFORMATION

### A. Available Funding

The amount available for the ANNH in FY 2026 is approximately \$9,577,000 with \$4,788,000 from FY25 appropriations and \$4,789,000 from FY26 appropriations available. 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. Application for FY 2026 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).
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).
4. **Resubmitted renewal application.** Resubmitted renewal applicants must provide a progress report and respond to the previous review's panel summary, and they are subject to the same criteria and due dates herein. The progress report must include the implementation of the Data Management Plan (DMP) of the previously funded project. 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).

### C. Project and Grant Types

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

1. **Project Types.** The ANNH is soliciting applications for the following project types and need areas:
  - a. **Education Projects.** Single-function Education Projects conduct programs and activities that have formal classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, and practicum experience in FANH and may also support faculty development, student recruitment and services, curriculum development, instructional materials and equipment, and innovative teaching methodologies.

**Educational Need Areas.** ANNH projects must focus on one or more of the need areas listed below. Please note that at least one of these need areas must be indicated in the project summary (See [Part IV, B](#)).

- i. **Curricula Design, Materials Development, and Library Resources.** To promote the development of courses of study and degree programs, new and improved curricula, and instructional materials and technology; promote the acquisition of library resources including books and journals relating to FANH; stimulate the use of new approaches to the study of traditional subjects, new research on teaching and learning theory, and new applications of knowledge.
- ii. **Faculty Preparation and Enhancement for Teaching.** To advance faculty development in the areas of teaching competency and leadership, subject matter expertise, or student recruitment and advising skills. Examples include:
  1. Obtaining experience with recent developments and new applications
  2. Expanding competence in innovative technologies and instruction delivery
  3. Developing new skills in a field of science or education including student advising skills; pursuing graduate-level study in a field related to FANH
- iii. **Instructional Delivery Systems.** To encourage the use of alternative methods of delivering instruction to enhance the quality, effectiveness, and cost efficiency of teaching programs. Examples include:
  1. Incorporating alternative instructional methodologies that respond to differences in student learning styles
  2. Inter-institutional collaborations that deliver instruction in ways that maximize program quality and reduce unnecessary duplication
  3. Consideration and implementation of innovative instructional techniques, methodologies, and delivery systems in response to advances in knowledge and technology
- iv. **Scientific Instrumentation for Teaching and Research.** To provide students and faculty in science-oriented courses with suitable, up-to-date equipment to involve them in work central to scientific understanding and progress. Examples include:
  1. Acquiring new, state-of-the-art instructional, laboratory, classroom, and research scientific equipment
  2. Upgrading existing equipment or replacing nonfunctional or obsolete equipment

Note: Equipment acquisition-only projects are not allowed. Acquisition of equipment must be part of a project promoting student experiential learning and/or training.
- v. **Student Experiential Learning.** To further the development of student scientific and professional competencies through experiential learning programs that provide students with opportunities to solve complex problems in the context of real-world situations. Project focus may include:
  1. Preparing future graduates to advance knowledge and technology in the FANH sciences and associated fields

2. Enhancing student decision making and communication skills and improving real-life technological expertise
  3. Developing internships and practicum experiences
  4. Participating with faculty on applied research and related community development projects
- vi. **Student Recruitment, Retention, and Educational Opportunity.** To enhance educational opportunities for students, and to strengthen student recruitment and retention programs to promote the future strength of the Nation's scientific, professional, and technical work force in FANH. Examples include:
1. Initiating new projects or supplementing current efforts to attract increased numbers of students to pursue postsecondary opportunities
  2. Developing agricultural and science literacy programs at the high school level to attract students to college and careers in FANH
  3. Creating mentoring programs and other initiatives to improve student retention
  4. Providing student financial support to attend college or graduate school. Projects that recruit and support a pipeline of domestic students to attend graduate school are encouraged. Any student scholarship recipients must be a citizen or national of the United States, or permanent resident.
- b. **Extension Projects.** Single-function Extension Projects must deliver science-based knowledge and informal educational programs that lead to practical decision making. Program delivery may range from community-based to national audiences and use communication methods from face-to-face to electronic or a combination thereof.

**Extension Projects may address one or more of the following:**

- i. Support informal education to increase food and agricultural literacy in youth and adults
- ii. Promote science-based agricultural literacy by increasing understanding and use of FANH data, information, and programs
- iii. Build science-based capability to engage audiences and enable informed decision making
- iv. Develop new applications of instructional tools and curriculum structures that increase technical competency and ensure global competitiveness
- v. Offer nonformal learning programs that increase accessibility to new ideas and technologies that are appropriate for community development
- vi. Develop programs that increase public knowledge and citizen engagement leading to actions that protect or enhance the Nation's food supply, agricultural productivity, community vitality, and/or public health and well-being.

These projects must lead to measurable, documented changes in learning, actions, or conditions in an identified audience or stakeholder group. In addition, these

projects should synthesize and incorporate a wide range of the latest relevant research results.

- c. **Research Projects.** —Single-function research projects support applied research conducted by individual investigators, or co-investigators within the same discipline, or multidisciplinary teams.
  - i. Applied research means research that expands fundamental research findings to uncover practical ways in which new knowledge can be advanced to benefit individuals and society.
  - ii. Multidisciplinary projects are those in which investigators from two or more disciplines collaborate to address a common problem. These collaborations, where appropriate, may integrate the various disciplines in FANH.

Research projects may address one or more of the following:

- i. Propose and evaluate ways to enhance utilization of the capabilities and resources of ANNH institutions to promote rural development, including providing assistance to farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers
  - ii. Identify key factors and conditions that influence student recruitment and retention and attainment of degrees in the food and agricultural sciences
  - iii. Study other identified State, regional, and community issues such as food security, soil health, agribusiness management and marketing, and aquaculture.
- d. **Integrated Projects.** An Integrated Project includes at least two of the three functions of the agricultural knowledge system (applied research, education, and extension) within a project. Some Integrated project applications include all three components of the agricultural knowledge system.
    - i. The functions addressed in the project must be focused on the problem or issue and must be interwoven throughout the life of the project to complement and reinforce one another. While the functions can be interdependent and necessary for the success of the project, resource allocation between the functions needs to be balanced.
    - ii. Integrated projects aim to resolve today's problems through the application of science-based knowledge and address needs identified by stakeholders. Integrated projects clearly identify anticipated outcomes and have a plan for evaluating and documenting the project's success. These projects will lead to measurable, documented changes in learning, actions, or conditions in an identified audience or stakeholder group.
    - iii. **Integrated project applications must include a Logic Model.** Failure to include this component may result in the application not being accepted by the program for evaluation.

Integrated project applicants are encouraged to review [Integrated Programs Application Information](#) for additional information on integrated programs, including tips for writing Integrated project applications and an example of an Integrated application. Those interested in submitting Integrated project applications are

encouraged to contact the program contact(s) listed in [Appendix I](#) of this NOFO to discuss the anticipated project parameters and outcomes to ensure the application content appropriately meets the requirements of an Integrated project.

2. **Grant Types.** The following is a list of available grant types under this NOFO.
  - a. **Standard Grant.** Supports targeted, original projects. Applicants must be an eligible ANNH institution (2- or 4-year independent branch campus, or branch institution of a State system) with project activities to be undertaken principally on behalf of and for the benefit of the lead applicant. Applicants may partner with other ANNH or non-ANNH institutions without the requirement of sharing grant funds with other project partners.
  - b. **Collaboration Grant.** Must be submitted by a group of two or more ANNH institutions, forming a linkage arrangement for the purpose of carrying out common objective(s) on the group's behalf. These grants will reduce duplication of effort and build capacity and must be organized and led by a strong applicant with documented project management knowledge and skills to organize and carry out the initiative. All collaborators must have a substantive role in the collaboration that is reflected in the budget allocation to partners. Each institution's budget needs to be appropriate to support its activities.

The project duration may range from 36 to 48 months for both Standard Grants and Collaboration Grants.

#### **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 ANNH 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.

For the purpose of ANNH, an eligible institution means an individual public or private, nonprofit Alaska Native-serving and Native Hawaiian-serving institution of higher education that meets the definitions of an Alaska Native-serving institution or Native Hawaiian-serving institution established in Title III, Part A of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended ([20 U.S.C. 1059d](#)).

**Table 3:** ANNH Eligible Applicants

Branch Institutions of a State System	For the purpose of this program, the individual branches of a State university system or public system of higher education that are separately accredited as degree-granting institutions are treated as separate, individual institutions, eligible to apply for and receive awards, provided that they otherwise satisfy the definition of Alaska Native-serving institution or Native Hawaiian-serving institution as specified above.
Independent Branch Campuses	Independent branch campuses of individual institutions may apply for and receive grant awards under this program, provided that they otherwise satisfy the definition of Alaska Native-serving institution or Native Hawaiian-serving institution as specified above. An “independent branch campus” means a unit of a 2-year or 4-year institution of higher education that is geographically apart from the main campus, is permanent in nature, offers courses for credit and programs leading to an associate or bachelor’s degree, and is autonomous to the extent that it has its own faculty and administrative or supervisory organization and its own budgetary and hiring authority.
Collaborative Arrangements	Two or more eligible, individual institutions, independent branch campuses, or branch institutions of a State system may form a collaboration to carry out education, applied research, and Extension/outreach programs in FANH. In addition to the individual eligible institutions (or independent branch campuses, etc.), such a collaboration also may include units of State government and private sector entities.

An existing collaboration consisting of at least two or more eligible, individual institutions, independent branch campuses, or branch institutions of a State system, which demonstrates its

ability to carry out allowed activities and its commitment to the goals of the ANNH Grants Program, also may apply for and receive a Collaboration grant.

**Certification of Eligibility.** Eligibility documentation must be submitted with the application. At the time of application, each primary applicant will be required to demonstrate or certify that it is an eligible institution under the ANNH Grants Program. If the applicant is a new or existing Collaboration project, each member of the collaborative must demonstrate or certify that they are an eligible individual institution, independent branch campus, or a branch institution of a State system.

An institution must submit a letter, signed by the institution's Authorized Representative (AR), certifying that it meets the requirements of an Alaska Native-serving institution or Native Hawaiian-serving institution as defined below. Data used for certification should be the most recently available but no older than the 2023-2024 academic year. Please indicate the timeframe that the relevant data is collected from in the letter. The AR must certify that:

1. The institution, or parent institution in the case of an independent branch campus, is legally authorized by the State in which it is located to provide an educational program for which it awards an associate or bachelor's degree, or that it is a junior or community college
2. The institution, or parent institution in the case of an independent branch campus, is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association determined by the Secretary of Education to be a reliable authority as to the quality of training offered or making reasonable progress toward such accreditation
3. At least 50 percent of enrolled degree students are receiving need-based assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act, or that a substantial percentage of students are receiving Pell grants in comparison with the percentage of students receiving Pell grants at all similar institutions (institution of higher education, or junior or community college)
4. Unless waived by the Secretary of Education, the average educational and general expenditures per full-time equivalent undergraduate student are low in comparison with the average educational and general expenditures per full-time equivalent student at institutions that offer similar instruction
5. For an Alaska Native-serving institution, at the time of application, it has an enrollment of undergraduate students that is at least 20 percent Alaska Native students (where the term "Alaska Native" has the meaning given the term in Section 7306 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 ([20 U.S.C. 7546](#)))
6. For a Native Hawaiian-serving institution, at the time of application, it has an enrollment of undergraduate students that is at least 10 percent Native Hawaiian students (where the term "Native Hawaiian" has the meaning given the term in section 7207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 ([20 U.S.C. 7517](#)))

Eligibility documentation should be submitted in Field 12: *Other Attachments*. See [Part IV, B](#). Eligibility of undergraduate and graduate students supported by these grants through scholarship or fellowships is limited to citizens or nationals of the United States, or permanent residents.

**Fiscal Agent (if applicable)**

If an applicant uses a fiscal agent, a letter must be included in the application stating that in the event the application results in an award, the award funds will be administered through a fiscal agent organization on their behalf. This agent must be identified in the letter from the applicant and the letter must be countersigned by an authorized representative of the fiscal agent organization. The letter must include the fiscal agent's point of contact, address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address. This letter is to be included as an attachment to Field 12: *Other Attachments* ([Part IV, B](#)). In the event an application is recommended for funding, NIFA will request that both the applicant or institution/organization and the fiscal agent organization submit complete management information.

**Please note:** the collaboration may designate fiscal agents as members of the collaborative arrangement and allocate funds among them.

**Examples of fiscal agent arrangements include,** but are not limited to, the following scenarios:

1. A State university system or a public system of higher education may apply on behalf of an eligible, individual institution, independent branch campus, or branch institution in the State. In such cases, the State system will act as fiscal agent for the eligible institution under a Standard grant award to advance the purposes of the ANNH Grants Program.
2. A research foundation, or similar foundation, established and maintained by an eligible, individual institution to facilitate the application and management of externally funded grant awards may apply on behalf of its eligible, parent institution. In such cases, the foundation will act as fiscal agent for the eligible, individual institution under a Standard grant award to advance the purposes of the ANNH Grants Program.
3. A State university system or a public system of higher education may apply on behalf of two or more eligible, individual institutions, independent branch campuses, or branch institutions in its State under a Collaborative grant arrangement. In such cases, the State system will act as fiscal agent for the eligible institutions under a Collaborative grant award to advance the purposes of the ANNH Grants Program.
4. A research foundation, or other similar foundation, established and maintained by an eligible, individual institution to facilitate the application and management of externally-funded grant awards, may apply on behalf of its parent institution and at least one additional eligible, individual institution, independent branch campus, or branch institution of a State system under a collaborative arrangement. In such cases, the foundation will act as fiscal agent for the eligible institutions under a Collaborative grant award to advance the purposes of the ANNH Grants Program.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations ineligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the project's conduct. An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion will preclude NIFA from making an award.

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

**Duplicate Submissions.** NIFA will not fund efforts that duplicate or overlap substantially with already funded efforts. The submission of duplicate or substantially similar applications to more

than one program in the same funding cycle will result in the exclusion of the redundant application from NIFA consideration. Duplicate applications are not allowed for the same program and only one application will be accepted for peer review.

**B. Cost Sharing or Matching**

**No Match Required.** The ANNH has **no** matching requirement. NIFA will not factor matching resources into the review process as an evaluation criterion.

## 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 4** 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 4.** Steps to Obtain Application Materials

Steps	Action
<b>Step One: Register</b>	<i>New Users</i> to <a href="https://www.grants.gov">Grants.gov</a> must register early with <a href="https://www.grants.gov">Grants.gov</a> prior to submitting an application ).
<b>Step Two: Download Adobe</b>	Download and Install <a href="#">Adobe Reader</a> (see <a href="#">Adobe Software Compatibility</a> for basic system requirements).
<b>Step Three: Find Application</b>	Using this funding opportunity number <b>USDA-NIFA-AHSI-011902</b> search for application here: <a href="#">Opportunity Package</a> .
<b>Step Four: Assess Readiness</b>	Contact an AR prior to starting an application to assess the organization’s readiness to submit an electronic application.

**Table 5:** Help and Resources

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

### 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 6** outlines other key instructions for applicants.

**Table 6:** Key Application Instructions

Instruction	References (All references are to the <a href="#">NIFA Grants Application Guide</a> )
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 <a href="#">Grants.gov helpdesk</a> 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 <b>30</b> 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 show how the project goals align with the project goals of the ANNH Grants Program. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for instructions and suggested templates.
2. **Field 8: Project Narrative (PN).** The PN must not exceed 20 **double-spaced** pages of written text including figures and tables. Font size for written text must be no smaller than 12 points, Times New Roman, with 1-inch margins. Font size for figures and tables must be no smaller than 11 points, Times New Roman, and can be single-spaced. The page limits outlined here ensure fair competition. Appendices to the PN are allowed if they are directly germane to the proposed project. Examples of allowable documents for appendices include syllabi, event/internship sample schedules, advertisements, or recruitment flyers. Do not add appendices to circumvent the page limit. The PN must include all the following:
  - a. **Potential for Advancing the Quality of Education; Significance of the Problem**
    - i. **Identification of Educational Problem and Project Impact.** Briefly state: (1) the specific instructional problem/challenge (or opportunity) to be addressed; (2) the anticipated project audience; (3) the project’s target objectives (what

change in education is proposed?); and (4) its anticipated, overall impact on improving the quality of FANH education.

- ii. **Project Justification.** Summarize the body of knowledge justifying the need for the proposed project. Discuss how the project's Educational Need Area ([Part II, C](#)) will be of value at the state, regional, and/or national level(s), and where applicable, how it will improve FANH capabilities of students. Describe any previously funded projects that are ongoing or recently completed that are related to the proposed project.
  - iii. **Institutional Long-Range Goals.** Explain how the project will help satisfy the institution/organization's high-priority objectives, or how the project is linked to and supported by the institution's/organization's strategic plan.
  - iv. **Innovation.** Describe the proposal's creative approach to improving the quality of FANH education, solving an educational problem, or promoting programs that advance equal opportunity for all students. Using either actual experiences or literature background information, show why this approach was chosen.
  - v. **Multidisciplinary and/or Problem-Based Focus.** Indicate how the project is relevant to multiple disciplines in FANH education and how the project will enhance students' understanding of complex agricultural systems. Also, discuss whether the project may be adapted by, or serve as a model for, other institutions.
- b. **Proposed Approach and Cooperative Linkages**
- i. **Plan of Operation and Methodology.** Describe procedures for accomplishing the project's objectives. Describe project management plans to ensure the project's proper and efficient administration. Describe the way in which resources and personnel will be used to conduct the project.
  - ii. **Timetable.** Identify all important project milestones (performance targets that indicate when project goals will be met) and dates as they relate to project start-up, execution, evaluation, dissemination, and closeout.
  - iii. **Products, Results, and Measurable Outputs.** Outline the expected products, results, measurable outputs, and their outcome (impact) on strengthening FANH education. Make sure to differentiate between the following:
    1. "Products" may be actual items or services acquired with funds, e.g. "... developed three new web-based courses."
    2. "Results" are accomplishments related to the products, e.g. "... additional course materials now available online to reinforce student learning during non-classroom hours."
    3. "Impacts" are the benefits to your audience, the consequences of your project, and the most critical elements in your Evaluation Plan. They are a measure of the results by comparison to what might have happened in the absence of the funded projects, e.g., "... an observed, overall increase in student learning based upon 8 percent higher average tests scores of those students who both attended class and used the supplemental, web-based course materials".
  - iv. **Evaluation Plan.** All ANNH projects must have an Evaluation Plan that includes both a strategy for monitoring the project as it evolves (to provide feedback to guide these efforts), as well as a strategy for evaluating the project's

- effectiveness. Grantees are encouraged to obtain an independent evaluator to secure appropriate documentation of the project's outcomes and impacts.
- v. **Dissemination Plans.** The application must document how project accomplishments (products, results, and impacts, etc.) will be published or otherwise disseminated to the broadest extent. This may include educational journals or other professional discipline publications, and presentations at conferences and workshops, including the ANNH Project Directors' Meeting. Discuss the institution/organization's commitment to disseminate project results and products and the potential for institutionalization. Identify target audiences and explain methods of communication.
  - vi. **Partnerships and Collaborative Efforts.** Explain how the project will maximize partnership and collaborative efforts to strengthen FANH education (e.g., involvement of faculty in related disciplines at the same institution, collaborative projects with other educational institutions/organizations, or cooperative activities with business or industry). Provide evidence, via letters from the parties involved in the partnership or collaborative arrangement.
- c. **Institutional Capability and Capacity Building**
- i. **Institutional/Organizational Commitment and Capability.** Demonstrate that the program administration is committed to this project and has the capability to ensure its completion.
  - ii. **Institutional/Organizational Resources.** Document the necessary institutional/organizational resources (administrative, facilities, equipment, and/or materials), and other appropriate resources, that will be made available to the project. Demonstrate how these resources, when combined with the support requested from USDA, will be adequate to carry out the project's activities.
  - iii. **Academic Enhancement.** Document how this project will improve and strengthen teaching at the institution (including any partner institutions/organizations). Include how any project performance target(s) will be incorporated into academic instruction at the institution. Discuss how the benefits to be derived from the project will transcend the applicant institution/organization or the grant period.
  - iv. **Continuation Plans.** Discuss the likelihood of, or specific plans for, continuation or expansion of the project beyond the period of USDA support. Describe how the institution's/organization's long-range budget or academic plan provides for the realistic continuation or expansion of the initiative undertaken by this project after the grant period ends. Explain the plans for eventual self-support built into the project, and the plans to institutionalize the program if it is successful. Describe any indications of other continuing non-Federal support. Provide details of the expected outcomes, and the target audience that would benefit from the continuation of this project.
- d. **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.
- e. **Budget and Cost-effectiveness**

- i. **Budget.** In addition to the separate, required budget forms and budget justification, discuss how the budget specifically supports the proposed project activities. Explain how such budget items as professional or technical staff time and salary, travel, equipment, etc., are necessary and reasonable to achieve project objectives. Justify that all funds requested from USDA are allocated adequately between the applicant and any collaborating institution(s)/organization(s) and will be appropriate to carry out the activities of the project. If the application addresses more than one Educational Need Area (see [Part II, C](#)), you must include estimates of the proportion of the funds requested from USDA that will support each respective area. Quotes or estimated costs for acquiring equipment are highly recommended.
    - ii. **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.
  - f. **Plan of Work for Collaboration Grants.** In addition to the PN, Collaboration Grant applications will have up to 5 additional pages for a plan of work. A plan of work is a detailed, step-by-step description of how the applicant intends to accomplish the project's objectives (see definition in [Appendix III](#)).
3. **Field 12: Add Other Attachments.** See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).
- a. **Logic Model (1-page limit).** Required for Integrated Project applications. Title the attachment as 'Logic Model' in the document header and save file as 'Logic Model.' Applications should include elements of a logic model detailing the activities, outputs, and outcomes of the proposed project. This information may be provided as a narrative or formatted into a logic model chart. The logic model planning process is a tool that should be used in developing projects before writing the proposal. More information and resources related to the logic model planning process are provided at [Integrated Programs' Logic Model Planning Process](#).
  - b. **Data Management Plan (2-page limit).** A DMP is required for this program. Applicants must 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 Data Management Plan](#)).
  - c. **Mentoring Plan (MP) (2-page limit).** Title the attachment as 'Mentoring Plan' and save file as 'MentoringPlan.' An MP describing peer mentoring, layered mentoring, or similar mentoring activities is required for this NOFO if professional development for faculty, students, or other community participants is included in grant activities. If various education levels of students or scholars are represented in the application, the MP must address how mentoring will be different and targeted to the specific education level (youth, undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate, etc.), as appropriate. The MP should incorporate:
    - i. The roles and responsibilities of the project director and co-project directors in managing the mentoring process
    - ii. 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.
- iii. A description of mentoring activities and how these activities are incorporated into the overall project timeline
- iv. A description of processes to ensure reasonable accommodations for program participants with challenges accessing program activities
  - (a) Scholarship programs should include plans to accommodate scholarship recipients who find it necessary to interrupt their program of study because of health, personal, or other reasonable nonacademic and nondisciplinary cause(s).
- d. **Previous Award (1-page limit).** A PD or co-PD on a previous or current USDA ANNH award should indicate to what extent the current application builds upon the outcomes of the prior award and the differences in the proposed approach and methodology. Explain why it is necessary to provide additional funds and how this application will complement any existing USDA ANNH awards at the institution, if applicable.
- e. **Response to Previous Review (1-page limit).** This requirement only applies to “Resubmitted Applications” as described under [Part II, B of this NOFO](#), “Resubmitted application.” PDs must respond to the previous review panel summary. Title the attachment as “Response to Previous Review” in the document header and save file as “ResponsetoPreviousReview.” If desired, additional comments may be included in the text of the Project Narrative, subject to the page limitations of that section.
- f. **Letters of Support.** If letters of support are included as part of the application, they should be attached as a single PDF file titled as “Letters of Support” in the document header and saved as “LettersofSupport.” Letters of support are encouraged from partners but not 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 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](#).

**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 “Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions” and the program code “RD.” Accurate entry is critical.
2. **Field 8: Conflict of Interest List.** See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

### C. Funding Restrictions

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](#).

## **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 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 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 equally weighted criteria to evaluate applications to this program:

1. **Potential for Advancing Quality of Education/Significance of the Problem.** This criterion is used to assess the likelihood that the project will have an impact upon and advance the quality of food, agricultural, natural resources, and human sciences by strengthening institutional capacities to meet clearly delineated needs. Elements considered include institutional long-range goals, identification of a problem or opportunity to be addressed, justification for the project, innovation, advancing educational equity, multidisciplinary and/or problem-based focus, and potential for adoption by other institutions.
2. **Proposed Approach and Cooperative Linkages.** This criterion relates to the soundness of the proposed approach including objectives, methodology, plan of operation, timetable, expected products and results, evaluation, dissemination plans, and Data Management Plan. Emphasis is placed on the quality of educational or research support provided to the applicant institution through its intercollegiate engagement and partnership and necessary outside collaborative initiatives, and on the potential cooperative linkages likely to evolve as a result of this project. Also assessed is whether the Data Management Plan is appropriate, clearly described, and feasible.
3. **Institutional Capability and Capacity Building.** This criterion relates to the institution's capability to perform the project and the degree to which the project will strengthen its educational capacity. Elements 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, potential for academic or research enhancement, and plans for project continuation or expansion beyond the period of USDA support. Emphasis is placed on the quality, innovation, and creativity of educational and/or research support provided to the applicant institution through its partnerships and collaborative initiatives.
4. **Key Personnel.** This criterion relates to the adequacy of the number and qualifications of key persons who will develop and carry out the project, and the qualifications of project personnel who will provide for the assessment of project results and impacts of these findings.
5. **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 inter-institutional sources and necessary outside collaborators; 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 educational or research need areas.

### **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.

During the tenure of a grant, PDs must attend at least one PD meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss project and grant management, opportunities for collaborative efforts, future directions for education reform, and opportunities to enhance dissemination of exemplary end products/results of the projects. Reasonable travel expenses to attend this meeting may be included in the application's budget under travel expenses. While budgets should account for this travel, virtual or hybrid meetings may be considered.

## 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](mailto: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: [ANNHGrants@usda.gov](mailto:ANNHGrants@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](mailto:grantapplicationquestions@usda.gov)
3. Awards under this NOFO, please email [awards@usda.gov](mailto: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**

Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Education Competitive Grants Program – ANNH  
Assistance Listing Number – ALN  
Authorized Departmental Officer – ADO  
Authorized Representative – AR  
Data Management Plan – DMP  
Food, Agricultural, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences – FANH  
Indirect Costs – IDC  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture – NIFA  
Notice of Funding Opportunity – NOFO  
Project Director – PD  
Project Narrative – PN  
Project Summary – PS  
Total Federal Funds Awarded – TFFA  
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**

#### **Alaska Native:**

Means a citizen of the United States who is a person of one-fourth degree or more Alaska Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut blood, or combination thereof. It also includes any citizen of the United States who is regarded as an Alaska Native by the Native village or Native group and whose father or mother is (or, if deceased, was) regarded as Native by any village or group.

#### **Native Hawaiian:**

Means any individual who is a citizen of the United States; and is a descendant of the aboriginal people, who prior to 1778, occupied and exercised sovereignty in the area that now comprises the State of Hawaii, as evidenced by genealogical records, Kapuna (elders) or Kama'aina (long-term community residents) verification, or certified birth records.

#### **New Application:**

An application not previously submitted to a program.

#### **Plan of Work:**

Means a detailed, step-by-step description of how the applicant intends to accomplish the project's objectives. At a minimum, the Plan of Work should include a timeline of major activities to be undertaken, descriptions of protocols and procedures to be followed, an explanation of how resources will be acquired and used, and an outline of the qualifications and responsibilities of all key 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.

#### **Resubmitted Application:**

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

#### **Resubmitted Renewal Application:**

A project application that requests additional funding for a project beyond the period that was approved in the original award. This is an application that had previously been submitted for renewal but not funded.