

**Cooperative State Research, Education,  
and Extension Service  
United States Department of Agriculture  
FUNDING MECHANISMS  
Updated May 2007**

## **CSREES FUNDING MECHANISMS**

**The mission of CSREES is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities through national program leadership and federal assistance.**

Agriculture is a knowledge-based, global enterprise, sustained by the innovation of scientists and educators. CSREES supports research, education and extension activities at partner institutions through three main funding mechanisms: formula funds; competitive grants; and non-competitive grants and agreements.

**Competitive Grants:** CSREES awards competitive grants for fundamental and applied research, extension, and higher education activities, as well as for projects that integrate research, education and extension functions. Competitive programs enable CSREES to attract a large pool of applicants to work on agricultural issues of national interest, and to select the highest quality proposals submitted by highly qualified individuals, institutions or organizations. Awards are made following a rigorous peer-review process. Eligibility, administrative rules, and procedures vary for each specific program according to authorizing statutes.

**Formula Funds:** CSREES provides funds for research and extension to land-grant institutions (1862, 1890 and 1994 institutions), schools of forestry and schools of veterinary medicine through several formula program authorities. The amount of funds provided to each institution is determined by formulae, often statutorily defined, that may include variables such as the rural population or farm population. Local or regional university leaders decide which specific projects will be supported by an institution's formula fund allotment. These decisions are informed, in part, by stakeholders who both conduct and use agricultural research and extension.

**Non-competitive Grant Programs:** Some projects are directed by Congress to specifically support a designated institution or set of institutions for particular research, education or extension topics of importance to a state or region. These projects are supported through Special Research Grants or Direct Federal Administration Research or Education Grants.

The specific CSREES funding opportunities managed via formula or competitive mechanisms are discussed in the following pages.

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## **BROADLY COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITIES**

**[National Research Initiative \(NRI\)](#)**. **7 U.S.C. 450i(b)**. The National Research Initiative is the flagship competitive grants program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Basic and mission-linked scientific activities supported by the NRI develop the critical knowledge needed to address key national priorities in the biological, physical and social sciences related to agriculture, food, and the environment. The program is open to a wide variety of public, private and non-profit organizations. NRI funds are awarded to selected proposals following a competitive, scientific peer-review process. Since fiscal year 2003, appropriations law has provided that a portion of the annual NRI budget may support integrated research, education and extension projects. Matching funds may be required under certain circumstances.

**[Contact: Anna Palmisano](#)**  
**[CFDA Number: 10.206](#)**

**[Integrated Research, Education and Extension Competitive Grants](#)**. **7 U.S.C. 7626**. The CSREES competitive integrated grants support research, education and extension functions to solve critical agricultural issues, priorities or problems in a broad array of disciplines. All four-year colleges and universities, as well as all 1994 land-grant institutions, are eligible to compete for CSREES integrated grants. Matching funds may be required under certain circumstances.

**[Contact: Deborah Sheely](#)**  
**[CFDA Number: 10.303](#)**

**[Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education \(SARE\)](#)**. **7 U.S.C. 5811**. SARE works to increase knowledge about - and to help farmers and ranchers adopt - practices that are profitable, environmentally sound, and beneficial to communities. Competitive grants for sustainable agriculture research and education are awarded by four regional administrative councils. Generally ranging from \$60,000 to \$150,000, SARE grants fund projects that usually involve scientists, producers and others in an interdisciplinary approach. Many funded projects involve on-farm research trials with crops and/or livestock. SARE grants also fund education and demonstration projects, including the development of farmer-to-farmer networks. Eligible applicants include land-grant colleges or universities, other universities, State agricultural experiment stations, State cooperative extension services, nonprofit organizations, and individuals with demonstrable expertise, or Federal or State governmental entities.

**[Contact: Jill Shore Auburn](#)**  
**[CFDA Number: 10.215](#)**

**[Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Competitive Grants \(OASDFR\)](#)**. **7 U.S.C. 2279(a)**. These grants fund organizations to conduct outreach and technical assistance that encourages and assists socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to own and operate farms and ranches and to participate in agricultural programs. The primary purposes of OASDFR, which is also referred to as the 2501 Program, are to deliver outreach and technical assistance; to develop opportunities for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to successfully acquire, own, operate, and retain farms and ranches; and to ensure equitable participation

in the full range of USDA programs. Eligible applicants include community-based organizations, networks, or coalitions of community-based organizations; 1890 or 1994 land-grant institutions; Indian Tribal Community Colleges or Alaska Native Cooperative Colleges; Hispanic-serving institutions; and organizations of higher education, Indian tribes, or national tribal organizations that have demonstrated experience in providing agriculture education or other agriculturally related services to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in a region, as well as organizations or institutions that received funding under this program before 1996.

**Contact: Liz Tuckermanty**

**CFDA Number: 10.443**

**Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative: 7 U.S.C. 5925b.** The purpose of the initiative is to fund research and/or extension that will enhance organic producers' and processors' abilities to grow and market high-quality organic agricultural products. Priority concerns encompass biological, physical, and social sciences (including economics). Grants are open to colleges and universities, state agricultural experiment stations, as well as federal and private research entities, private organizations or corporations, and individuals. Matching may be required under certain circumstances.

**Contact: Tom Bewick**

**CFDA Numbers: 10.307**

## **EDUCATION-RELATED COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITIES**

**Higher Education Challenge Grants. 7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(1).** Projects supported by Higher Education Challenge Grants address a State, regional, national, or international educational need, involve a creative or non-traditional approach toward addressing that need, encourage and facilitate better working relationships in the university science and education community, as well as between universities and the private sector, and result in benefits that will likely transcend the project duration and USDA support. Eligibility is limited to four-year colleges and universities with programs in the food and agricultural sciences. A dollar-for-dollar match from non-federal funds is required.

**Contact: Gregory Smith**

**CFDA Number: 10.217**

**Secondary and Two-Year Postsecondary Agriculture Education Challenge Grants. 7 U.S.C. 3152(j).** Secondary and Two-Year Postsecondary Agriculture Education Challenge Grants (SPEC) promote and strengthen secondary education and two-year postsecondary education in agricultural science and business to ensure a qualified workforce to serve the U.S. food and agricultural science system. Applications may be submitted by eligible public secondary schools and public or private, nonprofit junior or community colleges. A dollar-for-dollar match from non-federal funds is required.

**Contact: Gregory Smith**

**CFDA Number: 10.226**

**Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship Grants. 7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(6).** Grants are awarded to train students for master's and/or doctoral degrees and to provide additional postdoctoral training for

Fellows who have completed their doctoral degrees. Grants are open to colleges and universities that confer a graduate degree in at least one targeted area of the food and agricultural sciences and have demonstrable teaching and research competencies in the food and agricultural sciences. Grants are specifically intended to support fellowship programs that encourage outstanding students to pursue and complete their degrees or obtain postdoctoral training in areas where there is a national need for the development of scientific and professional expertise.

**Contact: Audrey Trotman**

**CFDA Number: 10.210**

**Multicultural Scholars**, 7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(5). These competitive undergraduate scholarship grants aim to increase the multicultural diversity of the food and agriculture scientific and professional workforce by providing competitive grants to four-year colleges and universities. The Multicultural Scholars Program is offered biannually. African-American, Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander, and Native American or Alaskan Native students are eligible to apply. A 25 percent non-federal match is required.

**Contact: Audrey Trotman**

**CFDA Number: 10.220**

**International Science and Education Competitive Grants**, 7 U.S.C. 3292b. The International Science and Education Competitive Grants (ISE) support research, extension, and teaching activities that will enhance the capabilities of U.S. colleges and universities to conduct international collaborative research, extension and teaching. ISE projects enhance the international content of curricula; ensure that faculty work beyond the U.S.; promote international research partnerships; enhance the use and application of foreign technologies in the U.S.; and strengthen the role that colleges and universities play in maintaining U.S. competitiveness.

**Contact: Hiram Larew**

**CFDA Number: 10.305**

## **COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITIES MANAGED IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER USDA AGENCIES**

**Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Competitive Grants**, 7 U.S.C. 5921 and 7 U.S.C. 7901. The Biotechnology Risk Assessment Grants (BRAG) fund projects that investigate the effects of introducing genetically modified organisms into the environment. Studies of effects on both managed and natural environments are relevant. The grants are funded through a 2 percent assessment on all USDA-supported biotechnology research. Eligible applicants include U.S. public or private research or educational institutions or organizations.

**Contact: Daniel Jones**

**CFDA Number: 10.219**

**Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)**, 15 U.S.C. 638. The USDA SBIR funds research and development projects proposed by small businesses that address important agricultural problems that could lead to significant public benefit. Topics include environment and natural resources (animals, wildlife, aquaculture, plants, forests), rural

development, markets and trade, technology, industrial applications, and food science and nutrition. Grants fund research and educational support programs for business and communities. Funds are *not* provided for operating or startup costs for businesses. Grants are funded through a statutorily mandated assessment of 2.5 percent on all USDA supported extramural research. Eligible applicants include small businesses which: (a) are organized for profit, independently owned or operated, are not dominant in the proposed research field, have their principal places of business located in the United States, have a number of employees not exceeding 500 in all affiliated firms owned or controlled by a single parent concern, and meet the other regulatory requirements outlined in 13 CFR Part 121, as amended; (b) are at least 51 percent owned, or in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of its voting stock is owned, by U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens; (c) are the primary source of employment for the principal investigator of the proposed effort at the time of award and during the actual conduct of proposed research; and (d) are the primary performer of the proposed research effort. For Phase II SBIR grants, eligibility is further restricted.

**Contact: Charles Cleland**

**CFDA Number: 10.212**

**Community Food Projects Competitive Grants. 7 U.S.C. 2034.** These grants are funded through the Food Stamp Act and competitively awarded to support the development of Community Food Projects with a one-time infusion of federal dollars to make such projects self-sustaining or to support the development of stand-alone technical expertise and assistance activities. Community Food Projects are designed to meet the food needs of low-income people; increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for their own food need; and promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm and nutrition issues. Eligible applicants include private, nonprofit entities; and, for training and technical assistance, other entities (all applicants may partner with public or private, nonprofit or for-profit entities, including academic or other appropriate professionals, community-based organizations, or local government entities). For all but training and technical assistance projects, there is a matching requirement of 50 percent nonfederal support.

**Contact: Liz Tuckermanty**

**CFDA Number: 10.225**

**Risk Management Education. 7 U.S.C. 1524.** The Risk Management Education (RME) grants provide U.S. agricultural producers with the knowledge, skills and tools needed to make informed risk management decisions for their operations, with the goal of enhancing farm profitability. Grants fund four Regional RME Centers and a risk management education library. The program supports the dissemination of existing risk management tools; and furthers the development of agricultural risk management curricula and materials, the delivery of agricultural RME to producers, and the verification of program impacts. Eligible applicants include public and private entities, including land-grant institutions; Cooperative Extension Services; four-year colleges or universities; Federal, State, and local agencies; nonprofit and for-profit private organizations or corporations.

**Contact: Janie Hipp**

**CFDA Number: 10.500**

## **AWARDS PRIMARILY TARGETED TO 1862 LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES**

**Hatch Act Formula Awards**. **7 U.S.C. 301**. The Hatch Program allocates federal funds on the basis of a statutory formula to the State Agricultural Experiment Stations of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Insular Areas of Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, Micronesia, American Samoa, and Northern Marianas Islands. Funds also are awarded for the Hatch Multistate Research Fund as a separate allocation and on a formula basis. A 100 percent non-federal match is required for all recipients except for Insular Area institutions, which are required to provide a 50 percent non-federal match. Approximately 25 percent of these funds support Multistate Research Fund Projects selected through a scientific peer-review process. The States are required to spend a certain amount on integrated activities.

**Contact: Ellen Danus**  
**CFDA Number: 10.203**

**Smith-Lever: 1862 Institution Cooperative Extension Formula Awards**. **7 U.S.C. 341**. The Smith-Lever Act sections 3(b) and (c) allocate federal funds on a formula basis to support cooperative extension work in 50 States, Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, Micronesia, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands. The District of Columbia receives extension funds through separate legislative authority. The States are required to spend a certain amount on both integrated and multistate activities. A 100 percent non-federal match is required for all recipients except for Insular Area institutions, which are required to provide a 50 percent non-federal match.

**Contact: Ellen Danus**  
**CFDA Number: 10.500**

**Smith-Lever Act 3(d)**. The Smith-Lever Act provides authorization in section 3(d) for special emphasis awards to support cooperative extension programs. 1862 land-grant institutions may apply for Smith-Lever 3(d) funds. Where 3(d) appropriations exceed the fiscal year 1995 levels, 1890 land-grant institutions, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University, may also apply to receive the funds. The following special emphasis programs are currently supported:

**CFDA Number: 10.500**

**Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program**. **7 U.S.C. 5930**. These awards establish extension education programs on Indian Reservations and tribal jurisdictions. The programs are implemented in consultation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Intertribal Agriculture Council, and the Southwest Indian Agriculture Association. **Contact: Joan Gill**

**Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program**. **7 U.S.C. 3175**. The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) currently operates in all 50 states and in American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. It is designed to assist limited-resource audiences in acquiring the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and changed behavior necessary for nutritionally sound diets, and to contribute to their personal development and the improvement of the

total family diet and nutritional well-being. Funds are distributed according to a statutory formula.

**Contact: Helen Chipman**

**Children Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR)**. CYFAR supports comprehensive, intensive, community-based efforts developed with active citizen participation. CYFAR promotes building resiliency and protective factors in youth, families, and communities. Funds are distributed to State Extension Services through a competitive process.

**Contact: Sharon Wright**

**Extension Integrated Pest Management**. Extension IPM helps agricultural producers and other pest managers gain confidence in alternative pest management strategies as they are demonstrated and evaluated in production and other settings. Funds are awarded both on a competitive and formula basis.

**Contact: Mike Fitzner**

**Farm Safety**. Smith-Lever 3(d) funds support farm safety through National, State and Regional AgrAbility Projects. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis.

**Contact: Brad Rein**

**Youth Farm Safety and Certification**. Awards support national efforts to deliver timely, pertinent, and appropriate training to youth seeking employment or already employed in agricultural production. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis.

**Contact: Brad Rein**

**Sustainable Agriculture**. Smith-Lever 3(d) provides funding for Professional Development Grants that support extension outreach projects in coordination with Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education.

**Contact: Jill Shore Auburn**

**Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative. 7 U.S.C. 3351**. The initiative supports a national diagnostic network of public agricultural institutions which identifies and responds to high-risk biological pathogens in the food and agriculture system. CSREES directly funds twenty five individual animal laboratories and five plant diagnostic centers, dispersed strategically around the country. The diagnostic laboratories are responsible for identification of exotic and domestic pests and pathogens that are of concern to the security of our food and other agricultural production systems. Additionally, the Food and Agricultural Defense Initiative provides funding for the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). EDEN provides a clearinghouse of educational materials for disaster response and other agricultural homeland security information.

**Contact: William Hoffman**

**CFDA Number: 10.304**

**Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA). 16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.** The Renewable Resources Extension Act provides funding for extension efforts in forest and range resources. Funds are distributed on a formula basis to address forest and rangeland



stewardship and health, invasive species, economic opportunities, and fish and wildlife resource issues.

**Contact: Eric Norland**

**CFDA Number: 10.500**

**McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry.** 16 U.S.C. 582a, et seq. McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry allocates funds on a formula basis for forestry research, which includes forests and related rangelands, at institutions offering graduate training in the sciences basic to forestry or having a forestry school. Eligible institutions are designated by the State. A 100 percent non-federal match is required.

**Contact: Catalino Blanche**

**CFDA Number: 10.202**

**Animal Health and Disease Formula.** 7 U.S.C. 3195. Funds are allocated according to a statutory formula that takes into account both the importance of the livestock industry and the animal health research capacity within a State. Funding supports livestock and poultry disease research at accredited schools or colleges of veterinary medicine or State Agricultural Experiment Stations that conduct animal health and disease research. The Act limits the annual Federal payment a State may receive in excess of \$100,000 to that amount made available and budgeted from nonfederal sources for expenditures on animal health and disease research.

**Contact: Gary Sherman**

**CFDA Number: 10.207**

**Aquaculture Centers.** 7 U.S.C. 3322. Authorizes the establishment of aquaculture research, development and demonstration centers in the United States for the performance of aquaculture research and extension work and demonstration projects. Funding currently supports five regional aquaculture centers. Non-land-grant institutions can serve as regional centers.

**Contact: Meryl Broussard**

**CFDA Number: 10.200**

**Non-competitive Special Research Grants:** 7 U.S.C. 450i. Recipients of non-competitive special research grants are specified by Congress in the appropriations act. Eligibility for non-competitive special grants is generally limited to land-grant universities.

**Contact: Ralph Otto**

**CFDA Number: 10.500**

## **SUPPORT FOR 1890 INSTITUTIONS, TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY AND WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Evans-Allen 1890 Research Formula.** 7 U.S.C. 3222(a). Evans-Allen funds are allocated according to a statutory formula for agricultural research at the 1890 land-grant institutions, Tuskegee University, and West Virginia State University. A non-federal match of 100 percent is required, although the Secretary may waive the match above 50 percent if an institution demonstrates that it is unable to meet that requirement.

**Contact: P.S. Benepal**  
**CFDA Number: 10.205**

**1890 Extension Formula.** 7 U.S.C. 3221(a) The 1890 Extension Formula allocates funding according to a statutory formula for agricultural extension programs at the 1890 land-grant institutions, Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University. A non-federal match of 100 percent is required, although the Secretary may waive the match above 50 percent if an institution demonstrates that it is unable to meet that requirement.

**Contact: P.S. Benepal**  
**CFDA Number: 10.500**

**1890 Facilities Grants.** 7 U.S.C. 3222b(b). The 1890 Facilities Grants provide funds for the acquisition and improvement of agricultural and food sciences facilities and equipment, including libraries, to 1890 land-grant institutions, Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University.

**Contact: P.S. Benepal**  
**CFDA Number: 10.500**

**1890 Institutions Teaching and Research Capacity Building Grants.** 7 U.S.C. 3152 (b)(4). The 1890 Capacity Building Grants are intended to strengthen teaching and research in the food and agricultural sciences by building the institutional capacities of the 1890 land-grant institutions, Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University through cooperative linkages with federal and non-federal entities. These competitively awarded projects strengthen teaching and research in targeted areas of the food and agricultural sciences.

**Contact: Tim Grosser**  
**CFDA Number: 10.216**

## **SUPPORT FOR 1994 LAND-GRANT AND OTHER MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS**

### **1994 TRIBAL COLLEGES**

**Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund.** 7 U.S.C. 301 note. This fund distributes the interest earned by an endowment established for the 33 1994 land-grant institutions. The Endowment Fund enhances education in agricultural sciences and related disciplines for Native Americans by building educational capacity at these institutions in the areas of curricula design and materials development, faculty development and preparation for teaching, instruction delivery systems, experiential learning, equipment and instrumentation for teaching, and student recruitment and retention. It also funds facility renovation, repair, construction and maintenance in support of these efforts. At the end of each fiscal year, the earned interest income from the endowment fund is distributed according to a statutory formula.

**Contact: Tim Grosser**  
**CFDA Number: 10.222**

**Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants.** 7 U.S.C. 301 note. These grants promote and strengthen higher education instruction in the food and agricultural sciences at the 33

1994 land-grant institutions. Plans of Work focus on undergraduate and/or graduate studies in the food and agricultural sciences in one or more of the following areas: Curricula Design and Materials Development, Faculty Development and Preparation for Teaching, Instruction Delivery Systems, Student Experiential Learning, Equipment and Instrumentation for Teaching, or Student Recruitment and Retention. Funds are allocated on a formula basis.

**Contact: Tim Grosser**

**CFDA Number: 10.221**

**Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions.** 7 U.S.C. 301 note. The Tribal Colleges Extension Services provides funding to increase extension capacity at the 33 1994 land-grant institutions, and to address special needs, take advantage of important opportunities, and/or demonstrate long-term sustained benefits of extension projects at 1994 land-grant institutions. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis.

**Contact: Joan Gill**

**CFDA Number: 10.500**

**Tribal Colleges Research Grants.** 7 U.S.C. 301 note. These grants support agricultural research that addresses high priority concerns of tribal, national, or multistate significance. Grants support investigative and analytical studies in the food and agricultural sciences. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis.

**Contact: Saleia Afele-Faamuli**

**CFDA Number: 10.227**

## **OTHERS**

**Hispanic Serving Institutions Education Grants.** 7 U.S.C. 3241. The competitively awarded Hispanic Education Partnership Grants strengthen the ability of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) to carry out higher education programs in the food and agricultural sciences; attract outstanding students from underrepresented groups; and produce graduates capable of enhancing the Nation's food and agriculture scientific and professional workforce. HSI designation requires an undergraduate Hispanic enrollment of at least 25 percent. Funded projects address one or more targeted needs: curricula design, materials development and library resources; faculty preparation and enhancement for teaching; instruction delivery systems; scientific instrumentation for teaching; student experiential learning; and student recruitment and retention.

**Contact: Irma Lawrence**

**CFDA Number: 10.223**

**Resident Instruction for Insular Areas.** 7 U.S.C. 3363 note. Competitive grants are awarded for educational capacity building at land-grant universities in the Insular Areas.

**Contact: Jeff Gilmore**

**CFDA Number: 10.308**

**Alaska-Native Serving and Native-Hawaiian Serving Institutions Education Grants.**

7 U.S.C. 3242. This program promotes and strengthens the ability of Alaska Native-Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions to carry out education,

applied research, and related community development within a broadly defined arena of food and agricultural sciences-related disciplines.

**Contact: Saleia Afele-Faamuli**

**CFDA Number: 10.228**

**Agriculture In the Classroom (AITC)**. The AITC effort serves nearly 5 million students and 60,000 teachers annually through workshops, conferences, field trips, farm tours, and other educational activities. AITC works with states and supports a variety of projects relating to agricultural literacy. The activities are carried out in each state, according to state needs and interests, by individuals representing farm organizations, agribusiness, education and government.

**Contact: Tom Tate**

**CFDA Number: 10.500**