

Notice of Funding Opportunity Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program

FUNDING YEAR: Fiscal Year (FY) 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 16, 2026

ANTICIPATED PROGRAM FUNDING: \$4,800,000

AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL AWARD RANGE: \$25,000 - \$400,000

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: USDA-NIFA-CFP-011776

ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 10.225

ANNOUNCEMENT

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture

Assistance Listing Number (ALN): The Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP) is listed in the Assistance Listings under number 10.225.

Table 1: Key Dates and Deadlines

Task Description	Deadline
Application:	5:00 P.M. Eastern Time, July 16, 2026, [Ref to Part I, C of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)]
Applicants Comments:	Within six months from the issuance of this notice (NIFA may not consider comments received after the sixth month)

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

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

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

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

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

Stakeholder Input. NIFA seeks comments on all Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) so it can deliver programs efficiently, effectively, with integrity, and with a focus on customer service. NIFA considers comments to the extent possible when developing NOFOs and uses comments to help meet the requirements of Section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research,

Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 ([7 U.S.C. 7613\(c\)\(2\)](#)). Applicants may submit written comments to Policy@usda.gov. Please use the following subject line: Response to the CFPCGP Program NOFO.

WHAT'S NEW FOR FY 2026

1. Includes revised program descriptions, clarified goals and program preference elements.
2. Clarifies expectations for domestic travel and attendance at the annual project directors' meetings; for more information see [Part VI,C](#) (Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements).
3. Emphasizes the required documents for applications to be accepted for review is included in [Part IV,B](#) (Content and Form of The Application).
4. Clarifies the review criteria in [Part V](#) (Evaluation Criteria) of this NOFO.
5. CFPCGP applicants are limited to competing for one Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) grant award.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CFPCGP supports community-driven initiatives aimed at strengthening local food systems and reducing food insecurity. The program provides a one-time infusion of Federal funding to help communities develop self-reliance and long-term solutions to local food needs. Overall, the CFPCGP plays a vital role in empowering communities to reduce food insecurity, build resilient food systems, and foster strong local partnerships.

The amount available for CFPCGP in FY 2026 is approximately \$4,800,000.

Funded projects must address both short-term food access challenges, such as improving access to nutritious foods, enhancing food distribution, and long-term goals, including building community self-reliance and strengthening local food system infrastructure.

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

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PART I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority

The CFPCGP ([7 U.S.C. 2034](#)) is authorized by [Public Law 104-127](#), which amended the Food Stamp Act of 1977 ([7 U.S.C. 2011](#)) and added Section 25, Assistance for Community Food Projects.

B. Purpose and Priorities

The CFPCGP projects are to be designed to require a one-time contribution of Federal assistance to become self-reliant and meet short- and long-term goals. Applicants are required to address at least one short-term and one long-term CFPCGP goals that best fit the plan or project being proposed to ensure a comprehensive and enduring approach to resolving food and nutrition security and hunger.

Short-term goals (Select at least one):

1. Meet the food needs of low-income individuals through food distribution, community outreach to assist in participation in Federally assisted nutrition programs or improving access to food as part of a comprehensive service.
2. Increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for the food needs of the communities.
3. Promote comprehensive responses to local food, food access, farm, and nutrition issues.

Long-term goals (Select at least one):

1. Meet specific state, local, Tribal, territory, or neighborhood food and agricultural needs, including needs relating to:
 - a. Equipment necessary for the efficient operation of a project.
 - b. Planning for long-term solutions.
 - c. The creation of innovative marketing activities that mutually benefit agricultural producers and low-income consumers.
2. Develop long-term enduring projects that increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for the food needs of the community.
3. Develop long-term projects that promote comprehensive responses to local food, food access, farm, and nutrition issues.

In addition to meeting the [Purpose and Priorities](#) of the program, NIFA shall give preference to Planning Projects (PP) and Community Food Projects (CFP) designed to include these elements:

1. Develop linkages between two or more sectors of the food system.
2. Support the development of entrepreneurial projects.
3. Develop innovative linkages between the for-profit and nonprofit food sectors.
4. Encourage long-term planning activities, and multisystem, interagency approaches with multistakeholder collaborations, that build the long-term capacity of communities to address the food and agricultural problems of the communities, such as food policy councils and food planning associations.
5. Develop new resources and strategies to help reduce food and nutrition insecurity in the community and prevent food and nutrition insecurity in the future by either:
 - a. Developing creative food resources;

- b. Coordinating food services with park and recreation programs and other community-based outlets to reduce barriers to access; or
- c. Creating nutrition education materials for at-risk populations to enhance food-purchasing and food-preparation skills, and to heighten awareness of the connection between diet and health.

C. Program Area Description

The CFPCGP is intended to bring together stakeholders from distinct parts of the food system and to foster understanding of national food security trends and how they might improve local food systems. Understanding that people experience access issues to healthy foods, projects should address food and nutrition security. CFPCGP projects are to include food insecure community members in the planning, designing, development, implementation and evaluation of activities, services, programs, and policies to combat food and nutrition insecurity; and to address underlying causes and factors related to hunger. NIFA is soliciting applications under the following program areas:

- 1. Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA)
- 2. Planning Projects (PP)
- 3. Community Food Projects (CFP).

Training and Technical Assistance:

In FY 2026, NIFA will competitively award one continuation multi-year T&TA project. Applicants should request a budget commensurate with the proposed project. No single T&TA award shall exceed \$250,000 in any single year or \$1 million in four years.

Table 2: Training and Technical Assistance Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code:	LN.A
Program Code Name:	Training and Technical Assistance
ALN:	10.225
Project Type:	Training and Technical Assistance Project
Grant Type:	Standard Grant
Application Deadline	July 16, 2026; 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Grant Duration:	Not to exceed four (4) years
Anticipated # of Awards:	1
Anticipated Award Amounts:	Award not to exceed \$250,000 awarded annually on continuation basis; not to exceed \$1 million over four years
Matching Requirement:	No Match required

CFP Proposals: the roles and responsibilities of the T&TA are as follows:

- 1. Expertise for T&TA should encompass the broad array of community food activities, including a strong comprehensive evaluation, using a scientific, evidence-based evaluation method which leads to an objective assessment of CFP projects according to the primary goals of the CFPCGP which are: (I) to meet the food needs of low-income individuals through food distribution, community outreach, or improving access to food as part of a comprehensive service; (II) to increase the self-reliance of communities in

providing for the food needs of the communities; and (III) to promote comprehensive responses to local food, food access, farm, and nutrition issues; or (IV) to meet specific state, local, or neighborhood food and agricultural needs, including needs relating to (i) equipment necessary for the efficient operation of a project; (ii) planning for long-term solutions; or (iii) the creation of innovative marketing activities that mutually benefit agricultural producers and low-income consumers. (see [Part I,B.](#)).

2. The T&TA provider should have broad expertise and have national relevance and scope and provide a one-stop service to CFPCGP applicants requesting technical assistance.
3. Organizations that can demonstrate an involvement in community food and nutrition security issues and programs along with strong training experience, and competence in outcome evaluation are strongly encouraged to apply.
4. T&TA projects must offer CFPCGP applicants and grantees grantsmanship writing and reporting resources to help them increase their skills in developing competitive applications that meet the CFPCGP primary goals. Training and resources should be accessible at various stages in the grant-making cycle. Additionally, use of innovative technologies, peer-to-peer interactions, webinars and/or videoconferencing, recordings etc., is critical.
5. T&TA projects must offer CFPCGP applicants and grantees relevant technical assistance related to grant application and submission in grants.gov and evaluation and reporting, ensuring high quality technical reports in NIFA reporting systems as well as a deepened understanding of the financial reporting requirements and post-award prior approval processes included in award terms and conditions.
6. T&TA projects will form regional networks to strengthen relationships and create opportunities for collaboration amongst grantees.
7. T&TA projects will also organize a CFPCGP Annual Meeting. The annual CFPCGP meeting will be a learning and outreach event with open attendance to the CFPCGP community including non-grantees interested in community food projects work.
8. T&TA projects will assess CFPCGP outreach gaps and conduct outreach to increase awareness and understanding of CFPCGP.
9. T&TA projects will use their expertise in community-based outcome-based reporting to compile project data from CFPCGP grantees to produce an annual report highlighting the impacts of the program in improving the access to nutritious foods and reducing food insecurity among limited resource communities. The report is to include the following headings: (i) CFPCGP's outcomes (ii) CFPCGP impacts (iii) CFPCGP geographic reach and program outreach metrics, and (iv) T&TA impact data.

T&TA services offered may include assistance in project development, grantsmanship training, project evaluation, leadership development, and/or assistance on a particular type of project, for example, youth farm enterprises, direct marketing, and farm-to-institution methods, or other services. Activities might include, but are not limited to, telephone hotline, workshop training, peer-to-peer interaction, one-on-one training, curricula development, webinars, and/or videoconferencing.

Planning Projects:

PP provide early stage investment in new startup projects or invest in completing project plans toward the improvement of community food security in keeping with the primary goals of the

CFPCGP (see [Part I](#)). PP are to focus on a defined community and describe in detail the activities and outcomes of the planning project. The PP is to prepare a plan for a successful Community Food Project in keeping with the purpose of program goals.

Applicants are to provide matching on a dollar-for-dollar basis for all Federal funds requested at the time the application is submitted. See [Part III, B](#).

Table 3: Planning Project Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code:	LN. B
Program Code Name:	Planning Projects
ALN:	10.225
Project Type:	Planning Project
Grant Type:	Standard Grant
Application Deadline	July 16, 2026; 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Grant Duration:	12-36 Months; Up to three years
Anticipated # of Awards:	5
Minimum Award Amount:	\$25,000
Maximum Award Amount:	\$50,000
Matching Requirement:	1:1 Match required

Community Food Projects: CFP seek solutions over the longer term rather than focusing on short-term food relief. Applicants will seek comprehensive solutions to problems across all levels of the food system from farmer to consumer. CFP should not be designed to merely support individual food pantries, farmers markets, or other established projects. Rather, the CFP should build on these experiences and encourage innovative long-term solutions to food and nutrition security. A successful project should be enduring beyond government and matching funding. CFP should be designed to become self-supporting (or have a funding source) and expand or prove to be a replicable model. Funding can support the development of such long-term projects or to accelerate or expand the work of a project. CFPs are designed to create community-based food projects with objectives, activities and outcomes that are in alignment with CFPCGP primary goals.

Table 4: Community Food Project Key Information

	Title	Description
Program Code:	LN. C	
Program Code Name:	Community Food Projects	
ALN:	10.225	
Project Type:	Community Food Project	
Grant Type:	Standard	
Application Deadline	July 16, 2026; 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time	
Grant Duration:	Not to exceed 48 months	
Anticipated # of Awards:	15	
Minimum Award Amount:	\$125,000	
Maximum Award Amount:	\$400,000	
Matching Requirement:	1:1 Match required	

PART II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

The amount available for CFPCGP in FY 2026 is approximately \$4,800,000. USDA is not committed to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards.

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

B. Application Restrictions

NIFA will evaluate applications using the criteria described in [Part V](#) of this NOFO. Application for FY2026 is limited to the following application types:

1. *New application*: New applications will be evaluated using the criteria described in [Part V](#) of this NOFO and are subject to the due dates herein (see [Appendix III](#) for definition).
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 Type. Applicants must propose Training and Technical Assistance, Planning Projects, or Community Food Projects.
2. Grant Type. Applicants must propose a Standard Grant.

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 CFPCGP 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.

Community Food Project and Planning Project Eligibility

Individuals and for-profit entities are not eligible to apply for this program.

Training and Technical Assistance Project Eligibility

Eligibility to apply for the CFPCGP T&TA is limited to nongovernmental organizations, state Cooperative Extension Services, regional food systems centers, Federal, state or Tribal agencies, and institutions of higher education. T&TA applications are not invited every year.

To be eligible for a grant CFPCGP, applicants must be a public food program service provider, a tribal organization, or a private nonprofit entity, including gleaners, and:

1. Have experience in the area of:
 - a. Community food work, particularly concerning small and medium-sized farms, including the provision of food and the development of new markets in communities for agricultural producers;
 - b. Job training and business development activities for food-related activities in communities; or
 - c. Efforts to reduce food and nutrition insecurity in the community, including food distribution, improving access to services, or coordinating services and programs;
2. Demonstrate competency to implement a project, provide fiscal accountability, collect data, and prepare reports and other necessary documentation; and
3. Demonstrate a willingness to share information with researchers, practitioners, and other interested parties.

Private Nonprofit: "Private Nonprofit entities" are defined as any nongovernmental corporation, trust, association, cooperative or other organization which:

1. Is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest.
2. Is not organized primarily for profit.
3. Uses its net proceeds to maintain, improve, and/or expand its operations.

Acceptable Evidence: The following documents can be used as proof of Private Nonprofit eligibility.

1. A copy of a currently valid Internal Revenue Service tax exemption certificate.
2. A statement from a state taxing body, State Attorney General, or other appropriate state official certifying that the applicant organization has a nonprofit status.
3. A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes private nonprofit status.

4. Any of the above proof for a state or national parent organization and a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant organization is a local nonprofit affiliate. See the [NIFA Policy Guide](#) for additional information.

Fiscal Agents: A Fiscal Agent is an organization managing financial responsibilities on behalf of the applicant. If an eligible applicant's institution/organization cannot accept Federal funds directly, the applicant must have an assigned Fiscal Agent. The fiscal agent is not required to meet CFPCGP eligibility.

The applicant must provide a letter in the application stating that in the event the application results in an award, the award funds must be administered through a Fiscal Agent 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 should 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 (see [Part IV, B](#) of this NOFO). 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 (see [Part V, C](#) of this NOFO).

Partners and Collaborators: Applicants are encouraged to seek and create partnerships with public or private, nonprofit, or for-profit entities, including links with academic institutions, and/or other appropriate professionals, community-based organizations, and local government entities. When planning collaborations, see [Part III, A](#) of this NOFO.

Only the applicant must meet the eligibility requirements. Project partners and collaborators do not need to meet the eligibility requirements. Award recipients may subaward to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the successful completion of the project. See [Part IV, C](#) of this NOFO.

Key Contacts Required: Applicants must ensure that the Project Director (PD) and Authorized Representative (AR) listed are two separate individuals. In addition, accurate contact information must be included for both PD and AR: email, address, and phone number. This is the information used to contact applicants regarding the award status.

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

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

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Match Required – Applicants submitting CFP and PP applications **MUST** provide matching contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis for all Federal funds awarded under CFPCGP. Matching funds may include cash and/or in-kind contributions, including third-party in-kind contributions, fairly evaluated, including facilities, equipment, or services. The matching funds may come from

state government, local government, or private sources. Federal money cannot be used to match unless it is expressly authorized to be used for this purpose.

If an applicant voluntarily pledges cost sharing above the program's required amount, the total becomes a binding requirement of the award. NIFA will not factor matching resources more than the required amount into the review process as an evaluation criterion.

Examples of qualifying matching contributions may include direct costs such as rent for office space used exclusively for the funded project, duplication or postage costs, and staff time.

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 5** 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 5. Steps to Obtain Application Materials

Steps	Action
Step One: Register	<i>New Users</i> to Grants.gov must register early with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application.
Step Two: Download Adobe	Download and Install Adobe Reader (see Adobe Software Compatibility for basic system requirements).
Step Three: Find Application	Using this funding opportunity number USDA-NIFA-CFP-011776 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 6: Help and Resources

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

CFPCGP Training and Technical Assistance Provider

1. The T&TA provider is available to provide free one-on-one technical support and resources to all applicants. The CFPCGP T&TA provider may be reached at this [website](#) or by filling out this online [form](#).
2. When preparing to apply to this program, consult the T&TA provider for free support. Grantees awarded under this program will be required to cooperate with the T&TA provider for the following services: (i) attend PD meetings, (ii) sharing information including the completion of surveys and other T&TA inquiries, and (iii) providing information on NIFA progress reports and final reports with T&TA provider annually for the life of the grant, for preparation of CFPCGP program annual report.
3. Applicants and grantees are strongly encouraged to participate in these additional activities provided by the T&TA provider including: (i) technical assistance related to application

preparation and, project development, etc.; (ii) grant writing training; (iii) project evaluation training, and (iv) leadership/capacity development training. These activities may be provided through a variety of methods. Carefully review this NOFO and the NIFA Grants Application Guide for instructions and suggested templates.

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 7** outlines other key instructions for applicants.

Table 7: Key Application Instructions

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

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

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

R&R Other Project Information Form. See **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide.

- 1. Field 7. Project Summary (PS)/Abstract.** The PS must show how the project goals align with the project goals of the Community Food Projects Competitive Grants

Program (CFPCGP). 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 10 (ten) *1.5 spaced* pages of written text and up to 15 (fifteen) *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 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.

Project Narrative Headings: The Project Narrative (PN) should include the headings in the order provided below. Refer to the evaluation criteria for content expected under each heading.

- a. Introduction
- b. Proposal Goals and Objectives and Alignment with Purpose and Priorities of CFPCGP
- c. Proposal Significance and Relevance
- d. Inclusion of Community Food Security Issues and Programs
- e. Project Timeline
- f. Evaluation
- g. Organization's Capacity and Experience (summary of previous work), and Partners and Collaborators
- h. Response to previous review: This requirement only applies to “Resubmitted Applications” [Part II, B](#) identifies the type of application(s) that may be submitted in response to this NOFO. PDs must respond to the previous review summary on no more than one page titled "RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REVIEW" which does not count against the 10-page limit of the PN.

For Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) AND Community Food Projects (CFP) proposals, the PN MUST also include the following, in addition to the list above.

- i. **Logic Model (Optional):** A logic model is not required for this program; however, applicants may include one to strengthen the clarity of project design and evaluation planning. If submitted, the attachment must be titled “**Logic Model**” in the document header and saved as “**LogicModel.**” Applicants are encouraged to seek assistance from the T&TA provider or other qualified evaluation experts. Additional information is available in the Logic Model Planning Process guidance.
- j. **Qualifications of Project Director (PD) and Key Personnel:** Provide descriptions of the relevant expertise, roles, and responsibilities of the PD and key personnel to demonstrate the capacity to effectively implement the proposed project.
- k. **Long-Term Viability Plan:** Describe how the project’s outcomes will be sustained beyond the period of federal funding, including plans, partnerships, and resources that support long-term viability.

3. Field 12. Add Other Attachments. See **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide. Attach where applicable relevant information below under this field.

- a. **Appendices to Project Narrative:** Title the attachment as ‘Appendices’ in the document header and save file as ‘Appendices’. Appendices to the Project Narrative are allowed if they are directly germane to the proposed project.

Appendices germane to the project may include market analysis, business plans, etc. The addition of appendices must not exceed seven (7) pages and should not be used to circumvent the text and/or figures and tables page limitations.

- b. **Results from Prior CFPCGP Support:** This requirement only applies to applicants who have received prior grant award(s) under this program. If the PD or a co-PD has received CFPCGP, including support in the past five years, information on results from that prior funding is required. This information will be used in the review of the application. PDs must summarize prior results from funding and limit the response to one page per award. For each award, list the NIFA award number, the amount and period of support, the title of the project and a summary of the results of the completed work. Save file as “Prior CFPCGP Support”.
- c. **Letters of commitment:** These are important and strongly encouraged in supporting an application; but are optional. Attach a maximum of five signed letters of commitment from key organizations or individuals involved in the project acknowledging their support, contributions, and commitment: title the attachment ‘Letters of Commitment’. Provide evidence of broad community involvement in both planning and decision-making. This section is limited to two-page letters of commitment for each key organization. (See subsection 1. or 2., as appropriate, of [Part IV, B](#) for additional information).
- d. **Fiscal Agent Letter:** See [Part III, A](#). If it is necessary to include a Fiscal Agent letter, then title the attachment as ‘Fiscal Agent’ in the document header and save file as ‘FiscalAgent’. R&R Senior/Key Person Profile). See Part V of the NIFA Grants Application Guide for profile requirements, details about the biographical sketch, and suggested support templates.
- e. **Data Management Plan:** A DMP is required for this program. Applicants should clearly articulate how the PD and co-PDs plan to manage and disseminate the data generated by the project. The DMP will be considered during the merit review process (See [Part V, B](#) of this NOFO, [NIFA’s Data Management Plan](#)).

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

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

R&R Budget. See **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide.

1. Match – If an applicant concludes that the matching requirements described under [Part III, B](#) of this NOFO 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 NOFO 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.”](#)

Matching funds must be accurately documented for all project years at the time of the application in the R&R Budget. A complete list of matching sources must be secured and maintained at applicant’s organization location. Do not submit this list to NIFA or provide match commitment letters unless requested.

2. 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.
3. Domestic Travel – During the tenure of a grant, PD meetings are required as a condition of the award during the period of performance. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss their projects, opportunities for collaborative efforts, and to enhance dissemination of exemplary end products/results. NIFA in collaboration with the T&TA provider reserves the right to make necessary changes to PD meeting dates, and mode, in-person or virtual. These PD meetings may alternate between in-person and virtual meetings. In either case, attendance is required as follows.
 - a. The T&TA and CFP PDs are to budget for in-person travel for all years that Federal funding is requested and award remains active. If travel funds are not spent due to attendance of a virtual PD meeting, budget adjustments may be made as necessary.
 - b. PP PDs must budget travel expenses needed to attend only one PD meeting during their period of performance due to award size and shorter period of performance.
 - c. Travel budgets must be reasonable to cover expenses including meeting registration, airfare, ground transportation, meals, and accommodation costs to attend in-person PD meetings. In-person PD meetings typically last two to three days, not including travel days. Estimates depend on applicants’ location and PD meeting venue and location. PD meeting dates are typically announced three to five months in advance. The venue for a PD meeting is typically announced at two to three months in advance for planning. Here is an example to guide travel estimates: In 2025, the in-person PD meeting was held in Portland, Oregon. Meeting registration cost was \$250, which included six meals (two dinners, three breakfasts and one lunch); hotel was discounted to \$162/night and PDs travelled from all over the country to attend for approximately 2.5 days, excluding travel days.

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 “*Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program*”, and
 - a. for Community Food Projects applications, enter the program code “*LN.C*”
 - b. for Planning Projects, enter the program code “*LN.B*”.

Accurate entry is critical.

2. **Field 8. Conflict of Interest List.** See **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide.

C. **Funding Restrictions**

1. **Fully Negotiated Rate.** Applicants must use the current negotiated Indirect Cost (IDC) rate established by its cognizant Federal agency (the agency that provides the most funds). If awarded, the applicant will be required to produce a negotiated IDC rate agreement from the cognizant agency to recover IDC.

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

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

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

2. NIFA awards may not be used to support the procurement of unmanned aircraft systems to process, store, or transmit Federal information (as defined in [OMB Circular A-130](#)) unless the grant is specifically available for procurement of such equipment and grantees describe in their application how they will comply with the information security requirements outlined in Appendix B of [M-26-02 Ensuring Government Use of Secure Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Supporting United States Producers](#) and develop a risk-based approach to applying those requirements to procurement solicitations to potential vendors under the resulting Federal award. This information, if provided, will be evaluated by NIFA as part of its evaluation process. If such procurement is approved, specific information security requirements may be included in the terms and conditions of the grant to ensure that the grantees will incorporate those requirements in procurement solicitations of unmanned aircraft systems under the Federal award.
3. **Subaward Restriction.** The applicant must perform a substantive portion of the project, and no more than **50 percent (Federal and Matching funds)** as determined by budget expenditures, may be subawarded. Projects may divide their budget allocations between partners as it fits their work plan. (For additional knowledge or expertise that is not available within the applicant organization, funds for expert consultation may be included in the “All Other Direct Costs” section of the proposed budget.)
4. **Infrastructure Improvement and Development:** Successful applicants must not use grant funds awarded under the authority of this NOFO for the purpose of infrastructure

improvement and development. Equipment necessary for the efficient operation of a CFPCGP project is an allowable cost in this program.

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 nonprofit 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:

Evaluation Criteria for T&TA Applications:

1. **Community Food Security Issues and Programs.** The proposal should provide a succinct description of community food security issues, programs, and the scope of involvement of the T&TA applicant.
2. **Organizations Involved.** List all collaborating organizations and individuals who will be assisting and their respective roles in the provision of training and technical assistance. Provide documentation with letters of support showing commitment from organizations and individuals who have agreed to collaborate if the proposal is funded by NIFA. This is critical as T&TA becomes a one stop referral for all T&TA needs of applicants.
3. **Project Goals and Objectives.** List the goals and objectives of the project and justification for the goals in terms of the types of services that will be provided.
4. **Activities to Achieve the Goals.** Discuss how the goals will be achieved. Provide a systematic description of the approach by which the goals will be accomplished. A chart may be added to outline specific timeframes for activities leading to the accomplishment of goals and objectives.
5. **Timeline.** On an annual basis, identify the major milestones that will indicate progress toward achieving the project goals and objectives. Provide a standardized timeline or systematic description of the approach for accomplishing these major outcomes. A chart may be added to outline specific timeframes for activities leading to the accomplishment of goals and objectives.
6. **Work plan.** The proposed work plan can be for a period of up to four years. Training and technical assistance should be scheduled so that potential applicant organizations will have ample opportunity to take advantage of the assistance offered with sufficient time to construct and submit a CFP proposal in the foreseeable near future. T&TA for existing grantees should be timed so that grantees can utilize the assistance provided to improve their projects during the grant period. Work plan should include a feasible plan to increase projects awards.
7. **Evaluation.** T&TA proposals should contain an internal evaluation component to provide enough timely information over the course of the project to improve the training and technical assistance. A plan for the dissemination of project results should be included.
8. **Budget Justification.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposed budget is clearly justified and reflects prudent, efficient use of federal funds. The budget narrative should demonstrate that requested resources are necessary, reasonable, and directly support the project's goals and activities. Applicants should show that administrative and overhead costs are minimized and appropriate, and that the project is structured to maximize the impact of limited Community Food Projects funding in a cost-effective manner.
9. **Long-Term Viability Plan.** The PN for T&TA Projects does not have to address self-reliance as such projects are not expected to become self-reliance following the expenditure of Federal funds. However, T&TA Project applicants may want to address how their training and assistance activities will help maintain CFP-type activities in future years in the areas to be served.
10. **Data management plan.** This criterion evaluates the soundness of the institution's DMP. The DMP is appropriate, clearly described, and feasible. The extent to which the DMP describes the expected data type and format, plans for storing and preserving the data during and after the project, and the procedures for data access, sharing, and protection is included.

Evaluation Criteria PP Applications:

- 1. Proposal Goals and Objectives and Alignment with Purpose and Priorities of CFPCGP**
How well the proposed project meets the [Purpose and Priorities](#) of the program, including evaluation of the description of long and short-term goal(s) selected and subsequent measurable objectives and activities. How feasible, appropriate, and detailed the activities are in reducing long and short-term food and nutrition insecurity. Program preference elements if addressed should be well described and aligned with proposed project goals and objectives.
- 2. Proposal Significance and Relevance.**
Significance and relevance of food security needs and issues addressed by the proposed planning project. Strength of the approach to determining the critical elements and needs of the local food economy or food system. An informative description of the community, its characteristics, assets, and needs, including demographics, income, and geographic characteristics of the area including ZIP Codes and community to be served. NIFA recognizes that there are different low-income thresholds depending on states, metropolitan areas, or cities.
- 3. Inclusion of Community Members Experiencing Food and Nutrition Insecurity**
Strength of the approach to include food insecure community members in all aspects of the planning, designing, development, implementation and evaluation of activities, services, programs, and policies to combat food and nutrition insecurity, underlying causes of hunger.
- 4. Timeline, Data Management, and Evaluation**
Overall description of the timeline of activities and milestones and how realistic and achievable the timeline is, in accomplishing project goals, objectives, and outcomes. Depth of the DMP including data management practices procedures and policies established to secure, and organize, data collection and dissemination. Strength of the evaluation plan, to include descriptive metrics and indicators aligned with the long and short-term project goals, objectives, and activities; and how they will be used to measure success, accomplishments, and outcomes. Use of a logic model is encouraged but optional.
- 5. Budget Justification.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposed budget is clearly justified and reflects prudent, efficient use of federal funds. The budget narrative should demonstrate that requested resources are necessary, reasonable, and directly support the project's goals and activities. Applicants should show that administrative and overhead costs are minimized and appropriate, and that the project is structured to maximize the impact of limited Community Food Projects funding in a cost-effective manner.
- 6. Organization's Capacity and Experience, and Partners, and Collaborators**
Applicant organization demonstrates competency to lead and report on a planning project, and history of commitment to food security projects in communities. Qualifications, experience, and skills of PD. Experience in and connections with the community will be considered as important as academic or professional credentials. vitae, resumes/curriculum vitae also known as biographical sketches must indicate the employment history of each PD for the last 10 years. Strength of partners and collaborators and use of one or more [steps proposed by Congress to achieve a "hunger-free communities" goal](#) in contributing to the success of the planning project goals. Letters of commitment from partners and collaborators are optional and if provided should be limited to five (5) or less.

Evaluation Criteria for CFP Applications:

- 1. Proposal Goals and Objectives and Alignment with Purpose and Priorities of CFPCGP**

How well the proposed project meets the [Purpose and Priorities](#) of the program, including evaluation of the description of long and short-term goal(s) selected and subsequent measurable objectives and activities. How feasible, appropriate, and detailed the activities are in reducing long and short-term food and nutrition insecurity. Program preference elements if addressed should be well described and aligned with proposed project goals and objectives.

2. Proposal Significance and Relevance

Significance and relevance of food security needs and issues addressed by the proposed community foods project. Strength of the approach to determining the critical elements and needs of the local food economy or food system. An informative description of the community, its characteristics, assets, and needs, including demographics, income, and geographic characteristics of the area including ZIP Codes and community to be served. NIFA recognizes that there are different low-income thresholds depending on states, metropolitan areas, or cities.

3. Inclusion of Community Members Experiencing Food and Nutrition Insecurity Strength of the approach to include food insecure community members in all aspects of the planning, designing, development, implementation and evaluation of activities, services, programs, and policies to combat food and nutrition insecurity, underlying causes of hunger.

4. Timeline, Data Management and Evaluation

Overall description of the timeline of activities and milestones and how realistic and achievable the timeline is, in accomplishing project goals, objectives, and outcomes. Depth of the Data Management Plan (DMP) including data management practices procedures and policies established to secure, and organize, data collection and dissemination. Strength of the evaluation plan, to include descriptive metrics and indicators aligned with the long and short-term project goals, objectives, and activities; and how they will be used to measure success, accomplishments, and outcomes. Use of a logic model is encouraged but optional. Although the logic model is optional, including one can significantly strengthen an application by giving reviewers a clearer, more organized picture of the project's structure, planned activities, and intended outcomes. By visually illustrating how the project's components connect, a logic model helps reviewers better assess the proposal's overall feasibility, coherence, and evaluation plan.

5. Budget Justification.

This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposed budget is clearly justified and reflects prudent, efficient use of federal funds. The budget narrative should demonstrate that requested resources are necessary, reasonable, and directly support the project's goals and activities. Applicants should show that administrative and overhead costs are minimized and appropriate, and that the project is structured to maximize the impact of limited Community Food Projects funding in a cost-effective manner.

6. Organization's Capacity and Experience, Partners, and Collaborators

Applicant organization demonstrated competency to implement and report on a project, provide fiscal accountability, and history of commitment to food security projects in communities. Demonstrated experience in working in the food system, particularly with small and medium-sized farms, agricultural job training, and the development of new markets for agricultural producers. Strength of partners and collaborators and how their proposed activities will contribute to the success of the project goals, and the community being served. Where possible, project collaborators should represent a variety of disciplines and experiences directly related to the deliverables proposed and complementary to the

qualifications of the core project team. Letters of commitment from partners and collaborators are optional and if provided should be limited to five (5) or less.

7. Qualifications of PD and Key Personnel

Qualifications of project director, and key staff in the narrative and resumes, (also known as bio sketches), as evidence of experience and skills necessary to direct the proposed project activities. Overall organizational leadership should reflect the expertise necessary to carry out the proposed activities. Experience in and connections with the community will be considered as important as academic or professional credentials.

8. Long-Term Viability Plan

Overall approach and feasibility of the long-term viability plan to ensure that the project endures and outlives the one-time infusion of government and matching funds. Projects may provide evidence, e.g., a market analysis or the outline of a business plan, to demonstrate that it is likely to become self-reliant and provide employees with important job skills. Business plan outlines or any other document of evidence for long-term viability are optional and limited to five pages and should be included as an appendix.

Overall approach and feasibility of the sustainability plan to ensure that the project endures and outlives the one-time infusion of government and matching funds. Projects may provide evidence, e.g., a market analysis or the outline of a business plan, to demonstrate that it is likely to become self-sustaining and provide employees with important job skills. Business plan outlines or any other document of evidence for sustainability are optional and limited to five pages and should be included as an appendix.

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.

All awardees are expected to contribute to the data collected by the T&TA providers. Each awardee conducts an evaluation, and the PD is expected to ensure the evaluation data is provided to NIFA and the T&TA provider.

PART VII. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Use of Funds and Changes in Budget

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

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

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

For administrative questions related to:

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

U.S. Postal Mailing Address:

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

Courier/Package Delivery Address:

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

APPENDIX II: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Glossary of Terms

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative – AFRI

Assistance Listing Number – ALN

Authorized Departmental Officer – ADO

Authorized Representative – AR

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

Coordinated Agricultural Project – CAP

Centers of Excellence – COE

Data Management Plan – DMP

National Institute of Food and Agriculture – NIFA

Notice of Funding Opportunity – NOFO

Research, Education, and Economics – REE

United States Department of Agriculture – USDA

APPENDIX III: DEFINITIONS

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

Definitions

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.

Gleaner:

Entities that: (A) collects edible, surplus food that would be thrown away and distributes the food to agencies or nonprofit organizations that feed the hungry; or (B) harvests for free distribution to the needy, or for donation to agencies or nonprofit organizations for ultimate distribution to the needy, an agricultural crop that has been donated by the owner of the crop.

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.