

Notice of Funding Opportunity Outreach and Assistance for Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program

FUNDING YEAR: Fiscal Year (FY) 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 10, 2026

ANTICIPATED PROGRAM FUNDING: \$23,800,000

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: USDA-NIFA-ICGP-012261

ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 10.443

ANNOUNCEMENT

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture

Assistance Listing Number (ALN): The Outreach and Assistance for Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (OAVFR) Program is listed in the Assistance Listings under number 10.443.

Table 1: Key Dates and Deadlines

Task Description	Deadline
Application:	5:00 P.M. Eastern Time, September 10, 2026 [Ref to Part I, C of this NOFO]
Applicants Comments:	Within six months from the issuance of this notice (NIFA may not consider comments received after the sixth month)

The use of preferences based solely upon a person's inclusion in a racial or ethnic group without any showing of a discriminatory act towards such person is not consistent with the opinion issued in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, 600 U.S. 181 (2023). Accordingly, in issuing grants pursuant to this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), grants will not be awarded through the use of racial, ethnic, or sex preferences. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will not 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 NOFOs 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 OAVFR NOFO.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NIFA requests applications for the OAVFR program for FY 2026 to encourage and assist farmers and ranchers with owning and operating farms and ranches and accessing the full range of agricultural, forestry, and related programs offered by USDA. The amount for awards in FY 2026 is approximately \$23,800,000. This notice identifies the objectives for OAVFR program 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 2501(c) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-624, November 28, 1990 ([7 U.S.C. 2279\(c\)](#)), as amended, authorizes funding for projects designed to provide outreach and technical assistance to specified producers and ranchers including those who are socially disadvantaged as defined in that section:

(5) Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher

The term “[socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher](#)” means a farmer or rancher who is a member of a [socially disadvantaged group](#).

(6) Socially disadvantaged group

The term “[socially disadvantaged group](#)” means a group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

As noted above, these types of preferences fail to meet constitutional standards and will not be used in the administration of grants made under this NOFO.

B. Purpose and Priorities

The purpose of the OAVFR program, under assistance listing number 10.443, is to assist Veterans in owning and operating farms and ranches and to ensure they are knowledgeable and participating in full range of USDA programs. With OAVFR funding, recipient organizations can provide outreach, technical assistance, and education in agriculture, agribusiness, forestry, and agricultural-related services. The program encourages technical assistance with accessing USDA programs, which includes working with local [USDA Service Centers](#) ([Farm Service Agency](#), [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#), and [Rural Development](#)).

The OAVFR program provides funding to eligible organizations working to:

1. enhance coordination of the outreach, technical assistance, and education efforts authorized under agriculture programs; and
2. assist the Secretary of Agriculture in:
 - a. reaching current and prospective Veteran farmer and rancher populations; and
 - b. improving the participation of those farmers and ranchers in Department programs.

C. Program Area Description

NIFA is soliciting applications under the following program areas:

1. Outreach and Technical Assistance
2. Policy Research Center

Table 2: Outreach and Technical Assistance Key Information

Title Description	
Program Code:	2501
Program Code Name:	Outreach and Assistance for Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (OAVFR)
ALN:	10.443

Project Type:	Extension Projects
Grant Type:	Standard Grants
Application Deadline	September 10, 2026
Grant Duration:	36 Months
Anticipated # of Awards:	35
Maximum Award Amount:	\$750,000

Standard Grant applications must address **at least one and no more than two** of the following priorities:

- Assist Veterans in owning and operating successful farms and ranches;
- Improve participation of farmers and ranchers in USDA programs;
- Build relationships between farmers and ranchers and USDA's local, state, regional, and National offices;
- Assist in reaching current and prospective farmers or ranchers; and/or
- Assist with identifying problems and barriers farmers and ranchers experience and working towards minimizing or alleviating those issues to improve their participation in USDA programs.

Proposed projects must be conducted within the United States or its territories.

Policy Research Center

The Policy Research Center (Center) will specialize in policy research for the purpose of developing policy recommendations to protect and promote the interests of farmers and ranchers. Major areas of research and policy development relate to beginning farmers/ranchers, land loss and retention and expansion opportunities. The Center's director and staff will have experience and/or education required to understand farmer and rancher communities. The Center shall describe its plans for collaboration with other institutions, as appropriate, within and beyond the land grant community.

Table 3: Center Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code:	PRC
Program Code Name:	Policy Research Center
ALN:	10.443
Project Type:	Research Project
Grant Type:	Standard Grant
Application Deadline	July 20, 2026
Grant Duration:	36 Months
Anticipated # of Awards:	1
Maximum Award Amount:	\$4,500,000

The Center should develop recommendations generated from research-related activities within the context of farmers and ranchers as identified in the program legislation ([7 U.S.C. 2279\(c\)\(5\)](#)). Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Identify effective investments to advance the current and next generation of farmers and ranchers, including:
 - New land acquisition, farm, ranch ownership by new and beginning farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers;
 - Decline of farm, ranch, and land ownership by farmers and ranchers;
 - Best practices in succession planning, farmland transfer, and preventing fractionation including interventions or strategies that facilitate farmland transfer to the next generation;
 - Farm business viability and farming, management, technological, or technical assistance methodologies that help producers increase their asset portfolio and improve benchmarks such as debt-to-asset ratios;
 - Farm sustainability and land preservation;
 - Scaling and growth of farms owned and operated by farmers and ranchers; and
 - Accessibility to agriculture by farmers and ranchers.
- Identify programs or enhancements to existing programs to increase farmers' and ranchers' access to and competitiveness in agricultural markets, both domestically and abroad, including:
 - New technologies that could be leveraged to address challenges facing farmers and ranchers and ways to test in the [USDA National Proving Grounds Network for AgTech](#);
 - Best practices for supporting entry into wholesale, commercial, institutional, value-added, and other new market channels;
 - Access to information technology (IT) equipment, precision agriculture, artificial intelligence, and broadband;
 - IT equipment use training and increased utilization of IT for farming organizations;
 - Leverage the latest technologies in seed, fertilizer, IPM, precision agriculture, etc.; and
 - Farm viability, rural livelihoods, and farmer wellbeing such as access to distressed farmer resources, childcare/eldercare, faith networks, housing, etc.
- Identify practical ways for farmers and ranchers to leverage emerging markets in biofuels and other natural resource opportunities to increase their own profitability and advance American energy independence.
- Identify ways to help farmers and ranchers plan for and manage agriculture risks such as animal/plant pests and diseases, extreme weather, labor costs/shortages, and input costs (fertilizers, seed procurement, ag machinery, etc.).
- Analyze current agriculture policy and its implications on farmers and ranchers, as identified in the program legislation.
- Provide recommendations on actions to improve USDA program agencies' outreach and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers. USDA is particularly interested in policy research and data collection on:
 - USDA meeting locations, frequency, proximity to participants, and participation particularly by new and beginning and veteran farmers and ranchers;
 - User experience for USDA program application and approval processes;
 - Access to Federal cost share programs, grants, and disaster assistance;

- Effectiveness of county office staff and committees in supporting all farmers and ranchers; and
 - Accessibility of agricultural information.
- Evaluate and identify effective pedagogical methods for farmers and ranchers that drive measurable improvements in their farm operations and financial viability.

The Center is encouraged to collaborate with the USDA Office of the Chief Economist (OCE) to provide technical expertise particularly regarding policy recommendations affecting farmers and ranchers.

All OAVFR program Project Directors (PD) are required to participate in annual meetings. Annual meetings allow PDs to discuss project progress, encourage grantee networking and partnerships, and gain additional knowledge on evaluation methods to strengthen documentation of project outcomes in measurable terms.

PART II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

The amount available for OAVFR program in FY 2026 is approximately \$23,800,000. Approximately \$22,300,000 will be made available to fund grants for the Outreach and Technical Assistance program area and approximately \$1,500,000 to fund the first year of a new grant for the Policy Research Center program area. Similar funding levels for the Center may be awarded for up to an additional two years as a continuation award provided performance has been satisfactory, funding is available for this purpose, and continued support is in the best interests of the Federal government and the public. USDA is not committed to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards.

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

B. Application Restrictions

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

Applications for FY 2026 are limited to the following application type:

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. *Renewal application*: Renewal applications (for Center applications only) must contain the same information as required for new applications and must contain a progress report. Renewal applications are subject to the same criteria and due dates herein.

Applicants may not request more than the maximum award amount and grant duration listed in the Program Area Description in [Part I § C](#). Applications exceeding these limits will be excluded from review.

C. Project and Grant Types

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

1. Project Types. Applicants must propose an Extension Project for Outreach and Technical Assistance program area grants or a Research project for the Center program area grant. Extension projects support informal education programs that deliver science-based knowledge and informal educational programs to people, enabling them to make practical decisions.
2. Grant Types. Applicants must select the Standard Grant type. Standard Grants support targeted, original scientific Research, Education, Extension, or Integrated Projects.

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

Applications for the **Outreach and Technical Assistance** program area may only be submitted by:

1. Any community-based organization, network, or coalition of community-based organizations that-
 - a. has demonstrated experience in providing agricultural education or other agriculturally related services to Veteran farmers and ranchers;
 - b. has provided to the Secretary documentary evidence of work with, and on behalf of Veteran farmers and ranchers during the 3-year period preceding the submission of a proposal for assistance under this program; and
 - c. does not engage in activities prohibited under [section 501\(c\)\(3\) of title 26](#).
2. An 1890 institution or 1994 institution (as defined in [section 7601 of this title](#))
3. An Indian Tribal community college or an Alaska Native cooperative college.
4. A Hispanic-Serving Institution (as defined in [section 3103 of this title](#)).
5. Any other institution of higher education (as defined in [section 1001 of title 20](#)) that has demonstrated experience in providing agriculture education or other agriculturally related services to Veteran farmer and rancher populations in a region.
6. An Indian tribe (as defined in [section 5304 of title 25](#)) or a national tribal organization that has demonstrated experience in providing agriculture education or other agriculturally related services to Veteran farmers and ranchers in a region.
7. An organization or institution that received funding under this program before January 1, 1996, but only with respect to projects that the Secretary considers similar to projects previously carried out by the entity under this program.

Current OAVFR award recipients must complete their projects by the end of the current calendar year to be eligible to apply.

Applications for the **Policy Research Center** may only be submitted by 1890 Land-grant Universities.

All award recipients may provide subawards to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. NIFA will review and provide final approval of all proposed subawards. The following applies to primary recipient with subawards:

1. The primary recipient must use at least 50 percent of the total funds awarded for the Outreach and Assistance program priority only.
2. The primary recipient is responsible for ensuring that all subawards comply with [2 CFR Part 200 Subpart D - Subrecipient Monitoring and Management](#).

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

Duplicate or Multiple Submissions – Only one application will be accepted from each organization or institution. NIFA will accept the most recent application if an applicant submits duplicate or multiple submissions.

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 OAVFR program has no matching requirement. NIFA will not factor matching resources into the review process as an evaluation criterion. While not required, cost share is encouraged.

PART IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION

A. Method of Application

Applicants must apply to this NOFO electronically; no other method or response is accepted. The electronic application for this NOFO and additional resources are available on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and [Grants 101](#). **Table 3** provides instructions on how to obtain an electronic application. **Part III** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide contains detailed information regarding the [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) registration process. The NIFA Grants Application Guide is contained in the specific funding opportunity package or a sample of the guide can be found [here](#). When applying for a NIFA award, it is important to reference the version of the guide that is included in the specific funding opportunity application package.

Table 4: Steps to Obtain Application Materials

Steps	Action
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-ICGP-012261 , 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 5: Help and Resources

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

B. Content and Form of the Application

The NIFA Grants Application Guide is part of the corresponding application package for this NOFO. The NOFO overrides the NIFA Grants Application Guide if there is a discrepancy between the two documents. Applicants that do not meet the application requirements, to include partial applications, risk being excluded from NIFA's review. NIFA will assign a proposal number to all applications that meet the requirements of this NOFO. Applicants must refer to the proposal number when corresponding with NIFA. **Table 5** outlines other key instructions for applicants.

Table 6: Key Application Instructions

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

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

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

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

Field 7. Project Summary (PS)/Abstract. The PS must show how the project goals align with the project goals this program. See **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide for instructions and suggested templates. The PS is limited to 250 words with font size no smaller than 12-point Times New Roman and it is recommended to use [NIFA's Project Summary Application Template](#). The PS must be attached as PDF. It is the responsibility of the applicant to review the attachment for the 250-word limit and PDF compliance before submission. NIFA will not review applications that exceed the required 250-word limit. The PS must include all the following:

- a. Project Title;
- b. List of PDs and Co-PDs and their associated institutions/organizations;
- c. Description of the problem or opportunity, project objectives, effort, and projected outcomes;
- d. Primary farming and ranching groups to be served (for Outreach and Technical Assistance program area only);
- e. Project's geographic service area (counties, state(s), etc.) (for Outreach and Technical Assistance program area only); and
- f. List of all other collaborating institutions/organizations/farmer and rancher groups.

1. **Field 8. Project Narrative (PN).** 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.

The **Outreach and Technical Assistance** program area PN must not exceed **15 1.5** spaced pages of written text, including figures and tables (the font size for tables should be no smaller than 11 points, Times New Roman). The only exception to the page limit requirement will be found in the directions as noted below under (c) project timeline. The PN must include all the following:

- a. **Rationale and Objectives** – Clearly describe and justify the need for the project. Identify which farmers, ranchers, and/or forest owners will be served. Indicate and describe barriers and needs faced by the audience. Identify the geographic area of service, including a description of its characteristics and any ways that the geographic location may impact or inform your project. Concisely present the goals and associated objectives of the project.
- b. **Expected Outputs, Performance Measures and Outcomes** – Clearly define the expected outputs, proposed performance measures, and outcomes of the project in relation to the audience and needs identified. Estimate how many farmers and ranchers will attain specified, anticipated knowledge gains or actions (e.g., accessing USDA programs; improving production practices; entering new markets; etc.)
 - i. Proposed Outputs (Activities). The term “output” describes the physical result of your work. Outputs indicate the volume of project activity and generally addresses the question of “*how much?*” Some examples of an output are: “*number of training sessions conducted,*” “*number of individuals receiving training,*” or “*number of educational materials developed.*”
 - ii. Proposed Performance Measures. Applicants should develop outcome-based performance measures for each activity to ensure their project is progressing to meet their goals; compare actual results to expected results; and to evaluate their project’s effectiveness in delivering expected results. Baseline data should be established. Applicants should express performance measures in both quantitative and qualitative data, where possible. An example of a Performance Measure is a comparison of how many farmers and ranchers know about available USDA programs before a training on USDA programs compared to the number that know about available USDA programs after training is conducted.
 - iii. Outcomes (Results). The term “outcome” means the final impact, difference or effect that has occurred because of training, education, or technical assistance provided. Results may be agricultural, behavioral, or economic in nature. Outcomes may reflect an increase in knowledge or skills, a greater awareness of available resources or programs, or actions taken by producers because of learning from or participating in an outreach activity. Specifically, outcomes must be quantitative as it relates to the project goals and objectives. Applications should include the anticipated outcomes expected to result from conducting the project’s activities.

- c. **Approach** – Address the strategies or approaches you will use in your outreach and technical assistance. Specifically, this section must include:
- i. Identification of up to two Outreach and Technical Assistance program area priorities, [Part I, B \(1- 5\)](#), addressed through your program. For each priority, describe the activities that you will undertake and the expected outputs and outcomes for each activity. You may include multiple activities for each priority area.
 - ii. Discussion of the potential impact of your project and how the impact will last after the project period ends.
 - iii. Clear documentation of how you plan to fulfill the requirement to coordinate efforts in partnership with the USDA service centers in your state or territory to maximize outreach and training in your service area.
 - iv. Provide a project timeline to guide program planning, implementation, and evaluation. The project timeline should include milestone start and end dates, resources, and responsible party (by job title) The project timeline does **not** count towards the page limit for the PN.
 - v. Identify implementation challenges and project procedure limitations you might encounter during the proposed projects. Briefly describe how you plan to address those challenges and limitations.
- d. **Organization Experience** – Clearly state your organization’s three (3) years of experience in delivering agriculture-related services to Veteran farmers and ranchers and provide supporting attachments as documented proof (see Field 12. Add Other Attachments below).
- e. **Monitoring Plan and Data Collection Process** – Clearly document a detailed plan for tracking and measuring project progress including the results of the project in terms of achieving expected project outputs and outcomes. Address both quantitative and qualitative data. A mitigation or contingency plan should also be addressed.
- f. **Financial Management Capacity** – Provide a clear and detailed background of your organization’s experience managing financial resources. If applicable, please mention past experience with federal grants management, and any financial management procedures you have in place to ensure responsible funds management.
- g. **Management and Collaboration Plan** – Detail a management plan that describes roles, functions, and commitment of all partners, collaborators, and organizations, as related to the proposed project. Describe the plans for coordination, communication, data-sharing and reporting among members of the project team and stakeholder groups. Detail how the collaboration and its impact will be sustained beyond the period of the award. Include:
- i. Time allocated by each partner for attainment of objectives;
 - ii. Key roles of each partner and collaborator; and
 - iii. Plan for administration of the proposed project, maintenance, and partnerships.

Letters of commitment signed by the AR of the partnering organization demonstrating that the partners involved have agreed to abide by the Management Plan should be provided (see “Other Attachments” below).

The **Policy Research Center** program area PN must not exceed **15 1.5 spaced** pages of written text and up to **5 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 only exception to the page limit requirement will be **Renewal Applications**, which requires a Progress Report for the previous Center award. The Progress Report must not exceed **2 1.5 spaced** pages with at least 1-inch margins and font size no smaller than 12 points, Times New Roman. The PN must include all the following:

a. **Rationale and Significance**

The applicant must demonstrate a clear and well-supported need for the proposed Center. Describe key challenges for farmers and ranchers as identified in the program legislation ([7 U.S.C. 2279\(c\)\(5\)](#)) and summarize relevant geographic or structural conditions that shape these needs. Briefly identify existing research and policy analyses and specify gaps the proposed work will fill. Where applicable, the narrative should indicate how farmers and ranchers or their representative organizations informed the project's development. State the project goals and show alignment with the statutory purpose of the Center, including data collection, policy evaluation, and development of recommendations. The project should align with Administration priorities and Executive Orders. Finally, describe the expected significance of the project, including how the research will inform USDA policy and program outreach best practices, land ownership trends and increase program access and utilization by farmers and ranchers.

b. **Proposed Approach**

The applicant must provide a clear plan describing the research activities needed to address key issues in the development of agricultural policy affecting farmers and ranchers, as identified in the program legislation ([7 U.S.C. 2279\(c\)\(5\)](#)). The plan should demonstrate the applicant's deep knowledge of policy issues, past research projects and their impacts, and how current and future studies can contribute to the current knowledge base. The plan should describe how the Center will implement and develop the capacity to conduct research on issues relevant to agricultural policy. The plan should outline a strategy for collaborating with OCE and USDA program agencies for the purpose of identifying topics and making recommendations on agricultural policy relating to farmers and ranchers.

c. **Staffing and Organizational Plan**

The application must include a staffing and organizational proposal for the Center, including an analysis of the types of background needed among staff members. The application should discuss the Center's capacity to collaborate and issue sub-awards to researchers outside of the Center. Full resumes (2 page maximum) of proposed staff members should be included as a separate appendix to the application.

d. **Summary of Progress Work**

For Renewal applications only, provide a summary of previous Center award progress, outcomes, and impacts. The summary of progress work must not exceed 2 pages and does not count towards the page limit of the PN.

2. **Field 9. Bibliography & Cited References.** Provide a complete list of all references cited in the application. For each reference, provide the complete name for each author (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the year of the

publication, full title of the article, name of the journal or book published, volume, and the page numbers. No page limit.

3. **Field 10. Facilities & Other Resources.** Describe the types, location, and availability of instrumentation and physical facilities necessary to carry out the work proposed. If the work will be conducted at a facility not owned and operated by the applicant, see Field 12 for additional information.
4. **Field 11. Equipment Documentation.** Describe the types, location, and availability of equipment necessary to carry out the work proposed. Items of equipment to be purchased must be fully justified under this section.
5. **Field 12. Add Other Attachments.** See **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide.
 - a. **Data management plan (DMP)** – A DMP is required for this program. Applicants should clearly articulate how the 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](#)). The DMP must not exceed 2 pages.
 - b. **Commitment Letters.** Include Letters of Commitment from all partners (signed by the partnering institution AR). Letters should include partner roles in the proposed project and agreement to abide by the Management and Collaboration Plan. Letters of Commitment have no page limit. Title the attachment(s) as “Letter of Commitment – Organization Name” in the document header and save file (PDF) as “Letter of Commitment Organization Name.” 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. Additionally, support letters that add merit to the grant application and help clarify project plans are welcomed. Support letters show that the project is well organized, ideas are achievable, and project activities will resolve societal challenges relevant to the target audience(s).
 - c. **Organization Experience Documentation.** For the Outreach and Technical Assistance program area only, if submitting as a community-based organization, network, or coalition of community-based organizations, include documented proof of three (3) years experience in delivering agriculture-related services to Veteran farmers and ranchers. Supporting attachments may include Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), partnership agreements, brochures, etc.

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

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

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

1. Indirect Costs (IDC) – See [Part IV, C](#) of this NOFO for funding restrictions regarding IDC, and **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide for additional information.

2. Applications for the Center must prepare a budget for each of the three years of the project (\$1,500,000 per year) plus a cumulative 3-year budget of \$4,500,000.
3. PDs are required to participate in annual meetings that can be expensed with awarded grant funds not to exceed \$3,000 per award year. While budgets must account for this travel, virtual meetings may be considered.
4. Grantees are encouraged to allow at least 1% of their total project budget for evaluation services or tools.

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 Code Name and the Program Code for the Program Area to which you are applying from the information provided in the Program Area Description in [Part I § C](#). An application can only be submitted to one Program Area. Accurate entry is critical.
2. **Field 8. Conflict of Interest List.** See **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide.

C. Funding Restrictions

1. Legislative Mandated Indirect Cost (IDC)

Section 12301 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 ([7 U.S.C. 2279\(1\)\(7\)](#)) limits IDC to 10% of total federal funds awarded. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants must limit their requests for recovery of IDC to 10 percent of the total funds requested. If an applicant has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Agreement with their cognizant agency they may recover indirect costs according to that agreement however, recovery is still limited to 10% of total federal funds awarded.

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 indirect 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. Please note if an applicant opts to use the 15 percent de minimis option to recover indirect costs the 10 percent of total funds awarded Statutory limit still applies.

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

2. Unallowable Use of Funds

- a. Funds may not be used to pay attendees as an incentive to participate in conferences, training, workshops, or events nor be advertised as such.
- b. Funds may not be used for the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of a building or facility.
- c. Funds may not be used to pay hourly wages such as in a job creation program for individual farmers or ranchers.
- d. Funds may not be used as small agricultural loans for individual farmers or ranchers.
- e. Funds may not be used to purchase farming supplies for individual farmers or ranchers or to enhance their farms or production capabilities.
- f. Funds may not be used to reward individual farmers or ranchers for outstanding effort or achievement in training.
- g. Funds may not be used to pay for scholarships for individual farmers or ranchers to attend college courses, certificate courses, or other fee-based courses.
- h. Funds may not be used for start-up or financing costs for businesses or for building organizational capacity, which is defined as the development of organizational competencies, strategies, or systems and structures in order to improve organizational efficiency and effectiveness.
- i. Funds may not be used for large equipment purchases such as vehicles, semi-tractors, or refrigeration systems.

3. Other Cost Limits

- a. Costs must be reasonable. This includes salaries for key personnel. See [2 CFR 200.404](#) for more information on reasonable costs.
- b. When hosting a workshop, there is a high burden of proof to show that paying for food and beverages with federal funds is necessary to meet the goals of a federal program. Organizations should provide breaks to allow time for participants to purchase their own food and beverages. In circumstances where the cost would be permissible (i.e., location does not allow reasonable access to food and beverages), applicants would need to justify that these costs are reasonable and necessary.
- c. Animals acquired and used for demonstration projects only, may not exceed \$4,000 and includes any transportation costs, feed/feeding lot, etc.

4. NIFA awards may not be used to support the procurement of unmanned aircraft systems to process, store, or transmit Federal information (as defined in [OMB Circular A-130](#)) unless the grant is specifically available for procurement of such equipment and grantees describe in their application how they will comply with the information security requirements outlined in Appendix B of [M-26-02 Ensuring Government Use of Secure Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Supporting United States Producers](#) and develop a risk-based approach to applying those requirements to procurement solicitations to potential vendors under the resulting Federal award. This information, if provided, will be evaluated by NIFA as part of its evaluation process. If such procurement is approved, specific information security requirements may be included in the terms and conditions of the grant to ensure that the grantees will incorporate those requirements in procurement solicitations of unmanned aircraft systems under the Federal award. Additionally, projects must ensure that they are in adherence to [Secretary's Memorandum \(SM\) 1078-014](#) and are not using unallowable 3-D printers which can be found at [National Security and Unallowable Costs](#).

PART V. APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. NIFA's Evaluation Process

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

Scientific Peer Review Process:

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

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

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

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

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

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

B. Evaluation Criteria

NIFA will use the following criteria to evaluate applications to the **Outreach and Technical Assistance** program area:

1. **Rationale and Objectives (10 points)**
 - a. Project need to assist at least one group of farmers or ranchers is clearly established, including project impacts on the audience.
 - b. Project goals and objectives are detailed and address at least one of the Outreach and Technical Assistance program area priorities.
 - c. Project goals and objectives align with current Administration priorities and Executive Orders.
2. **Expected Outputs, Performance Measures and Outcomes (15 points)**

Expected performance targets, outcomes, and impacts are clearly stated, measurable, and achievable within the allotted time frame requested.
3. **Approach (20 points)**
 - a. Project activities are tied to project goals and objectives in addressing at least one of the Outreach and Technical Assistance program area priorities.
 - b. Project timeline is detailed, including milestone dates for planning, implementation, and evaluation activities related to at least one of the Outreach and Technical Assistance program area priorities.
 - c. Proposed approaches, procedures, or methodologies are suitable and achievable.
 - d. Description of how project work and/or impact will be sustained beyond the period of the award.
4. **Organization Experience and Financial Management Capacity (20 points)**
 - a. Roles of key personnel are clearly defined.
 - b. Key personnel have sufficient experience in education, outreach, mentoring, and/or technical assistance to complete the proposed project (including quantitative and qualitative evidence of past successful education, training, and technical assistance activities).
 - c. Organizational experience in delivering agriculture-related serviced populations is detailed and applicable to the project work.
 - d. Project and financial management capabilities are clearly described, including evidence of organizational resources, staff experience/qualifications, and previous successful project management and completion.
5. **Monitoring Plan and Data Collection Process (15 points)**
 - a. A clear plan is articulated for project management, monitoring, and data collection, including project evaluation, goal tracking, impact measurement, and project adjustments, as needed to reach goals.
 - b. Baselines and outcome-based performance measures are specific and realistic, comparing expected to actual results as both quantitative and qualitative data.
 - c. The Data Management Plan is suitable and feasible.
6. **Partnerships and Collaborations (10 points)**
 - a. Collaborations and/or partnerships are established and detailed.
 - b. Clear plan to coordinate efforts in partnership with the USDA Service Centers in targeted states or territories is provided.
 - c. Description of how partnership(s)/collaboration(s) and/or their impact will be sustained beyond the period of the award.
 - d. Letter(s) of Commitment signed by the AR of the partnering organization(s) demonstrates that all partners have agreed to abide by the Management Plan.
7. **Budget (10 points)**

- a. The budget and budget justification are detailed, well organized, and all expenses support the work outlined; subaward budget(s) and budget justification(s) are included, if applicable.
- b. Sufficient time has been allocated by PD and Co-PDs to adequately address the project activities and overall project goals.
- c. Budget size is commensurate with project scope.

NIFA will use the following criteria to evaluate applications for the **Policy Research Center** program area:

1. Rationale and Significance (15 points)

- a. The applicant clearly identifies and justifies the need for the proposed project and needs of farmers and ranchers identified in the program legislation ([7 U.S.C. 2279\(c\)\(5\)](#)).
- b. The applicant summarizes existing research and identifies gaps the project will address.
- c. The applicant indicates how farmers and ranchers or their representatives informed the project's development, where applicable.
- d. The applicant states clear long-term goals and demonstrates alignment with the statutory purpose of the program.
- e. The applicant describes the expected significance of the research for USDA policy development, program improvement, and increased program access and utilization for farmers and ranchers.
- f. The proposed project aligns with current Administration priorities and Executive Orders.

2. Proposed Approach (40 points)

- a. The applicant demonstrates a proven record of research, outreach, and community involvement within farmer and rancher communities identified in the program legislation ([7 U.S.C. 2279\(c\)\(5\)](#)).
- b. The applicant clearly described the activities proposed to address important issues in the development of agricultural policy impacting farmers and ranchers.
- c. The applicant demonstrates knowledge of policy issues and past research projects on farmers and ranchers.
- d. The applicant describes in detail how the Center will implement its statement of work to develop capacity to conduct research and provide recommendations on agricultural policy relevant to farmers and ranchers.
- e. The applicant outlines a strategy for collaborating with OCE and USDA program agencies on agricultural policy relating to farmers and ranchers.
- f. The applicant includes achievable and measurable performance targets, outcomes, and impacts.

3. Staffing and Organizational Arrangements (20 points)

- a. The applicant's proposed Center director and staff demonstrate appropriate levels of experience, administrative skills, public administration experience, and relevant technical expertise.
- b. The applicant demonstrates an adequate level of Center director and staff time commitments to the Center.
- c. The applicant demonstrates an ability to work in collaboration with other practitioners as well as existing or planned relationships with researchers at other institutions.

- d. The applicant demonstrates the nature and extent of the organization's support for research.
 - e. The applicant demonstrates the commitment of the university (and proposed institutional unit that will contain the Center) to support the Center's major activities.
- 4. Budget and Resource Allocation (20 points)**
- a. The applicant provides a budget that yields an efficient and effective allocation of funds to achieve the objectives of this announcement, as well as core administrative functions necessary to carry out the Center's mission.
 - b. The application includes a narrative description and justification for proposed budget line items and demonstrates that the project's costs are adequate, reasonable, and necessary for the activities or personnel to be supported.
 - c. The budget and narrative demonstrate a clear relationship to the approach.
 - d. The applicant demonstrates the manner in which funds will be allocated to best serve the Center's goals, including but not limited to, the level of indirect costs: (1) charged by the Center and (2) allowed to the institutions of researchers receiving sub-awards.
- 5. Data Management Plan (5 points) - Suitability and feasibility of the Data Management Plan.**

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.

OAVFR Reporting Requirements

Recipients are required to document anticipated outcomes that are funded with OAVFR funds. USDA is congressionally mandated to report progress toward the program's performance measures each year. To do so, recipients are required to complete year-end reports on progress toward meeting the program's goals and objectives. Not all questions will apply to all recipients and should address the performance measures that apply.

The following minimum reporting requirements apply to awards provided under this NOFO. NIFA reserves the right to revise the schedule and format of reporting requirements, as necessary in the award agreement.

Annual Progress Reports. The recipient is required to provide a detailed narrative of project performance and activities, as described in the award agreement. This includes, but is not limited to, program reporting mandates. The annual progress report must report on the entire award year.

Final Progress Report. The recipient is required to provide a final summary of the project activity throughout the award period, achievements of the project or activity, and a discussion of overall success and obstacles experienced in conducting the project or project activities. The

report should convey the impact the project had on the target audience(s) served and the project's accomplishments in achieving expected outcomes. This includes, but is not limited to, program reporting mandates. The final report must report on the entire award period. In the final year of the project, **both** the annual and final reports must be completed.

Annual Federal Financial Report (FFR) SF-425. The recipient must submit Form SF-425, emailed as a PDF attachment to 2501Grants@usda.gov within 90 days AFTER the anniversary of the project date.

Final Federal Financial Report (FFR) SF-425. The recipient must submit Form SF-425, emailed as a PDF attachment to 2501Grants@usda.gov within 120 days AFTER the termination (end date) of the project.

The OAVFR program reporting mandates are as follows:

1. The activities undertaken by grantees and the services provided.
 - a. How many activities provided technical assistance.
2. The number of Veteran farmers and ranchers served and the outcomes of such service.
 - a. Total number of Veteran farmers and ranchers reached during the outreach process;
 - b. Total number of Veteran farmers and ranchers who participated in technical assistance; and
 - c. Total number of Veteran farmers and ranchers:
 - i. Assisted in owning and operating successful farms or ranches
 - ii. Improved participation in USDA programs
 - iii. Built relationships with USDA local, state, regional, and national offices
 - iv. Assisted in alleviating barriers to participating in USDA programs
 - v. Experienced increased access to land and credit
 - vi. Assisted with farm/financial planning to increase farm operation sustainability
 - vii. Assisted in strengthening the food supply chain
3. The problems and barriers identified by entities in trying to increase participation by current and prospective farmers or ranchers.
 - a. The total number of VFRs, at the time of assistance, reporting a desire to overcome barriers to participating in USDA programs; and
 - b. The total number of VFRs who reported overcoming barriers to participating in USDA programs
4. The number of farms or ranches started, maintained, or improved as a result of funds made available under the program.
5. Actions taken or activities performed in partnership with USDA agencies to enhance participation in agricultural programs.
 - a. Total amount of:
 - i. Outreach for USDA programs and services
 - ii. Outreach for State-level programs and services
 - iii. Outreach for local and/or community programs

6. The effectiveness of the outreach in section 5 (above).
 - a. Short Term Impacts. Total number of project participants reporting increases in:
 - i. Awareness of USDA programs; applications for and approval for USDA programs
 - ii. Knowledge/skill development
 - iii. Ability to apply knowledge/skills
 - iv. Farmer/USDA connections or network development
 - v. Agricultural yield improvement
 - b. Long Term Impacts. Total number of project participants reporting:
 - i. Reduction in problems and barriers faced by farmers/ranchers
 - ii. Increased participation in farming and ranching activities
 - iii. Improved quality of life in rural and tribal communities

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. Subawarding, transferring or contracting out of any work under a federal award, including fixed amount subawards (see [2 CFR 200.333, Fixed amount subawards](#)), unless described in the application and funded in the approved federal awards. This provision does not apply to the acquisition of supplies, material, equipment, or general support services;
7. Changes in the approved cost-sharing or matching provided by the non-federal entity;
8. The need for additional federal funds to complete the project;
9. Salary rates of pay exceeding an Executive Level IV salary range (see “Rates of Pay for the Executive Schedule” under the “Executive & Senior Level Employee Pay Tables” header at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/>) require prior NIFA approval. This rate does not include any fringe benefits, general and administrative (G&A), overhead, or other expenses. Requests for approval must include the salary rate of pay and a justification for the rate and be sent to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) to awards@usda.gov;
10. No more than 50 percent of the total dollars of this award may be subcontracted to another party(ies) without prior written approval of the ADO, except subcontracts to Federal agencies;
11. Transferring funds between the construction and non-construction work under a Federal award; and
12. A no-cost extension (meaning, an extension of time that does not require the obligation of additional Federal funds) of the period of performance, other than any one-time extension authorized by the Federal agency in accordance with paragraph 2 CFR 200.308(g)(2). All requests for no-cost extensions should be submitted at least 10 calendar days before the conclusion of the period of performance. The Federal agency may approve multiple no-cost extensions under a Federal award if not prohibited by Federal statute or regulation.

B. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

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

C. Regulatory Information

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

D. Language Access Services

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

APPENDIX I: AGENCY CONTACT

Program Contact: 2501Grants@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

Assistance Listing Number – ALN

Authorized Representative – AR

Community Based Organizations – CBO

Data Management Plan – DMP

Indirect Costs – IDC

National Institute of Food and Agriculture – NIFA

Notice of Funding Opportunity – NOFO

Project Director – PD

Project Narrative – PN

Project Summary – PS

Research, Education, and Economics – REE

United States Department of Agriculture – USDA

APPENDIX III: DEFINITIONS

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

Definitions

Collaborator:

A person or an organization that cooperates with the applicant in the conduct of the project but is not immediately connected to the management of the project.

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.

New Application:

An application not previously submitted to a program.

Renewal Application:

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

Veteran farmer or rancher ([7 USC 2279\(a\)\(7\)](#)):

The term "veteran farmer or rancher" means a farmer or rancher who has served in the Armed Forces (as defined in [section 101\(10\) of title 38](#)) and who-

(A) has not operated a farm or ranch;

(B) has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years; or

(C) is a veteran (as defined in section 101 of that title) who has first obtained status as a veteran (as so defined) during the most recent 10-year period.