



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

NIFA Agency Update

Federal Demonstration Partnership

January 2015



FOOD PRODUCTION
AND SUSTAINABILITY

BIOENERGY, CLIMATE,
AND ENVIRONMENT

YOUTH, FAMILY,
AND COMMUNITY

FOOD SAFETY
AND NUTRITION

INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMS

USDA NIFA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Agenda

- **Melanie Krizmanich, NIFA**
 - Implementation of Uniform Guidance
 - Regulatory Changes
 - Award Terms and Conditions
 - Farm Bill Update
- **Christopher Coppenbarger, FAS**
 - NIFA Fit/Gap Analysis
 - Grantor



USDA Regulatory Changes

- Interim Final Rule - 79 FR 75867; Dec 19, '14
- 2 CFR Part 400 series supersedes 7 CFR Part 3000 series
 - 7 CFR Part 3015 (uniform reg) – 2 CFR Part 415
 - 7 CFR Part 3016 (admin req) – 2 CFR Part 416
 - 7 CFR Part 3018 (lobbying) – 2 CFR Part 418
 - 7 CFR Part 3019 (admin req) – 2 CFR Parts 200 & 400
 - 7 CFR Part 3022 (rsch misconduct) – 2 CFR Part 422
 - 7 CFR Part 3052 (audits) – 2 CFR Parts 200 & 400
- NIFA regs to remain in 7 CFR Part 3400 series



USDA Regulatory Changes – new regs

- 2 CFR Part 400 (adopts 2 CFR part 200)
 - Section 1 adopts subparts A through F of part 200
 - Section 2 includes USDA conflict of interest policy in compliance with 2 CFR 200.112
- 2 CFR Part 415 – General Prog Admin Regs
 - To include 7 CFR 3015.158, 7 CFR 3015.200, 7 CFR 3015.300 through 3015.312, and definition of “Audiovisual,” “Production of an Audiovisual,” and “Publication.”



USDA Regulatory Changes—new regs

- 2 CFR Part 416 – State and Local Govts
 - Includes § 60 (b) and (c) of 7 CFR 3016
- 2 CFR Part 418 – Lobbying
 - Includes 7 CFR 3018 in its entirety
- 2 CFR Part 422 – Research Misconduct
 - Includes 7 CFR 3022 in its entirety



Award Terms and Conditions

- Government-wide Overlay Effort
- USDA Department-wide Grant and Cooperative Agreement General Terms and Conditions
 - NIFA-specific award terms



Update – Farm Bill Implementation

- Centers of Excellence (Section 7128)
 - FY15 RFAs will provide priority funding across competitive research and extension programs
 - Outreach webinars will be scheduled in late Jan.
- Commodity Boards for AFRI (Section 7404)
 - Input from stakeholders being synthesized
 - By March 2015, anticipate inviting proposals from commodity boards for FY 2016 AFRI RFA ideas – 100% match required



Update – Farm Bill Implementation

- New Matching Requirement of 100%
 - Guidance published on NIFA's website describing covered competitive programs, process for requesting a waiver
 - Majority of grantees excepted with no waiver needed
 - Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture can be certified, excepted – public with 4 year food and ag science degrees



Update – Farm Bill Implementation

- Farm Bill Funded RFAs for Release 1/30/15
 - Biomass Research Development Initiative \$6m
 - Specialty Crops Research Initiative \$51m
 - Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative \$18.5m
 - Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program \$18.5m
 - Community Food Projects \$9m
- Listing of released NIFA RFAs - link on the NIFA home page (www.NIFA.usda.gov)



RFAs to be Released in Near Term

- AFRI
 - Ag & Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability & Change
 - Childhood Obesity
 - Foundational
 - Food Safety
 - Food Security
 - Water
- Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program (BRAG)
- Children, Youth, and Families at Risk Sustainable Community Projects
- Crop Protection and Pest Management
- 1890 Inst Teaching, Rsch and Ext Capacity Building Grants (CBG) Program
- Higher Education Challenge Grants (HEC)
- Methyl Bromide Transitions (MBT)
- Organic Transitions
- Rural Health and Safety Education
- Secondary Ed, Two-Yr Postsecondary Ed, & Ag in the K-12 Classroom (SPECA) Challenge Grants Program



[GrantsMod]

NIFA's Grant Modernization Effort Update

Initial Goals:

- Provide transparency and simplification of processes for grantees
- Allow for “self-service” capabilities
- Promote a paperless environment
- Modernize systems
- Improve management and reporting of data and results



Background

- RFI and initial systems reviewed
 - CREEMS, SAP Grantor, NSF, EPA, NIH, and others
- NIH Fit-Gap Analysis (September 2013)
 - Professional, collaborative nature, and quality of effort
 - Resulted in documented analysis and enhanced understanding
 - Good fit for self-service, e-jacket and overall grant processing
- USDA SAP Grantor
 - Concurrent, USDA effort to develop and implement enterprise-wide, cradle-to-grave, grant management solution as part of the National Finance Center's (NFC) Share Financial Service Provider portfolio



USDA/NFC Shared Financial Service **[GrantsMod]** Provider and Grantor Offering

1. Business-Led Governance Structure

- Every customer has a seat on the governance board
- Collaborative environment (collaborate on similar efforts, know what is coming when)
- Through scale, drive grants policy leadership in the Federal sector

2. Experienced Team & Inclusive Operations

- Agency-led Tier 0 to accommodate unique business needs: Ability to incorporate members of your business team to co-staff Tier 0 support
- Pooled Tier 1-3 support teams to handle access and system issues, using scale to lower costs

3. Proven, Rapid & Flexible On-boarding

- Assessment approach to define and order the pieces you need based on your business priorities
- Rapid, agile, and demonstrated implementation & on-boarding approach that tailors Grantor to your organization

4. Hybrid SAP & Pega Platform

- Pega-powered grantee-portal
- SAP data warehouse & reporting
- SAP-powered grants case tool
- SAP-powered financials
- Virtualized, scalable environments

5. Broad & Flexible Grants Functionality

- Broad, full range of functionality across the grants lifecycle
- More capabilities planned and rolling out every 4 months



[GrantsMod]

NIFA's Grant System Selection: Grantor

Benefits-

- Meets 5 initial goals
- Provides robust integration with agency financial system (a newly added goal)
- Fills gaps related to financial reporting, capacity grants, and reporting

Next Steps-

- 3-4 month assessment (capitalize on NIH reports)
- 2.5 year, full program implementation



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Questions