REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP)

MODIFICATION:

This RFA is an updated version of the FY 2020-FY 2021 solicitation. It includes only the references to FY 2021 funding; FY 2020 references have been eliminated. General updates and edits appear in dark red.

Fiscal Year (FY)2021 Request for Applications (RFA)

FUNDING YEAR:	Fiscal Year 2021
APPLICATION DEADLINE:	April 16, 2021
LETTER OF INTENT DEADLINE:	Not required
AWARD AMOUNT:	Approximately $2.88 Million
ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER:	10.336

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, UNITED STATES (U.S.) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM (VSGP)

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE. The VSGP is listed in the Assistance Listings under the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number 10.336.

Table 1: Key Dates and Deadlines

Task Description	Deadlines
Application:	Fiscal Year 2021: 5:00 P.M. Eastern Time April 16, 2021 [*Ref to Part I § C of this RFA*]
Letter of Intent:	Not Required
Applicants Comments:	Within six months from the issuance of this notice (*NIFA may not consider comments received after the sixth month*)

Stakeholder Input. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) seeks comments on all request for applications (RFAs) 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 RFAs and use 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 (email is for comments only). Please use the following subject line: Response to the Veterinary Services Grant Program RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NIFA requests applications for the Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP) for fiscal year 2021 to develop, implement and sustain veterinary services and relieve veterinarian shortage situations in the United States and U.S. Insular Areas. The anticipated amount available for grants in FY 2021 is approximately $2.88 million.

This notice identifies the objectives for VSGP 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

Section 7104 of the 2014 Farm Bill (P.L. 113-79) added section 1415B to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA), as amended, codified at 7 U.S.C. 3151b to establish the Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP). This authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make competitive grants to qualified entities, including veterinary clinics/ hospitals, that carry out programs in veterinarian shortage situations and for the purpose of developing, implementing, and sustaining veterinary services.

B. Purpose and Priorities

Veterinarians play significant roles in assuring food and fiber animal health and wellbeing, food safety and security, public health, and producer profitability, especially in rural areas of the United States. where most livestock production occurs. The VSGP, Assistance Listing 10.336 and companion Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) authorized by the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA), were born out of concerns that long-term maldistributions in the veterinary workforce have left some rural communities with insufficient access to livestock veterinary services. By appropriating funds in FY 2005 to implement the NVMSA (previously authorized in 2003), Congress sought to lessen one cause of this workforce problem, i.e., the tremendous educational debt burden of graduating veterinarians. This incentive program helped reduce educational debt of veterinarians in exchange for service in designated veterinary shortage areas. However, it has been widely acknowledged that there are other important factors contributing to the maldistribution of veterinarians serving the agricultural sector besides debt burden. Among these are limited access to specialized education and training which will enable veterinarians and veterinary technicians to provide services in designated veterinarian shortage situations, and insufficient practice-enhancing equipment and personnel resources to enable veterinary practices to expand or improve access to veterinary services in rural veterinarian shortage situations.

To complement the work being done under the VMLRP, and more comprehensively address this veterinary shortage problem, the VSGP is designed to support two types of grants. Education, extension, and training (EET) grants are initiatives that will enable veterinarians, veterinary students, veterinary technicians, and veterinary technician students to gain specialized skills through activities and practice enhancement, with additional resources (e.g., equipment, personnel) needed, to more effectively mitigate veterinary service shortages in the United States. Rural practice enhancement (RPE) grants ultimately bolster the capacity of private practitioners to provide to animal veterinary services in designated veterinarian shortage situations.

The purpose of VSGP is to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services and relieve veterinarian shortage situations in the United States, which includes insular areas (see Part VIII, D of this RFA for a definition of “insular area”). Grants will be made available on a competitive basis to:

1. Establish or expand accredited veterinary education programs, veterinary residency and fellowship programs, or veterinary internship and externship programs carried out in coordination with accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.
2. Provide continuing education and extension, including veterinary telemedicine and other distance-based education, for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and other health

professionals needed to strengthen veterinary programs and enhance food safety and public health,
3. Cover travel and living expenses of veterinary students, veterinary interns, externs, fellows, and residents, and veterinary technician students attending training programs in food safety, public health or food animal medicine.
4. To expose students in grades 11 and 12 to education and career opportunities in food animal medicine.

Handling of baseline data and data collection will be addressed per approved project evaluation or performance measures/outcomes.

The VSGP is aligned with the following USDA Strategic Goals:

1. Strategic Goal 1: Ensure USDA Programs Are Delivered Efficiently, Effectively, With Integrity and a Focus on Customer Service;
2. Strategic Goal 4: Facilitate Rural Prosperity and Economic Development;
3. Strategic Goal 5: Strengthen the Stewardship of Private Lands Through Technology and Research;
4. Strategic Goal 6: Ensure Productive and Sustainable Use of Our National Forest System Lands; and
5. Strategic Goal 7: Provide all Americans Access to a Safe, Nutritious, and Secure Food Supply.

Additional requirements on expected performance goals, indicators and targets may be required as a condition of award.

C. Program Area Description

NIFA is soliciting applications under the following program areas:

1. Education, Extension and Training (EET) Grants
2. Rural Practice Enhancement (RPE) Grants

Table 2: EET Grants VSGP Education Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code:	VSGPE
Program Code Name:	VSGP Education
CFDA Number	10.336
Project Type:	Education, Extension and Training
Grant Type:	Regular
Application Deadlines:	April 16, 2021
Grant Duration:	24-36 Months
Anticipated # of Awards:	Approximately 8
Maximum Award Amount:	Approximately $250,000

Table 3 RPE Grants VSGP Rural Practice Enhancement Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code:	VSGPR
Program Code Name:	VSGP Rural Practice Enhancement
CFDA Number	10.336
Project Type:	Rural Practice Enhancement
Grant Type:	Regular
Application Deadlines:	April 16, 2021
Grant Duration:	24-36 Months (require a three-year service commitment)
Anticipated # of Awards:	Approximately 8
Maximum Award Amount:	Approximately $125,000

PART II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

The anticipated amount available for VSGP in FY2021 is approximately $2.88 million. The funding instrument will be a grant. USDA is not committed to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards. The Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP), operated by the Department of Treasury, Bureau of Fiscal Service, is the designated payment system for awards resulting from this RFA.

B. Types of Application

NIFA will evaluate applications using the criteria described in Part V of this RFA. Application for FY2021 is limited to the following applications types:

1. *New application*: New applications will be evaluated using the criteria described in Part V of this RFA 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).

C. Project and Grant Types

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

1. Project Types. Applicants must propose one of the following projects:

a. EET

Program Area Priority –Education, Extension and Training grants will support the following types of activities and programs, to relieve veterinary shortage situations or facilitate or support veterinary practices engaged in public health activities for any of the following purposes:

i. To allow veterinary students, veterinary interns, externs, fellows, and residents, and veterinary technician students to cover expenses (other than the types of expenses described in the rural practice enhancement program area) of attending training programs in food safety, public health or food animal medicine.

ii. To establish or expand accredited veterinary education programs (including faculty recruitment and retention), veterinary residency and fellowship programs, or veterinary internship and externship programs carried out in coordination with accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.

iii. To provide continuing education and extension, including veterinary telemedicine and other distance-based education, for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and other health professionals needed to strengthen veterinary programs and enhance food safety.

iv. To expose students in grades 11 and 12 to education and career opportunities in food animal medicine.

v. Although these grants can last 2 to 4 years, they do not have a minimum service commitment to a designated county.

Examples of activities may include development and implementation of:

i. Traditional or non-traditional learning opportunities;
ii. Non-degree educational training programs;
iii. Courses associated with existing degree programs;
iv. Continuing education.

In **FY 2021**, focus will be placed on programs for the following:

i. Veterinary students enrolled in an accredited veterinary degree program
ii. Veterinary interns, veterinary externs, veterinary fellows, veterinary residents, veterinary technician students and veterinary technicians
iii. Early veterinarians who, at the time they initiate the activities proposed in the application, are within 5 years of graduation from a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) or equivalent degree program.
iv. Students in grades 11 and 12 to expose education and career opportunities in food animal medicine.

Proposals should emphasize educational content that teaches:

i. Veterinary practice enhancement techniques and strategies that benefit the health of agricultural animals
ii. Best practices for delivering quality veterinary services in rural areas, and/or
iii. Veterinary approaches to foster food safety, epidemiology, or veterinary public health.
iv. Career opportunities in food animal medicine.

Note: For the purposes of this RFA, please refer to APPENDIX III: DEFINITIONS of this RFA for definitions of "Education activity" and "Extension activity."

Other Program Area Requirements:

i. Applicants are encouraged to coordinate with other qualified entities and to be creative and innovative in their approach
ii. The purpose of the proposed educational activities must be to substantially relieve veterinary shortage situations, or facilitate or support veterinary practices engaged in public health activities, in the United States.
iii. Application narratives must include formal evaluation plans (as described in Part IV.B.) to document the anticipated reach and impact(s) of each educational activity. These plans should be participant-centered and implemented during the term of the project.
iv. In FY 2021, applications that propose to develop new degree programs will not be funded.

b. RPE

Program Area Priority –Rural Practice Enhancement grants will support the development and provision of veterinary services to substantially relieve designated rural (as defined in Part I, B.) veterinary shortage situations (as defined in the following section) in the United States. Funds may be used for one or more of the following:

- Equip veterinary offices. Applicants must explain how requested equipment will be used to provide veterinary care for agricultural animals in rural veterinarian shortage situations
- Share in reasonable costs of operating a qualifying veterinary practice:
    i. Overhead costs may include, but are not limited to: salary and fringe benefits for veterinarian(s) support personnel, office rent, vehicle fuel supporting ambulatory services, maintenance contracts on equipment used to treat food animals, expendable medical and office supplies, computer software, utility expenses, and business consultant fees.
    ii. Establish mobile veterinary facilities in which a portion of the mobile facilities will address education or extension needs. Mobile veterinary facilities include, but are not limited to, a vehicle equipped to provide mobile veterinary services, a trailer squeeze chute or other animal restraint devices.
    iii. To support the exposure of students in grades 11 and 12 to education and career opportunities in Food Animal Medicine and Herd Health Management.

It is imperative that applicants make a compelling case in their Project Narratives (See Part III, B (3)(b) of this RFA) describing how the equipment, mobile facilities, personnel or other resources supported by the grant will contribute substantially toward public health objectives and/or mitigation of the veterinary service needs described in the shortage situation.

Other Program Area Requirements:

i. Overhead costs cannot exceed 50% of the total budget. These costs must be associated directly with providing service to a veterinarian shortage area. Applications with budgets that request greater than 50% for overhead costs will not be reviewed.
ii. Requests for overhead support must be justified, item by item, in the Budget Narrative (See Part IV, B.6).
iii. Funds cannot be used to construct new buildings or facilities or to acquire, expand, remodel, or alter an existing building or facility, including site grading and improvement and architect fees.
iv. If funds are requested to establish mobile veterinary facilities, activities to address the required education or extension needs must be described in the Project Narrative section and may include: experiential learning opportunities for veterinary or veterinary technician students, interns, or externs; courses, seminars, lectures or other events for producer groups, the public, community organizations or academic institutions; or participation in emergency preparedness events.
v. Applicants who are current VMLRP awardees from any year (i.e., you have a VMLRP service obligation at the time you submit this application) must propose to serve the same shortage area to which they are obligated under their VMLRP award. https://nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp-shortage-situations
vi. The ID of the shortage situation the applicant is proposing to serve must be clearly listed in the project title and abstract.

    Shortage situations must qualify as rural (as defined in Section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))). By definition, VMLRP type II shortage situations are rural. For type I shortage situations, use the

USDA Rural Development's Business Program's Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) map to assess "rural" eligibility. The map can be found here. (Select Rural Business at top, then the link for RCDI, accept the disclaimer and zoom into the area of interest.)

vii. Regardless of award amount, successful applicants must commit to spending three years mitigating the veterinary service shortage applied for, at the percent full-time equivalent (FTE) specified in the shortage situation form (which can be found for each shortage here). Except in certain extenuating circumstances beyond the awardee's control, the three-year term of service cannot be moved to a different shortage situation/location. In the event of extenuating circumstances impacting ability to meet service obligations, awardees must contact NIFA for guidance.

viii. VMLRP participants, applicants, and practices employing VMLRP participants are eligible to receive VSGP rural practice enhancement awards; however, percent FTE cannot be counted twice. For these recipients, NIFA may extend the project period to accommodate cumulative service agreement terms (see FAQs).

ix. Only one shortage area can be applied for in a given application year; only one award will be given per veterinarian shortage situation; and only one award per RPE applicant.

x. A VSGP RPE award will not be made for a shortage area in which a VMLRP awardee is serving except to that VMLRP awardee.

xi. Applicant must provide a copy of a map of the critical shortage area to which they are applying.

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 VSGP must meet all the requirements discussed in this RFA. 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 Grants Overview provides highly recommended information about grants and other resources to help understand the Federal awards process.

Applications may only be submitted by the entities listed below if they carry out programs or activities that will: 1) substantially relieve veterinarian shortage situations; or 2) support or facilitate private veterinary practices engaged in public health activities.

Table 4 Eligible Applicants for EET

For Education, Extension, and Training Program Area: • a State, national, allied, or regional veterinary organization or specialty board recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association; • a college or school of veterinary medicine accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association; • a university research foundation or veterinary medical foundation; • a department of veterinary science or department of comparative medicine accredited by the Department of Education; • a State agricultural experiment station; or Research Farm (1890 institutions) • a State, local, or tribal government agency.

Table 5 Eligible Applicants for RPE

A for-profit or nonprofit entity located in the United States that, or individual who, operates a veterinary clinic providing veterinary services, (i) in a rural area, as defined in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)), and (ii) is **either** a current VMLRP awardee from any qualifying year (i.e., those with a current service obligation at the time of this application) and applies with reference to the single shortage area to which they are obligated to serve; or is not a current VMLRP awardee and applies with reference to a current single veterinarian shortage situation **(**VMLRP shortage map webpage**)** designated as **'Open'** under the VMLRP in 2020 or 2021 to correspond with the year of application. Shortage area designation MUST be included in the proposal title and narrative and in the appropriate field on the form.

Duplicate or Multiple Submissions –For RPE, duplicate or multiple submissions are not allowed. NIFA will disqualify both applications if an RPE applicant submits duplicate or multiple submissions. For EET,multiple submissions are allowed by different departments of an eligible institutions. However, only one award will be granted per institution per year. . For those new to Federal financial assistance, NIFA's Grants Overview provides highly recommended information about grants and other resources to help understand the Federal awards process.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

No Match Required - The VSGP 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 RFA electronically; no other method or response is accepted. The electronic application for this RFA and additional resources are available on Grants.gov and Grants 101. Only practices, not individual practitioners, may apply for an RPE grant. **Table 6** provides instructions on how to obtain an electronic application. **Part II § 1** of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide (Application Guide) contains detailed information regarding the Grants.gov registration process.

Table 6. Steps to Obtain Application Materials

Steps	Action
Step One: Register	*New Users* to Grants.gov must register early with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application (Register Here). For RPE applicants, as a requirement for the application process, **it is strongly recommended to complete the registration or renewal of DUNS and SAMS cage code numbers at least five weeks in advance to the VSGP application deadline.**
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-VSGP-008119 search for application here: Opportunity Package
Step Four: Assess Readiness	Contact an AR prior to starting an application to assess the organization's readiness to submit an electronic application.

Table 7: Help and Resources

Grants.gov Support	NIFA Support
Grants.gov Online Support **Telephone support: 800-518-4726** **Toll-Free or 606-545-5035** **Email support: support@grants.gov** **Self-service customer based support: Grants.gov iPortal** ***Key Information: Customer service business Hours 24/7, except federal holidays.***	Email: policy@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 Application Guide is part of the corresponding application package for this RFA. The RFA overrides the Application Guide if there is a discrepancy between the two documents. NIFA will

accept subsequent submissions to an application until the application deadline. However, 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 RFA. Applicants must refer to the proposal number when corresponding with NIFA. **Table 8** outlines other key instructions for applicants.

Table 8: Key Application Instructions

Instruction	References (All references are to the Application Guide)
Attachments must be in a portable document format (PDF) format.	**Part III § 3**
Check the manifest of submitted files to verify attachments are in the correct format.	**Part III § 6.1**
Conduct an administrative review of the application before submission.	**Part VII and**
Follow the submission instructions.	**Part IV § 1.5**
Provide an accurate email address, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R.	**Part IV § 1.5**
Contact the Grants.gov helpdesk for technical support, and keep a record of the correspondence.	
Contact NIFA if applicant does not received correspondence from NIFA regarding an application within *30* (USDA-NIFA-VSGP-XXXXXX) days of the application deadline.	

SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet. See **Part V § 2** and **Part V § 2.17**of the Application Guide for the required certifications and assurances.

SF 424 R&R Project/Performance Site Location(s). See **Part V § 3** of the Application Guide.

R&R Other Project Information Form. See **Part V § 4** of the Application Guide.

1. Field 7. Project Summary (PS)/Abstract. The PS must show how the project goals align with the project goals of the VSGP. See **Part V § 4.7** of the Application Guide for instructions and suggested templates. The PS must be submitted as a pdf document and the following items must be included in the summary (please include underlined text along with your responses):
    a. Project Title (Note: For Rural Practice Enhancement applications this will be the shortage ID code for example, Delaware 287).
    b. Project Director, and any Co-Project Director(s): For Education, Extension and Training applications include institutional affiliation for each. For Rural Practice Enhancement applications only the person responsible for managing award funds,

typically the applying veterinarian or veterinary practice owner, should be included here.

c. Total Funds Requested.
d. Collaborators: Education, Extension and Training applications only, if applicable.
e. Summary Text: Concise (250 words or less) overview of problem(s) being addressed, objectives, approach and relevance to the purpose and goals of VSGP.

See Part V. 4.7 of NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further instructions. Use the above PN (Project Narrative) template subheadings rather than the template in the guide.

NOTE: *The PN of successful applications will be published by USDA and, therefore, should not contain proprietary or private information.*

Before submitting an application, the applicant must review the summary/abstract attachment to ensure compliance with the specified word limit, pdf format, and shortage id (only for rural practice enhancement applications). All summary text exceeding 250 words and rural practice enhancement applications missing the shortage id in the project title will not be reviewed.

2. Field 8. Project Narrative (PN) for **EET** applications. The PN must not exceed 12 *1.5 spaced* pages of written text and up to 3 *1.5 spaced* additional pages for figures and tables (the font size for tables should be no smaller than 11 points, Times New Roman). The page limits outlined here ensure fair and equitable competition. Appendices to the PN are allowed if they are directly germane to the proposed project. Do not add appendices to circumvent the page limit. The PN must include all of the following:
   a. Problem Identification and Significance: Clearly state the specific problem to be addressed and its importance to relieving shortage situations.
   b. Background: Include a clear statement of the long-term goal(s) and supporting objectives of the proposed activities. Summarize the body of knowledge or other past activities that substantiate the need for the proposed project. Describe ongoing or recently completed significant activities that relate to the proposed project including the work of key project personnel. Include preliminary data/information pertinent to the proposed project. In addition, this section should include in-depth information on the following, when applicable:
      i. Estimates of the magnitude of the issues to be addressed and their relevance to livestock producers and other stakeholders, and to ongoing local community, state, and Federal food and agricultural education and extension programs or needs.
      ii. The role of public and private stakeholders in problem identification, planning, implementation, and evaluation as appropriate.
      iii. Reasons for the work being done by the proposed entity (ies).
   c. Objectives: All applications must include a statement(s) of specific aims of the proposed effort in clear, concise, complete and logically arranged terms.
   d. Methods: Explicitly state the procedures or methodology you will apply to the proposed effort. This section should include but not necessarily be limited to descriptions of:

i. Stakeholder involvement in problem identification, planning, implementation and evaluation (if working with 11th and 12th grade students, the secondary school(s) and/or school district(s) should be included);
ii. If applicable, plans for coordination and/collaboration with other qualified entities and their roles and responsibilities (see item f. Management and Collaboration Plan below)
iii. Proposed project activities, listed sequentially
iv. Techniques to be employed in this project, including their feasibility and rationale
v. Plans to communicate results to stakeholders and the public
vi. Pitfalls that might be encountered, and
vii. Limitations to proposed procedures.

e. Project Evaluation Plan: Explicitly state the outputs and outcomes expected from the proposed project. Explain the data gathering procedures that will be used to monitor and assess progress toward intended project outcomes. When describing the measurement instruments you plan to use (surveys, interviews, focus groups, measures of class performance, cost-benefit analyses, etc.), be sure to mention why they are appropriate to gauging success. Evaluation plans must contain baseline data when available or describe how baseline data will be obtained for monitoring outcomes. A plan for tracking students/trainees after graduation and/or to assess the communities they will be serving to measure impact your project has on addressing shortage situations should be described. Finally, the Evaluation Plan should contain measures of the following:
    i. student/trainee learning or engagement
    ii. the number of students/trainees/teachers impacted by your project as a result of the proposed activities
    iii. the number of students/trainees serving or planning to serve shortage situations *and*
    iv. return on investment i.e., the trainee's impacts relieving veterinary shortage situations.

f. Management and Collaboration Plan: Applicants are encouraged to use approximately two of the 15 pages for this section. It is critical to have a clearly articulated management plan that describes the roles and functions of all key personnel and, where applicable, partners, collaborators and organizations, as related to the proposed project. See "Definitions" (APPENDIX III.) for definitions of Partner and Collaborator. For projects proposing coordination between two or more entities, include: time allocated by each partner for attainment of objectives; key roles of each partner and collaborator; and plan for administration of the proposed project and its maintenance and partnerships. Describe the plans for coordination, communication, data sharing and reporting among members of the project team and stakeholder groups. Describe the commitment of the organization and partners to this project; and how the collaboration and its impact will be sustained beyond the period of the award. An applicant's failure to provide the requested information in the Management and Collaboration Plan may preclude NIFA from making an award. In addition, letters of commitment signed by the Authorized Representative (AR) of the

partnering organizations demonstrating that the partners involved have agreed to abide by the Management Plan should be provided (see "Other Attachments" below).

g. Project Timetable: The proposal should outline all important phases and major milestones as a function of time, year by year, for the entire project, including periods beyond the grant funding period.

The following Table summarizes the section of the PN for Education, Extension and Training applications, suggests an approximate number of pages to allocate to each section, and shows the evaluation criteria most relevant to each section:

Table 9: EET Project Narrative

Narrative Section	Suggested # of Pages	Related Evaluation Criteria (see Part V, B. of this RFA)
Problem Identification and Significance	1	Relevancy
Background	1.5	Relevancy; Expertise, Experience and Institutional Resources
Objectives	1	Relevancy; Technical Merit
Methods	4	Technical Merit; Collaborations; Achievability
Project Evaluation Plan	2	Technical Merit
Management and Collaboration Plan	2	Achievability; Expertise, Experience and Institutional Resources
Project Timetable	0.5	Achievability

Field 8. Project Narrative (PN) for **RPE applications**. The PN must not exceed 6 1.5 spaced pages of written text and up to 2 1.5 spaced additional pages for figures and tables (the font size for tables should be no smaller than 11 points, Times New Roman). The page limits outlined here ensure fair and equitable competition. Appendices to the PN are allowed if they are directly germane to the proposed project. Use Table 10 as a guideline for organizing the project narrative. Application will be evaluated carefully based upon what is included in the section. Do not add appendices to circumvent the page limit. The PN must include all of the following:

a. Problem Identification: Clearly state the specific problem(s) faced by you or your practice to address the shortage situation applied for. Include scope of your current practice (# of clients, # of farms, # of farm calls weekly, monthly and yearly, how it is equipped, etc.).

b. Introduction: Include a clear statement of the goal(s) and supporting objectives of the proposed rural practice enhancement activities. Provide supporting information that substantiates the need for the proposed resources by describing, 1) ongoing or recently completed significant activities and, 2) current staffing relative to serving the proposed shortage situation. Include preliminary data/information pertinent to

acquisitions and implementation of the proposed enhancements in veterinary service, such as in-depth information on the following, if applicable:

i. Estimates of the magnitude of the impact of the proposed practice enhancements on local livestock, livestock operators, and local economic vitality and to ongoing state-federal interests including health of animal populations, food safety, food security, and public health.
ii. The role of local community leaders and producers in identifying best strategies to mitigate veterinary service shortages, and most effective methods of evaluating effectiveness of strategies employed.
iii. Reasons why the applicant is professionally, geographically and functionally poised to effectively relieve the veterinary shortage area to which they have applied to serve.

c. Objectives. All applications must include a statement(s) of overarching aims, and goals and corresponding specific objectives of the proposed effort in clear, concise, complete, and logically arranged terms. For example, describe what is expected to be accomplished in each of the 3 or 4 years of the grant project period. Objectives should focus on the project period and may also consider any potential long-term impacts beyond the period of funding.
d. Approach. Explicitly describe the strategies, tactics and/or business plan you will employ, using the resources specifically acquired through support from this grant, to achieve stated goals and objectives. Where applicable, this section may include, but not necessarily be limited to, descriptions of:

i. Planned stakeholder/client involvement in veterinary service prioritization, planning, implementation and evaluation;
ii. proposed specific activities, listed sequentially;
iii. business or veterinary services (including consultants) to be employed, including feasibility and rationale;
iv. expected results for the veterinarian shortage situation supported by appropriate metrics (e.g., percent increase in clientele base or service radius; increase in number of livestock served; decreased rates of morbidity or mortality, or other measures of animal health and productivity; number of community outreach events presented and number of attendees, projected impact on clientele profits and/or sustainability, projected return on investment from equipment purchased or staff supported;
v. education or extension activities that will be offered (if funds are requested to establish mobile facilities) including the amount of time that will be devoted to these activities;
vi. methods used to collect, analyze and interpret evaluation/impact data;
vii. plans to communicate results to stakeholders and the public;
viii. pitfalls that might be encountered; and
ix. limitations to proposed activities.

e. Project Timetable. The proposal should outline important phases and major milestones as a function of time, year by year, for the entire project, including periods beyond the grant funding period. Timetable must meet the minimum 3-4 years.

The following table summarizes the sections of the Project Narrative for Rural Practice Enhancement applications, suggests an approximate number of pages to allocate to each section, and shows the evaluation criteria most relevant to each section:

Table 10: RPE Project Narrative

Narrative Section	Suggested # of Pages	Related Evaluation Criteria (see Part V, B. of this RFA)
Problem Identification	.05	Technical Merit
Introduction	1	Expertise and Experience; Technical Merit
Objectives	1	Technical Merit
Approach	3	Technical Merit
Project Timeline	0.5	Technical Merit

3. Field 12, Add Other Attachments. See **Part V § 4.12** of the Application Guide.

   Response to previous review. The response to previous review must not exceed 1page 1.5 spaced page titled: "RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REVIEW" and saved as: "ResponsetoPreviousReview." If desired, additional comments may be included in the text of the PN subject to the page limitations of that section.

   For Education, Extension and Training applications.
   Commitment Letters – PDF attachment(s). No page limits. For projects proposing partnering, collaboration or coordination, letters of commitment from all participating parties (signed by the AR of the collaborating organization) stating that the collaborators involved have agreed to their stated roles in the project and have agreed to abide by the Management and Collaboration Plan. Letters from other organizations or people whose participation is important to the success of the project, committing those collaborators to specific roles, are also encouraged. Title the attachment(s) as 'Letter of Commitment – Organization Name' in the document header and save file as 'LetterofCommitment_OrganizationName'. 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.

   For Rural Practice Enhancement applications.
   Rural Development Map Screen shot – PDF attachment(s). No page limits. Rural Practice Enhancement proposals for shortages situations other than Type II need to demonstrate that the shortage location is considered rural per Section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)). This can be done by providing a screen shot from the USDA-Rural Development's Business Program's Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) eligibility map. The map can be found at USDA Income and Property Eligibility Site.

Select business programs under Property Eligibility on the left then the link for Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI), accept the disclaimer and zoom into the area of interest and capture a screen shot.

R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded). See **Part V § 5** of the 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 § 6** of the Application Guide).

R&R Budget. See **Part V § 7** of the Application Guide.

1. Match – If an applicant concludes that the matching requirements described under Part III § B of this RFA is not applicable to them; the applicant must include an explanation of their conclusion in the *budget justification*. NIFA will consider this justification when determining final matching requirements or if required matching can be waived. NIFA retains the right to make final determinations regarding matching requirements. Grants that require matching funds as specified under Part III § B of this RFA must list in their *budget justification* the matching sources, the identification of the entity(ies) providing the match, and the total pledged amount. A written verification of commitments of matching support (a pledge agreement) is not required. However, applicants are subject to the documentation, valuing and reporting requirements, as specified in 2 CFR Part 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (the Uniform Guidance)," and 7 CFR 3430, "Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-Formula Federal Assistance Programs – General Award Administrative Provisions."
2. Indirect costs (IDC) – See Part IV § C of this RFA for funding restrictions regarding indirect cost, and **Part V 7.9** of the Application Guide for additional information.

Data Management Plan. 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 RFA, **Part III § 3.1** of the Application Guide and NIFA's Data Management Plan).

Supplemental Information Form. See **Part VI § 1** of the Application Guide.

1. Field 2. Program to which the applicant is applying. Enter the program name according to Table 11 below. Accurate entry is critical.

Table 11: Program Names and Codes

VSGP Education	VSGPE
VSGP Rural Practice Enhancement	VSGPR

2. Field 8. Conflict of Interest List. See **Part VI § 1.8** of the Application Guide.

Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants. This is required for corporate applicants. See **Part VI § 2** of the Application Guide for a description of the term, "corporation."

C. Funding Restrictions

Legislatively mandated Indirect Cost (IDC).

For RPE Program:
No Indirect Cost (IDC*)*. For Rural Practice Enhancement Program Area grants, indirect costs are not allowable. Shared overhead costs may be requested but must be limited to 50% of the total Federal funds requested.

For EET Program:
Indirect Cost (IDC) not to exceed 30 percent of Total Federal Funds Awarded (TFFA) of the recipient. Section 1462(a) and (c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) limits IDC for the overall award to 30 percent of Total Federal Funds Awarded (TFFA) under a research, education, or extension grant. The maximum IDC rate allowed under the award is determined by calculating the amount of IDC using:

1. the sum of an institution's negotiated indirect cost rate and the indirect cost rate charged by sub-awardees, if any; or
2. 30 percent of TFFA.

The maximum allowable IDC rate under the award, including the IDC charged by the sub-awardee(s), if any, is the lesser of the two rates.

If the result of number one is the lesser of the two rates, 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 rate 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 rates, then the maximum IDC rate 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 (see 7 CFR 3430.52(b)). Amounts exceeding the maximum allowable IDC are considered unallowable. See sections 408 and 410 of 2 CFR 200.

Successful applicants must not use grant funds awarded under the authority of this RFA to renovate or refurbish research, education, or extension space; purchase or install fixed equipment in such space; or to plan, repair, rehabilitate, acquire, or construct buildings or facilities.

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 as set forth in this RFA. Second, a scientific peer-review process will be used to technically evaluate applications that meet 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:

- 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;
- the need to include experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- the need to include other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- 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;
- the need to maintain a balanced composition with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- 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

Different criteria and differently composed peer panels will be used to evaluate Education, Extension and Training Program Area proposals and Rural Practice Enhancement Program Area

proposals, as described below. We will use the evaluation criteria below to review applications submitted in response to this RFA.

A reviewer's written evaluation entails two levels of assessment. First, the reviewer summarizes how well the application addressed each evaluation criterion. After the application has been assessed for strengths and weaknesses of each criterion, the reviewer then evaluates the overall likelihood that the project will have significant outcome and impact. These written reviews are used to begin panel discussions with other reviewers serving on the peer review panel. Through these discussions, peer review panelists come to consensus on the final rating and ranking of proposals. A complete description of NIFA's peer review process can be found at the NIFA website: NIFA Peer Review Process for Competitive Grant Applications. NIFA will use the following criteria to evaluate this RFA:

EET Grant Applications Review Criteria:
Applications with collaborations between or among qualified entities are typically considered stronger proposals

Relevancy and Innovation (weight =20%) – Explanation and documentation that project is directed toward relieving veterinarian shortage situations and is innovative or novel in its approach. In addition, relevancy can be evaluated by the description of the necessity of the skills being developed for the target audience, the inclusion of stakeholders in the conceptualization and development of project activities, the degree of exposure of 11th and 12th grade students to career opportunities in food animal medicine, and demonstrated awareness of previous and alternative training and education programs.

Technical Merit (weight = 50%) - will be evaluated on the basis of:

1. Clarity and delineation of objectives, activities and outcomes;
2. Conceptual adequacy of the proposed activities to meet the needs of the targeted audience and mitigating veterinarian shortage situations including suitability and feasibility of the approach;
3. Expected outputs and outcomes as indicated in Evaluation Plan;
4. Science-based knowledge, skills, and capabilities gained are related to mitigating veterinarian shortage situations and will enhance and sustain human capital beyond the life of the project;
5. Adequacy of evaluation plans to include number and expertise of evaluation team members and the strength of the measurements to assess outcomes and/or impact on both the shortage areas and their communities;
6. Adequacy of plans to communicate results to stakeholders and the public;
7. Sustainability of the project, including (where applicable) partnerships and collaborations, beyond the life of the grant;
8. Compliance with targeted categories of trainees (including 11th and 12th grade students, if applicable); and
9. Reasonableness of the budget for planned activities. (While the size of the budget is not an evaluation criterion, the reviewers will be asked to evaluate whether it matches logically with the program described in the narrative and is cost-effective.)

Achievability (weight = 20%) – Probability of success of the project given the level of originality, target audience and budget for each activity. Importance will be given to description of potential pitfalls and how they will be addressed. There should be sufficient time commitment of Project Directors for project activities including management. The plans for management and collaborative arrangements of the proposed project should be adequate, e.g., time allocated for systematic attainment of objectives; clearly defined project roles and relationships among the key participants and collaborators; plan for decision-making; and plan for administration of the proposed project and its maintenance, partnerships, and collaborative efforts.

Expertise, Experience and Institutional Resources (weight = 10%) – Includes the expertise of consultants and collaborators, sufficiency of the educational facilities and equipment for the proposed education and outreach methods. Importance will be given to the demonstration of expertise through successful multi-year experience in education, outreach, and mentoring and/or technical assistance in veterinary medicine supporting agriculture. Also important are qualifications of applicant (individual or team) to conduct the proposed project activities and in evaluating project outcomes; and demonstrable institutional/organizational experience and competence in serving the needs of the identified target audience.

RPE Grant Applications Review Criteria:

Expertise and Experience (weight = 30%) – Importance will be given to the demonstration of knowledge, skills, abilities and experience of key personnel relative to shortage area needs and resources requested

Technical Merit (weight = 70%) - will be evaluated on the basis of:

1. Clarity and delineation of objectives, activities and outcomes;
2. Clarity of current practice operations to include baseline metrics (e.g., current service radius, number and location of clients within the veterinarian shortage situation, current number of calls/visits)
3. Value of proposed equipment, overhead, and/or mobile practice facilities to the goal of mitigating the veterinarian shortage situation;
4. Content and delivery approach(es) for education or extension activities (if funds are to be used to purchase or expand mobile facilities), including time commitment, size and demographics of intended audiences (e.g., X hours of educational opportunities to X number of producer groups, 4-H chapters, and/or community groups representing X number of people per month, year, or project period), and the degree of exposure, if any, of 11th and 12th grade students to career opportunities in food animal medicine.
5. Conceptual adequacy of the proposed activities to meet the needs of the veterinarian shortage situation (e.g., how will services be established or expanded, market/client recruitment or development strategies);
6. Likelihood to achieve proposed outcomes, including realistic benchmarks for assessing progress and assessing outcomes for their clients and community (e.g., increasing clientele in shortage area by X% each year of grant period; increased average number of farm calls per month from X to

Y over the life of the grant; improving clients' profits by X% through enhanced diagnosis, treatment, or management).

7. Reasonableness of the budget for proposed resources. (While the size of the budget is not an evaluation criterion, reviewers will be asked to comment on whether it matches logically with the program described in the narrative.)

C. Organizational Management Information

Applicants must submit specific management information relating to an applicant prior to an award, and update the information as needed. Applicants may only have to update their information if they had previously provided the 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 RFA. 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 RFA may be used only for the purpose for which they are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, regulations, terms and conditions of the award, applicable federal cost principles, USDA assistance regulations, and NIFA General Awards Administration Provisions,7 CFR part 3430, subparts A through E.

Award Notice. The 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 RFA (some are listed here: Federal Regulations). Unless specifically noted by statue or award-specific requirements, NIFA Policy Guide applies to all NIFA awards.

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 requiring);
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,
5. Part 31, Contract Cost Principles and Procedures;
6. Transfer of funds budgeted for participant support costs to other categories of expense (§200.75 Participant support costs);

Sub-awarding, transferring or contracting out of any work under a federal award, including fixed amount sub-awards (see § 200.333 - Fixed amount subaward), 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;

1. Changes in the approved cost-sharing or matching provided by the non-federal entity; and
2. The need for additional federal funds to complete the project.

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.

APPENDIX I: AGENCY CONTACT

Programmatic Contact

Name	Email	Telephone
Robert M. Smith	VSGP@usda.gov	202 445-3468

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
United States Department of Agriculture
2312 East Bannister Road, MS 10000
Kansas City, MO 64141-3061

For administrative questions related to

1. Grants.gov, see Part IV of this RFA
2. Other RFA or application questions, please email policy@usda.gov
3. Awards under this RFA, please email awards@usda.gov

APPENDIX II: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Name	Acronyms
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	AFRI
Authorized Representative	AR
Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education reform Act of 1998	AREERA
Coordinated Agricultural Project	CAP
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance	CFDA
Center of Excellence	COE
Data Management Plan	DMP
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	NIFA
Request for Application	RFA
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.

Terms	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.
Education Activity or Teaching Activity	Means formal classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, and practicum experience in the food and agricultural sciences and other related matters such as faculty development, student recruitment and services, curriculum development, instructional materials and equipment, and innovative teaching methodologies.
Extension Activity	Means an act or process that delivers science-based knowledge and informal educational programs to people, enabling them to make practical decisions.
Insular Area	Means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Virgin Islands of the United States.
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.
Resubmitted Application	A project application that was previously submitted to a program, but the application was not funded.
Rural Area	Defined in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))