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Federal Demonstration Partnership

September 15, 2013



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NIFA Update

- Office of Grants and Financial Management (OGFM)
- Update on Policy Guidance (Manuals)
- Future Plans for REEport
- New and Upcoming Funding Opportunities



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OGFM Staffing

- Assistant Director, Office of Grants and Financial Management and
- NIFA's FDP Administrative Representative
 - Cynthia Montgomery
- Policy and Oversight Division, Director
 - Position is currently vacant



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Current and Pending Support

- Will now allow “0” to be entered in the column “% of Time Committed”



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What is the NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Statement?

Comprehensive agency guidance

Formula and Competitive grants

Laws, Regulations, OMB Circulars, NIFA Policies

Updates Administrative Manuals



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Supersedes



Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program
Policies (October 1983)



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Purpose

Streamline

Consolidate

Link to OMB Circulars and Code of Federal Regulations

Multi-purpose Source Document



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Status: Final Draft

Update and Streamline

Oct/Nov 2013

NIFA Internal Final Review

Nov/Dec 2013

Stakeholder Review

Dec 2013 – Mar 2014

NIFA Reviews All Comments

Apr 2014

OGC Clearance

May/Jun 2014

Publish

Final Q of FY 2014



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Next Steps



FY 14 (*anticipated*)

NIFA Policy Statement
final + effective



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REReport Update

Katelyn Sellers, REReport Business Manager

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What happened to CRIS?

- REEport Replaces CRIS Web Forms, which was the data collection software run by the University of Vermont.
- The “CRIS Database” and its associated search tool still exist for running data queries and reporting needs.

Upcoming System Releases

- Performance Release – early October
- Data Import Fixes
 - Internal Database > REEport (non-capacity grants entered through grants.gov)
 - Multistate Research Projects from NIMSS
- Functionality Fixes
 - Access to non-capacity grants
 - User Roles

Areas for Improvement

- Capacity/Formula:
 - Project change process is burdensome
 - Cannot back-date the start date
 - Multistate Projects from NIMSS not available
 - Wrong DUNS #
 - Wrong site address
 - No ability to create or define roles

Areas for Improvement

- Non-Capacity/Non-Formula
(Incl. Competitive)
 - “Site” Assignment Process
 - Process to update data imported from grants.gov is laborious.
 - Updated data not transferring correctly
 - Only PD or SA can edit project; AOR has read only rights (role definition problem)
 - No ability to edit prepopulated fields
 - Inability to submit Final Reports for older grants

Internal Staff Education

- Training at NIFA will help educate staff on system functionality
- Will also create awareness about CRIS-REport transition issues that affect data (and project approvals)
- More educated staff means questions will be more easily/quickly answered.

New Modules Not Yet Built

- Program of Research
 - Animal Health, McIntire Stennis – still done through CRIS Web Forms this year.
- Financial Report
 - For FY13 reporting, still done via AD-419 using CRIS Web Forms
- Report Module
 - Ability to create status reports, project lists



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Sign Up for the Listserv

NIFA uses the REEportDeploy listserv to send periodic updates on REEport development, testing and deployment scheduling. The same listserv is used to send out REEport Newsletters and other urgent alerts on system happenings.

To subscribe to the email list, send an email to lyris@lyris.nifa.usda.gov. Skip your subject line and type **subscribe REEportDeploy** in the body of your message. Be sure you receive an email confirming your subscription.



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Visit the REEport Webpage

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/reeport_imp.html

Send questions and technical support
requests to: reeport@nifa.usda.gov



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New & Upcoming Funding Opportunities - September

- Higher Education Challenge
 - all colleges that have food and ag science programs eligible
 - note 25% match required
- Secondary and 2-Year Postsecondary
 - higher education institutions eligible
 - note 25% match

Upcoming Funding Opportunities – Sept (cont)

- NIFA Fellows
 - last year about \$6 million
 - supports pre and post doctoral students
- Specialty Crops Research Initiative
 - funding for this is still unclear pending farm bill

Upcoming Funding Opportunities – October

- Biotechnology Risk Assessment
 - about \$4 million last year
- Agricultural Food & Research Initiative (AFRI) Foundational
 - supports research grants in 6 priority areas to build foundation of knowledge critical for solving current and future societal challenges

Upcoming Funding Opportunities – November

- Joint Plant Feedstock
 - Joint with Department of Energy
 - supports genomics-based research that will lead to improved use of biomass and plant feed stocks for production of fuels such as ethanol or renewable chemical feedstocks
 - Preapplication requested



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Upcoming Funding Opportunities – December

- NEW AFRI Water
- AFRI Food Safety
- AFRI Childhood Obesity



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