



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Cooperative State
Research,
Education, and
Extension Service

Program Solicitation

Tribal Colleges Extension Program (TCEP)

Fiscal Year 2008

Closing Date: February 22, 2008

TCEP Program:

Telephone: 202-720-1973

Email: serdegrants@csrees.usda.gov

Internet:

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/tribal_extension.html

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (CFDA)

10.500 Cooperative Extension Service

CSREES Funding Opportunity Number

USDA-CSREES-SLBCD-001172

***** PLEASE READ *****

IMPORTANT ITEMS FOR THE USDA-CSREES TRIBAL COLLEGES EXTENSION PROGRAM

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2008 PROGRAM SOLICITATION

The Tribal Colleges Extension Program (TCEP) requires all applications be submitted electronically through Grants.gov. There are considerable online resources to help potential applicants with the new electronic forms and submission requirements.

If your institution is new to the electronic grant application process through Grants.gov, you will be required to complete several steps prior to submitting an application. **There is a one-time registration process. It can take as much as one month to complete, so it is critical to begin as soon as possible.** The “Get Registered” tab on Grants.gov (www.grants.gov/GetRegistered) provides information on registering your institution with Grants.gov and the steps necessary to apply for a grant. A quick reference guide listing these steps is available as a 4-page PDF document at the following website: http://www.grants.gov/section910/Grants.govRegistrationBrochure.pdf.

The Agency within USDA responsible for administering this grant program is the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). CSREES has also developed documentation to help navigate the process. The central point for all information related to electronic application submission is www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/electronic. This site is updated frequently and it should be checked often for program-specific help concerning electronic submissions.

Helpful Submission Information	Website Address
Information pertaining to the transition to electronic submission can be found at the CSREES website.	<u>www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/electronic</u> This page will be updated frequently and should be checked for program-specific help.
Applications for this grants program should be submitted through the Grants.gov website.	To access the electronic application via Grants.gov, go to <u>www.grants.gov</u> , under the “Apply for Grants” heading on the left side of page and click on “Download Grant Application Packages.” Enter the Funding Opportunity Number “USDA-CSREES-SLBCD-001172” in the appropriate box and click on download application.
The CSREES GRANTS.GOV Application Guide provides guidance for completing the forms required by Grants.gov and CSREES. Used in conjunction with this RFA for the TCEP grants program, this guide	Each applicant should use the CSREES document titled, “A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov” also known as the “CSREES Application Guide,” that is part of this RFA package located at <u>Grants.gov</u>. This document provides guidance for completing the required forms at Grants.gov. Applicants should also reference the RFA for

will assist applicants with most field-specific questions.	additional guidance not found in the application guide.
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Applications must be received at Grants.gov by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, on February 22, 2008. Plan ahead. Do not wait until the last minute to submit your application.

Applicants who have problems with their submissions to Grants.gov are encouraged first to call the Grants.gov help desk to resolve any problems. Keep a record of any such correspondence.

For any questions related to preparing application content, contact:

Email: electronic@csrees.usda.gov

Phone: 202-401-5048, Business hours are M-F, 7:00 am – 5:00 pm ET, excluding Federal holidays.

For any questions related to Grants.gov content, contact:

Email: support@grants.gov

Toll Free: 1-800-518-4726, Business hours are M-F, 7:00 am – 9:00 pm ET.

Part IV of this RFA provides additional information specific to the Tribal Colleges Extension Program application submission. Applicants are advised to refer to this section to determine if specific information is required during the submission of the forms on Grants.gov. If directed by this RFA to provide information that is different from the CSREES Application Guide, the information in this RFA supersedes in all cases.

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. On the Grants.gov Customer Support webpage (<http://grants.gov/CustomerSupport>) users will find a link to “Convert Documents to PDF” (<http://grants.gov/assets/PDFConversion.pdf>).

Applications for this grants program should include the following **Contents of a CSREES-TCEP Application Submitted via Grants.gov:**

Document Title	Required	Instruction Source	Additional Instructions within this RFA
SF 424 (R&R) Cover Sheet	✓	CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide p. 17	TCEP RFA Part IV, B., 1., p. 12
SF 424 (R&R) Other Project Information	✓	CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide p. 24	TCEP RFA Part IV, B., 2., p. 12
SF 424 (R&R) Senior/Key Person (Expanded)	✓	CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide p. 29	TCEP RFA Part IV, B., 3., p. 13
SF 424 (R&R) Personal Data		CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide p. 34	TCEP RFA Part IV, B., 4., p. 13
SF 424 (R&R) Budget	✓	CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide p. 36	TCEP RFA Part IV, B., 5., p. 13
SF 424 (R&R) Subaward Budget Attachment	Only if submitting a Collaboration Project	CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide p. 43 (Follow attachment guidelines)	TCEP RFA Part IV, B., 6a., p. 15
Supplemental Information	✓	CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide p. 45	TCEP RFA Part IV, B., 7., p. 15

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

TRIBAL COLLEGES 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 Grants.gov by close of business (COB) on February 22, 2008 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time). Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding. Comments regarding this request for applications (RFA) 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, Oversight, and Funds Management Branch; 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. (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 Tribal Colleges Extension Program RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: CSREES requests applications for the Tribal Colleges Extension Program (TCEP) for fiscal year (FY) 2008 to provide funding for the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions to conduct non-formal education and outreach activities to help meet the needs of the Native American people. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2008 will be approximately \$945,000 contingent upon Congressional action.

This notice identifies the objectives for TCEP projects, the eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for a TCEP 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 534(b) of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), as amended by the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) (7 U.S.C. 7601). This section amends Section 3 of the Act of May 8, 1914 (Smith-Lever Act) (7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.), as amended. Under this authority, appropriated funds are to be awarded to the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (hereinafter referred to as 1994 institutions) for Extension work and funds are to be distributed on the basis of a competitive application process.

B. Purpose and Priorities

This program provides funding to (1) increase Extension program capacity at 1994 institutions; and (2) address special needs, take advantage of important opportunities, and/or demonstrate long-term sustained benefits of Extension projects at 1994 institutions. In FY 2008, funded projects will support one or more of the six Strategic Goals outlined in the CSREES Strategic Plan for FY 2007-2012 (see Part VIII, E., Definitions):

- 1) Enhance international competitiveness of American agriculture;
- 2) Enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of rural and farm economies;
- 3) Support increased economic opportunities and improved quality of life in rural America;
- 4) Enhance protection and safety of the Nation's agriculture and food supply;
- 5) Improve the Nation's nutrition and health; and
- 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; use of safe and sustainable pest management practices; education about homeland security, particularly as it relates to agriculture; increasing knowledge of market principles, economic diversification and utilization of sustainable farming operations; increasing knowledge of bio-energy and biomass conversion; increasing knowledge to enhance community planning and youth and adult workforce preparation; helping individuals and families strengthen their competencies to become productive, financially secure and environmentally responsible members of society; reduction in the incidence of food borne illnesses; increasing the understanding of the relationship between health and diet/nutrition, particularly in addressing problems related to obesity; helping youth to develop good decision-making and leadership skills and providing educational opportunities to improve their technical skills; and/or improved management of forest and rangelands, including land, air and water.

C. Program Area Description

In FY 2008, CSREES is soliciting TCEP applications for two separate categories of projects: 1) Increase Extension Program Capacity Projects; and 2) Extension Special Emphasis Projects. Increase Extension Program Capacity Projects must build and strengthen the capacity at the 1994 Institutions to provide individuals, families and communities with Extension education, outreach

and technical assistance. Extension Special Emphasis Projects must address special needs, take advantage of important opportunities, and/or demonstrate long-term sustained benefits and positive impact of Extension projects at 1994 Institutions. Projects which build upon other planning and implementation concepts that relate to the Cooperative Extension System base programs will be considered for funding. However, objectives funded by other agencies are not eligible for funding under this program.

All proposed projects should support the long-range goals of participating 1994 Institutions. Applicants who have received TCEP support in prior years must submit information about the results from prior funding (see Part IV, B, b5). This information will be used in the review of applications (as described in Part V, B.).

Stakeholder Reports

Applicants are required to establish, implement and describe a procedure for gathering Stakeholder input regarding this program and submit such information to CSREES as part of their application. Accordingly, each applicant must: (a) report actions taken to seek Stakeholder input that encourages their participation; (b) provide a brief statement on the process used by the recipient institution to identify individuals and groups who are Stakeholders and to collect input from them; and (c) provide a statement of how collected input was considered. Institutions that have not had the opportunity to solicit and consider Stakeholder input prior to the submission of this year's application are to submit a Stakeholder Input Plan which delineates: (a) actions taken or plans developed to identify individuals and groups who are Stakeholders; (b) planned actions to encourage the participation of Stakeholders; and (c) how Stakeholder input will be considered in the future. Each applicant must submit with the proposal a one-page report that describes actions to seek stakeholder input on Extension program priorities and how this was considered in setting program/project goals for Extension.

PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

Grants may be awarded to successful applicants. There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards. CSREES anticipates that approximately \$945,000 will be available to fund applications in FY 2008.

B. Types of Applications

In FY 2008, only new applications may be submitted to the TCEP. These are project applications that have not been previously submitted to the TCEP. All new applications will be reviewed competitively using the selection process and evaluation criteria described in Part V—Application Review Requirements.

C. Project Types

1. Increase Extension Program Capacity

In FY 2006, CSREES initiated a procedure to fund continuation grants for up to four years for competitively-selected proposals from eligible institutions. The intent was to reduce the application burden on these institutions. 1994 Institutions not receiving such approval are eligible to apply for Increase Extension Program Capacity projects in FY 2008. 1994 Institutions that were awarded four-year continuation grants in either FY 2006 or FY 2007 have received separate instructions regarding the awarding of funds in FY 2008 and are not eligible to submit this type of project under this RFA. Should there be questions, please contact the Agency Contact identified in Part VII.

Only one application per 1994 Institution may be submitted under the Increase Extension Program Capacity project type, and the applicant may request up to \$85,000 for each year of funding.

In FY 2008, applications should be submitted for a 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 for a specified time period, but each year of funding is awarded on an annual basis (within that specified time period) and subject to the availability of annual appropriations and satisfactory progress of the project. Therefore, awards made in FY 2008 will provide funds for the first year of the project.

2. Extension Special Emphasis Projects

All 1994 Institutions are invited to submit applications under the Extension Special Emphasis Project type.

There is no limit to the number of applications a 1994 Institution, or a consortium of 1994 Institutions, may submit under the Extension Special Emphasis Project type. Each application

submitted by a single institution or multiple institutions may request up to \$100,000. The project period may not exceed three years. **These will not be awarded as continuation grants.**

PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by any of the Tribal colleges and universities designated as 1994 Land-Grant Institutions under the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, as amended.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of project goals and objectives. An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline will result in CSREES returning the application without review 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 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.
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-001172 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: M-F 7:00 am – 9 pm Eastern Standard Time
Email: 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.

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 the TCEP.

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) Situational Statement, Goals Statement, and Statement of Program Objectives: The Project Narrative should include the situational statement that explains the need for funding and the stated program goals and objectives that address this need.

(2) Target Audience(s) and Geographic Description of the Areas to Be Served.

(3) Statement of Approach: Include a description of major strategies to be undertaken; anticipated program delivery methods; observations on the feasibility of reaching program objectives and the relevance of methods used to reach objectives; identification of partnerships needed to carry out goals and objectives and a description of each partner’s roles and responsibilities; and a timeline for achieving the major objectives. Include in your description how stakeholder input identified in your Stakeholder Report will be reflected in your program planning and/or implementation. (See Part I, C., Stakeholder Report Stakeholder Implementation Plan.)

(4) Project Review and Evaluation: Identify appropriate methodologies for reviewing and evaluating the project and expected project outcomes.

(5) Results from Prior Support: Applicants from 1994 Institutions that have received TCEP support within the last four years must submit information about results related to meeting project goals and objectives. All projects receiving funds under this program and within this timeframe must be included. This information will be used in the review of applications to monitor significant milestones and accomplishments (see Part V, B.). The report is limited in length to two pages and should include: the award number, amount and period of support, title of the project, a summary of the results of the completed work, and long-term effects of these results, especially the project(s)' impact on the community.

c. Field 11. Other Attachments.

(1) 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.

(2) 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. 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) 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 these should be detailed in the budget portion of the application.

(3) Stakeholder Report or Stakeholder Implementation Plan. Applicants should attach their Stakeholder Report or Stakeholder Input Plan (see Part I, C.) here.

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.

Project Directors are required to attend a CSREES Project Directors' meeting and/or the CSREES Administrative Officers Meeting at least once during the duration of the project. Therefore, funds should be included for this purpose.

6. SF 424 (R&R) Subaward Budget Attachment (Only required if submitting a Collaboration Project Proposal)

7. 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 “Tribal Colleges Extension Service Program”) and the program code (i.e., enter “NK”).

b. Field 8. Conflict of Interest List. A conflict of interest list is required under this program. Do not include a conflict of interest list.

Application Submission Checklist

The following checklist contains suggested guidelines to verify prior to application submission:

- Have all attachments been submitted in the portable document format (PDF)? CSREES will only accept PDF attachments. See Part III of the CSREES Application Guide.**
 - Do all submitted PDF documents have one-inch margins and are typed or word processed using no type smaller than 12 point regardless of line spacing? Are all PDF documents numbered sequentially on each page of the attachment? Are all page limitations for a given attachment followed? Submitted applications that do not meet these requirements for PDF attachments will be returned without review.**
- Have all five required components of the SF 424 Research and Related (R&R) Application Package been completed? Did you use the “Check Package for Errors” feature of the PureEdge viewer (see section 1.8 of the CSREES Application Guide)?**
- SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet**
 - Have all required fields been completed? Field 5 must contain the name of the eligible college or university.**
- SF 424 R&R Other Project Information**
 - Have the fields describing project potential or actual environmental impact been properly completed?**
- Project Summary/Abstract (PDF)**
 - Has the Project Summary PDF been attached to this form in Field 6?**
 - Does this section adhere to the format?**
- Project Narrative (PDF)**
 - Has the Project Narrative PDF been attached to this form in Field 7?**
 - Are responses provided for all underlined text in the RFA for this section (Field 7, 1-5)?**
 - Does this section adhere to the format and page limitations?**
- Bibliography & References Cited (PDF)**
 - Attach as PDF file in Field 8, but only if needed.**
- Facilities & Other Resources (PDF)**

- Attach as PDF file in Field 9, but only if needed.
- ❑ **Equipment** (PDF)
 - Attach as PDF file in Field 10, but only if needed.
 - Remember, ‘Equipment’ is defined as having a value of over \$5,000 for each item. Most equipment purchased for these projects is actually reported, instead, as ‘Materials and Supplies’ on the R&R Budget Form.
- ❑ **Outside Services, Letters of Support, Use of Facilities**
 - Attach as PDF file in Field 11, but only if needed.
- ❑ **SF 424 R&R Senior/Key Person Profile**
- ❑ **Biographical Sketch** (PDF)
 - Has the biographical sketch (vitae) PDF for the PD, senior associate, and other professional personnel been attached?
- ❑ **Current and Pending Support** (PDF)
 - Has the current and pending support PDF for all PD(s) been attached?
 - Have all current and pending projects been listed and summarized, including this application?
- ❑ **SF 424 R&R Personal Data (Optional) DO NOT PROVIDE THE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF THE PROJECT DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**
 - Have all fields been completed except for the social security number?
- ❑ **SF 424 R&R Budget**
 - Have all fields been completed?
- ❑ **Budget Justification**
 - Has the Budget Justification PDF been attached to this form in Field K?
 - Are budget items individually justified?
 - For multi-institutional applications, has a budget justification been included for each institution involved?
- ❑ **Supplemental Information Form**
 - Does Field 2 indicate the Program Code Name and Program Code to which you are applying?

Have you included the **required** Conflict of Interest List (PDF) attachment? (See format in CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide, Section VI, 1.8, p.46, for instructions.) Include this one-page attachment even if your responses to the questions are “N.A.”.

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 February 22, 2008 (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 and request the proposal number assigned to the application. **Failure to do so may result in the application not being considered for funding by the peer review panel. Once the application has been assigned a proposal number, this number should be cited on all future correspondence.**

D. Funding Restrictions

Under the TCEP, the use of grant funds to plan, acquire, or construct a building or facility, or to acquire land, is not allowed. With prior approval, in accordance with the cost principles set forth in OMB Circular No. A-21, grant funds may be used to purchase equipment, or for improvements, alterations, renovations, or repairs to land, buildings, or equipment, deemed necessary to retrofit existing spaces and resources in order to carry out a funded project under this grant. However, requests to use grant funds for such purposes must demonstrate that such expenditures are incidental to the major purpose for which the grant request is made and no more than twenty-five percent of the project budget may be used to purchase equipment. Any equipment purchased with Federal funds is the property of the grantee or the subgrantee, as appropriate.

Indirect costs are unallowable costs, and no funds will be approved for this purpose. Costs that are a part of the institution's indirect cost pool may not be reclassified as direct costs for the purpose of making them allowable.

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, Scope of Project	20
Program Objectives	15
Program Design and Methodologies	15
Evaluation Methodologies	20
Success in Previous Project Management for Tribal Colleges Extension Service Projects (new applicants will not be penalized)	10
Cost Effectiveness of Proposed Project	10
Quality of Stakeholder/Participant Involvement in the Proposed Project	10

1. Statement of Need, Site Location, Scope of Project (20 points)

- How well stated 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 (15 points)

- Are the objectives written to address one or more of the six 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 designs 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. Evaluation Methodologies (20 points)

- Are the evaluation designs and methodologies adequate to measure the extent to which program objectives are being met?

5. Success in Previous Project Management for Tribal Colleges Extension Service Projects (10 points)

- Is there evidence that the applicant has successfully implemented other TCEP grants in accordance with the timelines and budgets reported?
- Do the outcomes and results from prior support for TCEP projects provide sufficient evidence of long-term positive impacts to justify continued funding?

6. Cost Effectiveness of Proposed Project (10 points)

- How well stated is the relationship between the proposed budget and the anticipated outcomes of this project?
- 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?

7. Quality of Stakeholder/Participant Involvement in the Proposed Project (10 points)

- Has the applicant demonstrated adequate stakeholder input in the development of the proposed project?
- Is there sufficient evidence of community support for the implementation of the proposed project?

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 30 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, and the Department's assistance regulations (parts 3015 and 3019 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 Nonprofit Organizations.

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.

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 nonprofit organizations, including universities, in Federally assisted programs (implementing regulations are contained in 37 CFR Part 401).

D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

1. Annual Performance Report

Annual performance reports are due within 90 days of the anniversary date of the award and should be submitted to the program contact identified in the award. Annual performance reports must include the following information: (a) a comparison of actual accomplishments with the goals established for the reporting period (where the output of the project can be expressed readily in numbers, a computation of the cost per unit of output should be submitted, if the information is considered useful); (b) if established goals were not met, the reasons; and (c) additional pertinent information including, when appropriate, analysis and explanation of cost overruns or unexpectedly high unit costs. These reports must be submitted via the Current Research Information System (CRIS) web site: <http://cwf.uvm.edu/cris/>.

It should be noted that with respect to the continuation awards that CSREES anticipates making in FY 2008, these awardees should expect the award to include the requirement that annual progress reports be electronically submitted through the CRIS within 90 days prior to the end of the current budget period, i.e., current expiration date of the award. Untimely submission of these reports may delay processing of the award and failure to submit these reports will likely result in the restriction of the funding increment.

2. Final Technical Report

A final technical report must be submitted within 90 days after the expiration date of the project via the CRIS system. The expiration date is specified in the award documents and modifications thereto, if any. Generally, the final technical report should be a summary of the completed project, including: (a) a review of project objectives and accomplishments; (b) a description of outcomes resulting from the project and activities undertaken to disseminate these outcomes; (c) an explanation of partnerships and collaborative ventures that resulted from the project, including future initiatives that are planned as a result of the project; (d) a description of the project's impact on the PD(s), the institution(s) involved, and the community; and (e) any pertinent data on project personnel and beneficiaries. The final technical report also must contain any other information specified in the terms and conditions of the award.

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: serdegrants@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:

1994 Institution or 1994 Land-Grant Institution means one of those institutions as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note) as amended. These institutions are commonly referred to as Tribal Colleges or Tribal Universities.

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

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

Authorized representative (AR) means the official who has the authority to commit the resources of the institution.

Award means the provision of funds by the Secretary to an entity 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 Application Guidelines.

Awardee means the same as Grantee (see below).

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

College or university means an educational institution in any State which: (1) admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate; (2) is legally authorized within such State to provide a program of education beyond secondary education; (3) provides an educational program for which an associate degree or any other higher degree is awarded; (4) is a public or other nonprofit institution; and (5) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association, or if not so accredited, is an institution that has been granted pre-accreditation status by such an agency or association that has been recognized by the Secretary of Education for the granting of pre-accreditation status, and the Secretary of Education has determined that there is satisfactory assurance that the institution will meet the accreditation standards of such an agency or association within a reasonable time.

Department means the United States Department of Agriculture.

Eligible institution(s) (see 1994 Institution or 1994 Land-Grant Institution.)

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

Food and agricultural sciences means basic, applied, and developmental research, extension, and teaching activities in the food, agricultural, renewable natural resources, forestry, and physical and social sciences, in the broadest sense of these terms, including but not limited to, activities concerned with the production, processing, marketing, distribution, conservation, utilization, consumption, research, and development of food and agriculturally related products and services, and inclusive of programs in agriculture, natural resources, aquaculture, forestry, veterinary medicine, home economics, rural human ecology, rural economic, community, or business development, and closely allied disciplines.

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 the 1994 Institution 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.

Peer review panel means a group of experts or consultants, qualified by training and experience in particular fields of science, education, or technology to give expert advice on the merit of grant applications in such fields, who evaluate eligible applications submitted to this program in their professional area(s) of expertise.

Prior approval means written approval evidencing prior consent by a ADO as defined in this section.

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

Project Director means the single individual designated by the grantee 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 and modifications thereto, if any, during which Federal sponsorship begins and ends.

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

Tribal College or Tribal University means an educational institution that: (1) satisfies the definition of a *college* or *university* as defined in this section, except that paragraphs (2) and (5) of such definition shall not apply; (2) is formally controlled, or has been formally sanctioned, or chartered, by the governing body of an Indian tribe or tribes, except that no more than one such institution shall be recognized with respect to any such tribe; and (3) is an institution listed in the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994.

Tribally Controlled College or Tribally Controlled University means the same as Tribal College or Tribal University (see above).

Tribe means any of the groups of Native Americans having origins in the original peoples of North America that are recognized by the Federal government.

USDA means the United States Department of Agriculture.

CSREES Strategic Goals and Objectives (FY 2007-2012)

Strategic Goal 1: Enhance International Competitiveness of American Agriculture

Objective 1.1: Provide research, education, and extension to expand and maintain international export opportunities

Objective 1.2: Support international economic development and trade capacity building

Objective 1.3: Provide research, education, and extension to improve sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) to facilitate agricultural trade

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 for 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 5: Improve the Nation's Nutrition and Health

Objective 5.1: Ensure Access to Nutritious Food

Objective 5.2: Promote healthier eating habits and lifestyles

Objective 5.3: Improve nutrition assistance program management and customer service

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