

Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

We delayed the sending of the January edition of the *ARD Updates* in hopes that the RFAs for Capacity Building Grants and for Foundational Program Grants would have been released, but they have been delayed. Therefore, as the agency will send notices to all of you, we will simply reinforce the notice by sending out emails as well, once the RFAs are out. However, both programs are extremely important to the 1890s and so this newsletter will reacquaint you with the Foundational Program grants. These are much smaller grants (up to \$500,000), can be single-function research projects, and the FACE grants (which are enhancement grants) are present therein, unlike many of the other large CAP grants of NIFA. The AFRI Grants shall be awarded to address priorities in United States agriculture in the following areas:

- A) Plant health and production and plant products;
- B) Animal health and production and animal products;
- C) Food safety, nutrition, and health;
- D) Renewable energy, natural resources, and environment;
- E) Agriculture systems and technology; and
- F) Agriculture economics and rural communities.

Additionally, this is the program with the requirement of demonstrating that the MSIs and small 1862 Universities have received some of this funding. Equipment grants, strengthening grants, sabbaticals etc are also included in this program. Consequently, when the RFA for the Foundational Program comes out, we will immediately alert you. Certain programs therein will require a letter of intent, so please read carefully for such details.

Colleagues, I sincerely hope that 2012 will be an extremely enjoyable, productive and healthful year for you all. Sincerely,

UPDATE: CBG RFA pushed to February. Expect 6—8 weeks thereafter as the proposal submission deadline. Indirect cost rate is now 30%.



The Association of 1890 Research Directors, Inc. recognized Dr. Kirkland Mellad for his outstanding leadership and service to the Association and his deep commitment to the advancement of our Association, to Southern University and to the eighteen 1890 Land Grant universities during his retirement celebration in December, 2011.

Meeting Reminders/Notices

ARD Winter Meeting—January 18-20, 2012 in Jacksonville, FL

Consortium Planning Meeting- Greensboro, NC TBD

AHS/CARET at Washington, DC Keybridge Marriott Hotel (possibly add 1.5 days) February 26-29, 2012

AEA Conference in Memphis—June 24-28, 2012

ARD Summer Meeting in Brazil-TBD

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General Grant Writing Tips for Success (From NIFA Website)

This tip sheet was developed to aid in the preparation of competitive grant proposals. For applicants preparing an Integrated Proposal, please also refer to the “Tips for Developing and Implementing Integrated Projects” document.

Developing the Proposal:

- Read the RFA
- Develop idea to fit within program priorities
 - consider eligibility
 - consider relevance, review criteria
- Write project description for particular program, reviewers, review process, *etc.*
- Describe all elements if project is integrated
- Complete all paperwork, get signatures
- Submit on time

Improving the Proposal:

- Obtain a successful proposal from a successful colleague
- Review abstracts of recently funded projects in the programs of interest
- Obtain critical reviews from colleagues before you submit
 - Ask a colleague in your research, education, or extension area to review the proposal for clarity and logic, including scientific and education methodology
 - Ask a colleague outside your research area to review the proposal for clarity, logic, and significance
- High risk proposals need high potential impact - need to sell it but admit risk

Successful Proposals:

- Excite the reviewers
- Are easy to read and understand
- Have an appropriate literature review
- Have clear rationale & objectives that fit program priorities
- Clearly stated hypotheses or research questions – for research proposals
- Clearly stated learning objectives and expected outcomes/impacts for education and extension portion of the project (What will be different as a result of the proposed work?)
- Have specific objectives, methods, work plan, *etc.* for research, education, and extension components – for integrated proposals
- Have well-communicated importance of topic and potential contributions of work
- Contain a detailed project description - methods, sample selection, analysis, educational program delivery, instructional materials development, *etc.*
- Have a discussion of expected outcomes
- Address potential pitfalls, including short-comings of data and amelioration plans
- Contain a good plan for dissemination of results and use of research results in education programs
- Appropriate expertise of the Project Director(s)
- Critically reviewed by colleagues before submission
- Follow the submission rules!!!

Reasons for Lower Ratings:

- Project of little or no relevance to NIFA mission and/or program priorities
- Insufficient preliminary data or evidence from literature
- Exceeds page limit, poorly written, unclear objectives or hypotheses
- Poor record of results (*e.g.*, publications) from previous funding
- Experiments or objectives not cohesive, different functions aren't integrated
- Low scientific merit, basic flaws in logic, demonstrates lack of scientific understanding
- No hypotheses, research questions, or learning objectives
- Not innovative, little new information gained
- Inappropriate methods or methods too vague
- Not as exciting as other proposals (*i.e.*, worth funding, but ran out of funds)
- Project Director(s) not qualified

