

# Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program

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***FY 2009 Request for Applications***

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 5, 2009**



**U.S. Department of Agriculture**



**Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service**

**COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE;  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED TRIBES EXTENSION PROGRAM**

**INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

**CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE:** This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under 10.500.

**DATES:** Applications must be received by close of business (COB) on January 5, 2009 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time). Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding. Comments regarding this request for applications (RFAs) are requested within six months from the issuance of this notice. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**STAKEHOLDER INPUT:** The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) is requesting comments regarding this RFA from any interested party. These comments will be considered in the development of the next RFA for the program, if applicable, and will be used to 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)). This section requires the Secretary to solicit and consider input on a current RFA from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, education and extension for use in formulating future RFAs for competitive programs. Written stakeholder comments on this RFA should be submitted in accordance with the deadline set forth in the DATES portion of this Notice.

Written stakeholder comments should be submitted by mail to: Policy and Oversight Staff; Office of Extramural Programs; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; USDA; STOP 2299; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2299; or via e-mail to: [RFP-OEP@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:RFP-OEP@csrees.usda.gov). (This e-mail address is intended only for receiving comments regarding this RFA and not requesting information or forms.) In your comments, please state that you are responding to the Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program RFA.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** CSREES requests applications for the Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP) for fiscal year (FY) 2009 to establish Extension education programs on American Indian Reservations and Tribal jurisdictions. The amount anticipated to be available for support of new projects in FY 2009 is approximately \$2,430,000.

This notice identifies the objectives for FRTEP projects, the eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for a FRTEP grant. CSREES additionally requests stakeholder input from any interested party for use in the development of the next RFA for this program.

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## **PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

### **A. Legislative Authority and Background**

This program is authorized under Section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, ch. 79, 38 Stat. 372, 7 U.S.C. 341 *et seq.* This program supports extension education programs on American Indian Reservations and Tribal jurisdictions to address the unique needs and problems of American Indian Tribal Nations.

Please note: Section 7403 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) (P.L. 110-246) amended section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act to require funds to be awarded competitively. In addition, this amendment made the 1890 land-grant institutions eligible to fully participate in Smith-Lever section 3(d) programs. Section 7417 of FCEA amended section 208 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act (P.L. No. 93-471; 88 Stat. 1428) to provide eligibility to the University of the District of Columbia for programs authorized and appropriated under Smith-Lever section 3(d). These new provisions are being implemented in FY 2009.

### **B. Purpose and Priorities**

The purpose of this program is to support Extension agents who establish Extension education programs on the Indian Reservations and Tribal jurisdictions of Federally-Recognized Tribes. In fiscal year (FY) 2009, funded projects will support one or more of the following selected Strategic Goals included in the CSREES Strategic Plan for FY 2007-2012 (see part VIII, E., Definitions):

*Strategic Goal 2:* Enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of rural and farm economies;

*Strategic Goal 3:* Support increased economic opportunity and improved quality of life in rural America;

*Strategic Goal 4:* Enhance protection and safety of the Nation's agriculture and food supply; and

*Strategic Goal 6:* Protect and enhance the Nation's natural resource base and environment.

Therefore, projects should address, for example:

- Assisting farmers and ranchers in increasing efficiency of agricultural production systems and in generating high quality products and processes;
- Increasing knowledge of market principles, economic diversification and utilization of sustainable farming operations;
- Increasing producers' knowledge of principles and techniques of risk management;
- Reducing the number and severity of agricultural pest and disease outbreaks;

- Increasing knowledge of bio-energy and biomass conversion;
- Reducing the incidence or prevalence of food-borne illnesses and contaminants by providing extension outreach to food, animal and produce growers, owners and operators of small plants, and food preparers and handlers;
- Improving management of forest and rangelands, including land, air and water; or
- Helping youth to develop good decision-making and leadership skills and providing educational opportunities to improve their technical skills.

## **PART II—AWARD INFORMATION**

### **A. Available Funding**

There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards. It is anticipated that approximately \$2,430,000 will be made available to fund new applications in FY 2009.

### **B. Types of Applications**

In response to this RFA, only **New** applications may be submitted to FRTEP. This is a project application that has not been previously submitted to FRTEP. All new applications will be reviewed competitively using the selection process and evaluation criteria described in Part V—Application Review Requirements.

### **C. Project Types**

In FY 2009, applications should be submitted for a four (4) year period as CSREES anticipates making these awards as continuation grants to reduce the administrative burden to the grant applicants. A continuation grant is an award for which an application is approved, but each year of funding is awarded on an annual basis and subject to the availability of annual appropriations and satisfactory progress of the project. Therefore, it is anticipated that awards made in FY 2009 will provide funds for the first year of the project. Limits on the amount of funding an applicant may request are dictated by the appropriate personnel salary rates of the applicant institution, plus other allowable costs. It is expected that funding for all four (4) years of the project will be at the same level as the initial project year (see Part IV, D, Funding Restrictions). Funding requests must be reasonable and fully justified (see Part V, B, Evaluation Criteria, Cost Effectiveness of Proposed Project).

## **PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

### **A. Eligible Applicants**

Applications may be submitted by 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Institutions and the University of the District of Columbia. Institutions that were awarded four-year continuation grants for projects initiated in FY 2007 (University of Arizona – Navajo Reservation, Tuba City; University of Idaho – Nez Perce Reservation; Michigan State University – Bay Mills Indian Community, Hannahville Indian Community, Lake Traverse Band of Odawa Indians, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; and University of Minnesota – Fond du Lac Reservation and Leech Lake Reservation) will receive separate instructions regarding the awarding of funds in FY 2009 and should not submit applications under this RFA.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline will result in CSREES not accepting the application, or even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude CSREES from making an award.

### **B. Cost Sharing or Matching**

CSREES does not require matching support for this program, and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

## PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### A. Electronic Application Package

Only electronic applications may be submitted via Grants.gov to CSREES in response to this RFA.

Prior to preparing an application, it is suggested that the PD/PI first contact an Authorized Representative (AR)(also referred to as Authorized Organizational Representative or AOR) to determine if the organization is prepared to submit electronic applications through Grant.gov. If the organization is not prepared, the AR should see [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp) for steps for preparing to submit applications through Grants.gov.

The steps to access application materials are as follows:

1. Download and install PureEdge Viewer, a small, free program that provides access to the grant application. See [http://www.grants.gov/resources/download\\_software.jsp#pureedge](http://www.grants.gov/resources/download_software.jsp#pureedge).
2. The application package must be obtained via Grants.gov, go to <http://www.grants.gov>, click on “Apply for Grants” in the left-hand column, click on “**Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions**,” enter the funding opportunity number **USDA-CSREES-SLBCD-001906** in the appropriate box and click “Download Package.” From the search results, click “Download” to access the application package.

Contained within the application package is the “[CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov](#).” This Guide contains an introduction and general Grants.gov instructions, information about how to use a Grant Application Package in Grants.gov, and instructions on how to complete the application forms.

**If assistance is needed to access the application package** (e.g., downloading or navigating PureEdge forms, using PureEdge with a Macintosh computer), refer to resources available on the Grants.gov Web site first (<http://grants.gov/>). Grants.gov assistance is also available as follows:

- Grants.gov customer support  
Toll Free: 1-800-518-4726  
Business Hours: Monday through Friday 7:00 am – 9:00 pm Eastern Standard Time  
Email: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)

See <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/electronic.html> for additional resources for applying electronically.

### B. Content and Form of Application Submission

Electronic applications should be prepared following Part V and VI of the document entitled “[A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov.](#)” This guide is part of the corresponding application package (see Section A. of this Part). The following is **additional information** needed in order to prepare an application in response to this RFA. If there is discrepancy between the two documents, the information contained in this RFA is overriding.

**Note the attachment requirements (e.g., portable document format) in Part III section 3. of the Guide. ANY PROPOSALS CONTAINING NON-PDF DOCUMENTS WILL BE AT RISK OF BEING EXCLUDED FROM CSREES REVIEW. Partial applications will be excluded from CSREES review. With documented prior approval, resubmitted applications will be accepted until close of business on the closing date in the RFA.**

**If you do not own PDF-generating software, Grants.gov provides online tools to assist applicants. Users will find a link to “Convert Documents to PDF” on <http://grants.gov/assets/PDFConversion.pdf>.**

**1. SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet**

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 2. of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide.

**2. R&R Other Project Information Form**

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 3. of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide.

a. Field 6. Project Summary/Abstract. The summary should also include the relevance of the project to the goals of FRTEP.

b. Field 7. Project Narrative.

PLEASE NOTE: The Project Narrative shall not exceed 20 pages of written text and up to 5 additional pages for figures and tables. This maximum (25 pages) has been established to ensure fair and equitable competition. The Project Narrative must include all of the following:

(1) Situation Statement, Goals Statement and Statement of Program Objectives: Description of the project should include the situational statement that indicates the need for funding and the program goals and objectives.

(2) Target audience(s) and geographic description of the area to be served.

(3) Statement of Approach: Include a description of the major strategies to be undertaken; procedures for stakeholder input; anticipated program delivery methods; observation on the feasibility of reaching program objectives and the relevance of methods used to reach objectives; identification of partnerships and a description of each partner’s roles and

responsibilities, including those of the Cooperative Extension Service(s) and the Tribe(s); and a proposed timeline for achieving the major objectives.

(4) Project Review and Evaluation: Identify appropriate methodologies for reviewing and evaluating the project from implementation to completion of project goals, particularly the impact on targeted individuals, communities and organizations. This section must reflect evaluation strategies for all component activities of the proposed project objectives.

Other Attachments (Field 11. on the Form).

- (1) Letters of Support. Letter(s) indicating support from the Tribe(s) and/or Tribal department(s), e.g., Land and Water, Fish and Game, Natural Resources, Agriculture, must be included. The letter(s) must indicate support for the project objectives and a commitment to provide appropriate direct support for the project as necessary (e.g., office facilities, utilities).
- (2) Appendices to Project Narrative. Appendices to the Project Narrative are allowed if they are directly germane to the proposed project. The addition of appendices should not be used to circumvent the text and/or figures and tables page limitations.
- (3) Collaborative Arrangements. If it will be necessary to enter into formal consulting or collaborative arrangements with others, such arrangements should be fully explained and justified in the proposal and budget narrative. If the consultant(s) or collaborator(s) are known at the time of application, a vitae or resume should be provided. In addition, evidence (e.g., letter of support and/or letter of intent) should be provided that the collaborators involved have agreed to render these services. The applicant also will be required to provide additional information on consultants and collaborators, and their role in supporting specific project objectives, in the budget portion of the application.

### **3. R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)**

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 4. of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide.

**4. R&R Personal Data** – As noted in Part V, 5. of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide, the submission of this information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award. If completing the information, **do not enter any data in the field requesting the social security number.**

### **5. R&R Budget**

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 6. of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide.

### **6. Supplemental Information Form**

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part VI, 1. of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide.

a. Field 2. Program Code. Enter the program code name (i.e., enter “Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program”) and the program code (i.e., enter “LP”).

### **C. Submission Dates and Times**

**Instructions for submitting an application are included in Part IV, Section 1.9 of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide.**

Applications must be received by Grants.gov by COB on January 5, 2009 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time). Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding.

Correspondence regarding submitted applications will be sent using e-mail. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide accurate e-mail addresses, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R Application for Federal Assistance.

If the AR has not received correspondence **from CSREES** regarding a submitted application within 30 days of submission of the application, please contact the Program Contact identified in Part VII of the applicable RFA (for the Small Business Innovation Research program (SBIR) the Program Contacts are specified under subsection 1.5 of the SBIR Program Solicitation) and request the proposal number assigned to the application. **Failure to do so may result in (for competitive programs) the application not being considered for funding by the peer review panel or (for non-competitive programs) a delay in the issuance of an award. Once the application has been assigned a proposal number, this number should be cited on all future correspondence.**

### **D. Funding Restrictions**

The initial year of funding (FY 2009) is to be used as the basis for proposing the budget for years 2-4, therefore, subsequent yearly funding requests (and budgets) must not exceed the amount requested for the first year. In addition to specific yearly budget requests, a cumulative budget is required detailing the requested total support for the overall project period.

Funds may be requested under any of the categories listed on the Budget Form, provided that the item or service for which support is requested is allowable under the authorizing legislation, the applicable statutes, regulations, and Federal cost principles, and these program guidelines, and can be justified as necessary for the successful conduct of the proposed project. Funds may be used for salaries and appropriate fringe benefits for the Reservation Extension Agent, any individual directly involved in the delivery of Extension programs, and secretarial and/or support staff time that is directly related to the project. Funds may also be used to pay travel costs for up to two meetings per year for members of a Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program Advisory Committee. In addition, an amount budgeted should include sufficient funds for the Reservation Extension Agent to attend the annual meetings of the FRTEP Agents and the annual meetings of the Intertribal Agriculture Council and/or the Southwest Indian Agriculture Association.

Pursuant to Section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (91 Stat. 981), indirect costs are unallowable costs under Section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act, and no funds will be approved for this purpose. Costs that are a part of an institution's indirect cost pool may not be reclassified as direct costs for the purpose of making them allowable.

All budget categories, with the exception of Indirect Costs, for which support is requested, must be individually listed (with costs) in the same order as the budget and justified on a separate sheet of paper. Information related to the R&R Budget form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 6. of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide. Field K. Budget Justification – **PDF Attachment. No Page Limit.** Title the attachment as 'Budget Justification' in the document header and save file as 'Budget Justification'. If consulting, collaborative arrangements (Field 11, Other Project Information), or subcontractual arrangements are included in the application, these arrangements should be fully explained and justified. Refer to Part V, 7. of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide for instructions on completing the "R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form."

The rate of pay for any consultant must be included, if known at the time of application. Letters of Intent or other evidence should be provided to show that collaborators have agreed to participate. For each arrangement involving the transfer of substantive programmatic work or the provision of financial assistance to a third party, a proposed statement of work, vitae or resume, and a budget must be supplied. In multi-State/territory applications, the lead State/territory must be identified. A Budget and Budget Justification must be included for each State/territory involved.

The following represents a partial listing of costs which are not permitted: entertainment, meals for persons not traveling on behalf of the project except when provided to maintain the continuity of a meeting; tickets to shows or sporting events; alcoholic beverages, and costs associated with banquets and award ceremonies.

Awards and Certificates of Achievement are disallowed by 2 CFR 220, Cost Principles for Educational Institutions (OMB Circular A-21) and 2 CFR 230 Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations (OMB Circular A-122).

Any expense not directly related to the program or project is considered unallowable. Examples include: child-care services, kitchen help hired to prepare refreshments, and promotional or appreciation gifts such as clothing, coffee mugs, or bags.

CSREES has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

In addition, tuition remission is prohibited by Section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3319).

## **E. Other Submission Requirements**

The applicant should follow the submission requirements noted in the document entitled “A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov.”

## PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

### A. General

Each application will be evaluated in a 2-part process. First, each application will be screened to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements as set forth in this RFA. Second, applications that meet these requirements will be technically evaluated by a review panel.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) 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; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

### B. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria below will be used in reviewing applications submitted in response to this RFA:

Criteria	Points
Statement of Need, Site Location, and Scope of Project	20
Program Objectives	20
Program Design and Methodologies	15
Quality of Stakeholder/Participant Involvement in the Proposed Project	15
Evaluation Methodologies	15
Cost Effectiveness of Proposed Project	15

- 1. Statement of Need, Site Location, and Scope of Project (20 points):** How well a case does the applicant make for overcoming a problem or taking advantage of an opportunity? Does the applicant adequately relate those issues that will be addressed in this project to the stated needs of the community? How well stated a case does the applicant make relative to reaching an underserved population in terms of geographic distribution and/or number of people to be served? Are the proposed activities, the geographic area to be covered and the number of people to be reached adequate for the funding amount requested?

- 2. Program Objectives (20 points):** Are the objectives written to address one or more of the Strategic Goals contained in Part I, B.? Are the specific program objectives written in clear, concise, complete, measurable and logically arranged statements? Do the proposed project objectives provide sufficient justification for funding this proposal?
- 3. Program Design and Methodologies (15 points):** Will the program design and strategies likely produce the outcomes needed to meet the objectives described above? Is the project sufficiently focused and does it contain a critical mass of leadership and resources to undertake the activity? Are the scope and duration of the programs adequate to produce positive outcomes? Is the appropriate research base used to support the selected educational design and activities?
- 4. Quality of Stakeholder/Participant Involvement in the Proposed Project (15 points):** Does the applicant demonstrate a broad understanding of Tribal interests that is sufficient to produce positive outcomes? Are existing and/or potential partnerships and collaborations included and adequately described? Is there evidence of sufficient commitment on the part of stakeholder/participant groups to ensure success of the proposed project efforts and accomplishment of goals?
- 5. Evaluation Methodologies (15 points):** Are the evaluation designs and methodologies adequate to measure the extent to which program objectives are being met?
- 6. Cost Effectiveness of Proposed Project (15 points):** How well stated is the relationship between the proposed budget and the anticipated outcomes of this project? Are costs reasonable and necessary? How effective do the salaries and other direct costs appear to be in support of Extension program delivery? Is there proper balance, as well as sufficiency and efficiency of funds, among the individual budget items?

### **C. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality**

During the peer evaluation process, extreme care will be taken to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may impact review or evaluation. For the purpose of determining conflicts of interest, the academic and administrative autonomy of an institution shall be determined by reference to the current Higher Education Directory, published by Higher Education Publications, Inc., 6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 648, Falls Church, Virginia 22042. Phone: (703) 532-2300. Web site: <http://www.hepinc.com>.

Names of submitting institutions and individuals, as well as application content and peer evaluations, will be kept confidential, except to those involved in the review process, to the extent permitted by law. In addition, the identities of peer reviewers will remain confidential throughout the entire review process. Therefore, the names of the reviewers will not be released to applicants.

### **D. Organizational Management Information**

Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted on a one time basis, with updates on an as needed basis, as part of the responsibility determination prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA, if such information has not been provided previously under this or another CSREES program. CSREES will provide copies of forms recommended for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the preaward process. Although an applicant may be eligible based on its status as one of these entities, there are factors which may exclude an applicant from receiving Federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual involved or a determination that an applicant is not responsible based on submitted organizational management information).

## **PART VI—AWARD ADMINISTRATION**

### **A. General**

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the awarding official of CSREES shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this RFA. The date specified by the awarding official of CSREES as the effective date of the grant shall be no later than September 15 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. It should be noted that 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 CSREES under this RFA shall be expended solely for the purpose for which the funds are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, the regulations, the terms and conditions of the award, the applicable Federal cost principles (2 CFR 220 and 2 CFR 215), and the Department's assistance regulations (parts 3015, 3019 and 3430 of 7 CFR).

### **B. Award Notice**

The award document will provide pertinent instructions and information including, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) Legal name and address of performing organization or institution to whom the Administrator has issued an award under the terms of this request for applications;
- (2) Title of project;
- (3) Name(s) and institution(s) of PDs chosen to direct and control approved activities;
- (4) Identifying award number assigned by the Department;
- (5) Project period, specifying the amount of time the Department intends to support the project without requiring recompetition for funds;
- (6) Total amount of Departmental financial assistance approved by the Administrator during the project period;
- (7) Legal authority(ies) under which the award is issued;
- (8) Appropriate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number;
- (9) Applicable award terms and conditions (see <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/awards/awardterms.html> to view CSREES award terms and conditions);

(10) Approved budget plan for categorizing allocable project funds to accomplish the stated purpose of the award; and

(11) Other information or provisions deemed necessary by CSREES to carry out its respective awarding activities or to accomplish the purpose of a particular award.

### **C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

Several Federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications considered for review and to project grants awarded under this program. These include, but are not limited to:

7 CFR Part 1, subpart A—USDA implementation of the Freedom of Information Act.

7 CFR Part 3—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-129 regarding debt collection.

7 CFR Part 15, subpart A—USDA implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

7 CFR Part 331 and 9 CFR Part 121—USDA implementation of the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002.

7 CFR Part 3015—USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, implementing OMB directives (i.e., OMB Circular Nos. A-21 and A-122, now codified at 2 CFR Parts 220 and 230) and incorporating provisions of 31 U.S.C. 6301-6308 (formerly the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, Pub. L. No. 95-224), as well as general policy requirements applicable to recipients of Departmental financial assistance.

7 CFR Part 3017—USDA implementation of Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and 7 CFR Part 3021—Governmentwide Requirements for Drug Free Workplace (Grants).

7 CFR Part 3018—USDA implementation of Restrictions on Lobbying. Imposes prohibitions and requirements for disclosure and certification related to lobbying on recipients of Federal contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and loans.

7 CFR Part 3019—USDA implementation of OMB Circular A-110, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Other Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-profit Organizations now codified at 2 CFR 215.

7 CFR Part 3052—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-profit Organizations.

7 CFR Part 3407—CSREES procedures to implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

7 CFR Part 3430—CSREES Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Grant Programs-General Grant Administrative Provisions.

29 U.S.C. 794 (section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and 7 CFR Part 15b (USDA implementation of statute) —prohibiting discrimination based upon physical or mental handicap in Federally assisted programs.

35 U.S.C. 200 et seq. —Bayh Dole Act, controlling allocation of rights to inventions made by employees of small business firms and domestic non-profit organizations, including universities, in Federally assisted programs (implementing regulations are contained in 37 CFR Part 401).

#### **D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements**

Grantees are required to submit initial project information and annual and final technical reports to CSREES' Current Research Information System (CRIS). The CRIS database contains narrative project information, progress/impact statements, and final technical reports that are made available to the public. For applications recommended for funding, instructions on preparation and submission of project documentation will be provided to the applicant by the Agency contact. Documentation must be submitted to CRIS before CSREES funds will be released. Project reports will be requested by the CRIS office when required. For more information about CRIS, visit <http://cris.csrees.usda.gov>.

## **PART VII—AGENCY CONTACT**

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact Joan F. Gill; National Program Leader; Science and Education Resources Development; Multicultural Alliances; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2250; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2250; telephone: 202-720-6487; fax: 202-720-4924; e-mail: [jgill@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:jgill@csrees.usda.gov).

## **PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION**

### **A. Access to Review Information**

Copies of reviews, not including the identity of reviewers, and a summary of the panel comments will be sent to the applicant PD after the review process has been completed.

### **B. Use of Funds; Changes**

#### **1. Delegation of Fiscal Responsibility**

Unless the terms and conditions of the award state otherwise, the awardee 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.

#### **2. Changes in Project Plans**

a. The permissible changes by the awardee, PD(s), or other key project personnel in the approved project shall be limited to changes in methodology, techniques, or other similar aspects of the project to expedite achievement of the project's approved goals. If the awardee or the PD(s) is uncertain as to whether a change complies with this provision, the question must be referred to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) for a final determination. The ADO is the signatory of the award document, not the program contact.

b. Changes in approved goals or objectives shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such changes. In no event shall requests for such changes be approved which are outside the scope of the original approved project.

c. Changes in approved project leadership or the replacement or reassignment of other key project personnel shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such changes.

d. Transfers of actual performance of the substantive programmatic work in whole or in part and provisions for payment of funds, whether or not Federal funds are involved, shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such transfers, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of the award.

e. The project period may be extended by CSREES without additional financial support, for such additional period(s) as the ADO determines may be necessary to complete or fulfill the purposes of an approved project, but in no case shall the total project period exceed five years. Any extension of time shall be conditioned upon prior request by the awardee and approval in writing by the ADO, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of award.

f. Changes in Approved Budget: Unless stated otherwise in the terms and conditions of award, changes in an approved budget must be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to instituting such changes if the revision will involve transfers or expenditures of

amounts requiring prior approval as set forth in the applicable Federal cost principles, Departmental regulations, or award.

### **C. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards**

When an application results in an award, it becomes a part of the record of CSREES transactions, available to the public upon specific request. Information that the Secretary determines to be of a confidential, privileged, or proprietary nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, any information that the applicant wishes to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary should be clearly marked within the application. The original copy of an application that does not result in an award will be retained by the Agency for a period of three years. Other copies will be destroyed. Such an application will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An application may be withdrawn at any time prior to the final action thereon.

### **D. Regulatory Information**

For the reasons set forth in the final Rule related Notice to 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V (48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983), this program is excluded from the scope of the 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.

### **E. Definitions**

For the purpose of this program, the following definitions are applicable:

*Administrator* means the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and any other officer or employee of the Department to whom the authority involved is delegated.

*Authorized departmental officer* or *ADO* means the Secretary or any employee of the Department who has the authority to issue or modify grant instruments on behalf of the Secretary.

*Authorized Representative* or *AR* (also referred to as *Authorized Organizational Representative* or *AOR*) means the president, director, or chief executive officer or other designated official of the applicant organization who has the authority to commit the resources of the organization.

*Budget period* means the interval of time (usually 12 months) into which the project period is divided for budgetary and reporting purposes.

*Department* or *USDA* means the United States Department of Agriculture.

*Extension activity* means an act or process that delivers science-based knowledge and informal educational programs to people, enabling them to make practical decisions.

*Grant* means the award by the Secretary of funds to an eligible organization or individual to assist in meeting the costs of conducting, for the benefit of the public, an identified project which is intended and designed to accomplish the purpose of the program as identified in these guidelines.

*Grantee* means an organization designated in the grant award document as the responsible legal entity to which a grant is awarded.

*Institutional Review Board* refers to an administrative body charged with protecting the rights and welfare of human subjects involved in activities conducted by the affiliated institution. It approves, requires modifications in, or disapproves all activities within its jurisdiction.

*Merit review* means an evaluation of a proposed project or elements of a proposed program whereby the technical quality and relevance to regional and national goals are assessed.

*Prior approval* means written approval evidencing prior consent by an authorized departmental officer as defined above.

*Project* means the particular activity within the scope of the program supported by a grant award.

*Project director* means the single individual designated in the grant application and approved by the Secretary who is responsible for the direction and management of the project.

*Project period* means the period, as stated in the award document, during which Federal sponsorship begins and ends.

*Secretary* means the Secretary of Agriculture and any other officer or employee of the Department to whom the authority involved is delegated.

#### USDA Strategic Goals and CSREES Strategic Objectives (2007-2012)

*Strategic Goal 2: Enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of rural and farm economies*

Objective 2.1: Provide research, education, and extension to expand domestic market opportunities

Objective 2.2: Provide research, education, and extension to increase the efficiency of agricultural production and marketing systems

Objective 2.3: Provide risk management and financial tools to farmers and ranchers

*Strategic Goal 3: Support Increased Economic Opportunities and Improved Quality of Life in Rural America*

Objective 3.1: Expand economic opportunities in rural America by providing research, education, and extension to create opportunities for growth

Objective 3.2: Provide research, education, and extension to improve the quality of life in rural areas

*Strategic Goal 4: Enhance Protection and Safety of the Nation's Agriculture and Food Supply*

Objective 4.1: Reduce the incidence of food borne illnesses and contaminants through research, education, and extension

Objective 4.2: Develop and deliver research, education, and extension to reduce the number and severity of agricultural pest and disease outbreaks

*Strategic Goal 6: Protect and Enhance the Nation's Natural Resource Base and Environment*

Objective 6.1: Ensure clean, abundant water and clean, healthy air

Objective 6.2: Enhance soil quality to maintain productive working lands

Objective 6.3: Protect, enhance and manage forests and rangelands

Objective 6.4: Protect and enhance wildlife habitat to benefit desired, at risk and declining species