USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Federal Demonstration Partnership
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The Organization of USDA's NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE — Revised 12.13.2021

FY21 at a Glance

- Awarded **2,643** grants
- Obligated **100%** of 1-year awards and **100%** of FY20 2-year awards
- Prepared and certified **3,968** ASAP Authorization Increases and **1,202** Decreases
- Processed **65** Requesting and **29** Performing Inter-agency Agreements
- Cleared more than **300** inquiries regarding grant indirect costs and **22** negotiated indirect cost agreements
- Implemented Treasury's Secure Payment System (SPS)
- Completed **45%** more post award actions than in FY20
- Closed **62%** more grant awards than in FY20
- Identified **111** risks in the Risk Register and presented **9** enterprise risks
- Completed compliance reviews at **10** institutions

Other Updates

- Filled ~**104** of our ~**139** Full Time Equivalent positions. Aggressive training in process
- Policy Guide updated for 2 CFR 200 alignment to OMB for clearance and shared with partners; additional Policy Guide partner input received for inclusion in the 2022 annual update
- Re-engineering RFAs: Working to incorporate stakeholder recommendations for RFA Improvements anticipated FY23
- Revisions to NIFA Application Instructions for clarity and ease of use for stakeholders anticipated FY23
- Development of Dashboards to track real time progress of program implementation and funds obligation

Schedule for Program Implementation from RFA to Award (SPIRA)

The SPIRA project is a planning and implementation tool used by NIFA to help provide visibility and accountability of program, financial, and policy staff from announcement to award.

- FY 2021 represented NIFA's pilot year–Development of SPIRA for Non-AFRI Competitive, AFRI, and Capacity Awards
- Enhancements will continue with SPIRA Pilot through FY 2023
- FY 2024 –full implementation

Results

- Monthly calendar of anticipated RFA publication and due dates on NIFA Website for stakeholder planning
- Helped NIFA to identify unique program awarding requirements to better address stakeholder needs
- Streamline the time between the publication of the RFA and the notice of award
- Internally SPIRA has led to the development of the SPIRA Dashboard

The development of the SPIRA project has required participation from all units within NIFA, stakeholder feedback and a forward-thinking approach. NIFA will continue to make improvements as the pilot project develops and invite all stakeholders to provide feedback as we continue to improve this process.

SPIRA

- Project CAFÉ related activity
  - SPIRA Project: Completed first year pilot of the Schedule for Program Implementation from Request for Application (RFA) to Award
  - Continuing projected RFA publication schedule on NIFA's website at https://nifa.usda.gov/upcoming-rfa-calendar.
- FY 2021-Completed first year pilot of the Schedule for Program Implementation from RFA to Award (SPIRA).
- FY21 Published RFAs
  - Funding Opportunities-122 Competitive, Directed-Non-competitive, and Capacity RFAs, including New and COVID response programs
  - FY 2021 SPIRA incorporated 4 target release dates
- Estimated FY22 RFAs
  - Funding Opportunities- Approximately 102 Competitive, Directed-Non-competitive, and Capacity RFAs (56 competitive, 18 Non-competitive, and 18 continuations)
  - FY 2022 incorporated 6 target release dates

Anticipate earlier planning for FY 2023

OGFM Resources

- Awards@USDA.gov (competitive grants)
- CapacityGrantQuestions@USDA.gov (capacity grants)
- 1890@USDA.gov (1890 Institution mailbox)
- ASAPCustomerService@USDA.gov (ASAP help)
- IndirectCostInquiries@USDA.gov (indirect costs)
- reimbursableagreemen@usda.gov (Inter-Agency Agreements)

NIFA Resources

- Competitive Grants
- Capacity Grants
- Coronavirus FAQs
- Coronavirus Website
- NIFA Weekly Updates

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Questions?