

FIRST NATIONWIDE FORMULA GRANTS TELECONFERENCE
Notes

FEBRUARY 27, 2008
3:00 – 4:30 PM Eastern Time

CSREES/USDA Attendees:

Office of Extramural Programs

Andrea Brandon, Deputy Administrator, Office of Extramural Programs
Shawn Bennett, eGrants Liaison
Ellen Danus, Chief, Policy, Oversight, and Funds Management Branch
Edward Nwaba, Leader, Oversight Section
Wanda Walker, Leader, Funds Management Section
Barry Sims, Staff Accountant (Formula)

Information Systems and Technology Management

Jason Hitchcock, Director, Information Policy, Planning, and Training

Andrea Brandon, Deputy Administrator for the Office of Extramural Programs, welcomed all to the First Nationwide Formula Grants Teleconference. Per the published agenda, the presenters followed the PowerPoint presentation.

Four questions had been submitted by Dr. Ralph Otto, Associate Administrator, based on input gathered from some deans and directors. The questions are as follows:

1. Will formula funds be subjected to increased indirect cost rates at our institutions?

No. Funds made available under the Formula Grant Programs are not be subject to a reduction for indirect costs per section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA). The Formula Grant Programs include funds provided under the Hatch Act, Smith-Lever Act, Renewable Resources Extension Act, McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act, Animal Health and Disease Research Program (NARETPA section 1433), 1890 Agricultural Extension Programs (NARETPA section 1444), and 1890 Agricultural Research Programs (NARETPA section 1445). This provision will be clearly identified in each Formula Grant Opportunity (FGO) with a citation to the NARETPA section 1473.

2. Can CSREES send a letter to the institutions clearing stating that the submission of the SF-424-M application package through Grants.gov is only a procedural/process change?

CSREES will send a letter to the State Cooperating Institutions clearly stating that the submission of the SF-424-M application package through Grants.gov is only a procedural/process change and that it will not impact the existing programs or legislative/regulatory requirements. In addition, this also will be clearly stated in a CSREES Update article, the FGOs, and on the Formula Grant section of the CSREES web site.

3. Are matching waivers still possible?

The submission of applications through Grants.gov will have no impact on CSREES legislative authority to grant matching waivers to the insular 1862 land-grant institutions and the 1890 land-grant institutions.

4. Can there be a repeat performance of this teleconference?

At the next Nationwide Formula Grants Teleconference, March 26, 2008, 3:00 – 4:30 pm EST, the information provided during the first teleconference will be repeated. More information (i.e., agenda and presentation) will be provided to the Partnership distribution lists prior to the teleconference.

Additional questions may be addressed to formulagrantsquestions@csrees.usda.gov. Future agenda topics may be submitted to Barry Sims, Staff Accountant, Oversight Staff (Formula), at bsims@csrees.usda.gov.