NIFA Agency Update

Federal Demonstration Partnership

January 2015

USDA
NIFA

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Agenda

• Melanie Krizmanich, NIFA
  – Implementation of Uniform Guidance
    • Regulatory Changes
    • Award Terms and Conditions
  – Farm Bill Update

• Christopher Coppenbarger, FAS
  – NIFA Fit/Gap Analysis
  – Grantor
USDA Regulatory Changes

• Interim Final Rule - 79 FR 75867; Dec 19, ‘14

• 2 CFR Part 400 series supersedes 7 CFR Part 3000 series
  • 7 CFR Part 3015 (uniform reg) – 2 CFR Part 415
  • 7 CFR Part 3016 (admin req) – 2 CFR Part 416
  • 7 CFR Part 3018 (lobbying) – 2 CFR Part 418
  • 7 CFR Part 3019 (admin req) – 2 CFR Parts 200 & 400
  • 7 CFR Part 3022 (rsch misconduct) – 2 CFR Part 422
  • 7 CFR Part 3052 (audits) – 2 CFR Parts 200 & 400

• NIFA regs to remain in 7 CFR Part 3400 series
USDA Regulatory Changes – new regs

- 2 CFR Part 400 (adopts 2 CFR part 200)
  - Section 1 adopts subparts A through F of part 200
  - Section 2 includes USDA conflict of interest policy in compliance with 2 CFR 200.112

- 2 CFR Part 415 – General Prog Admin Regs
  - To include 7 CFR 3015.158, 7 CFR 3015.200, 7 CFR 3015.300 through 3015.312, and definition of “Audiovisual,” “Production of an Audiovisual,” and “Publication.”
USDA Regulatory Changes—new regs

- 2 CFR Part 416 – State and Local Govts
  - Includes § 60 (b) and (c) of 7 CFR 3016
- 2 CFR Part 418 – Lobbying
  - Includes 7 CFR 3018 in its entirety
- 2 CFR Part 422 – Research Misconduct
  - Includes 7 CFR 3022 in its entirety
Award Terms and Conditions

• Government-wide Overlay Effort

• USDA Department-wide Grant and Cooperative Agreement General Terms and Conditions
  – NIFA-specific award terms
Update – Farm Bill Implementation

• Centers of Excellence (Section 7128)
  – FY15 RFAs will provide priority funding across competitive research and extension programs
  – Outreach webinars will be scheduled in late Jan.

• Commodity Boards for AFRI (Section 7404)
  – Input from stakeholders being synthesized
  – By March 2015, anticipate inviting proposals from commodity boards for FY 2016 AFRI RFA ideas – 100% match required
Update – Farm Bill Implementation

• New Matching Requirement of 100%
  – Guidance published on NIFA’s website describing covered competitive programs, process for requesting a waiver
  – Majority of grantees excepted with no waiver needed
    • Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture can be certified, excepted – public with 4 year food and ag science degrees
Update – Farm Bill Implementation

• Farm Bill Funded RFAs for Release 1/30/15
  – Biomass Research Development Initiative $6m
  – Specialty Crops Research Initiative $51m
  – Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative $18.5m
  – Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program $18.5m
  – Community Food Projects $9m

• Listing of released NIFA RFAs - link on the NIFA home page (www.NIFA.usda.gov)
RFAs to be Released in Near Term

- AFRI
  - Ag & Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability & Change
  - Childhood Obesity
  - Foundational
  - Food Safety
  - Food Security
  - Water

- Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program (BRAG)

- Children, Youth, and Families at Risk Sustainable Community Projects

- Crop Protection and Pest Management

- 1890 Inst Teaching, Rsch and Ext Capacity Building Grants (CBG) Program

- Higher Education Challenge Grants (HEC)

- Methyl Bromide Transitions (MBT)

- Organic Transitions

- Rural Health and Safety Education

- Secondary Ed, Two-Yr Postsecondary Ed, & Ag in the K-12 Classroom (SPECA) Challenge Grants Program
NIFA’s Grant Modernization Effort Update

Initial Goals:

• Provide transparency and simplification of processes for grantees
• Allow for “self-service” capabilities
• Promote a paperless environment
• Modernize systems
• Improve management and reporting of data and results
Background

• RFI and initial systems reviewed
  – CREEMS, SAP Grantor, NSF, EPA, NIH, and others

• NIH Fit-Gap Analysis (September 2013)
  – Professional, collaborative nature, and quality of effort
  – Resulted in documented analysis and enhanced understanding
  – Good fit for self-service, e-jacket and overall grant processing

• USDA SAP Grantor
  – Concurrent, USDA effort to develop and implement enterprise-wide, cradle-to-grave, grant management solution as part of the National Finance Center’s (NFC) Share Financial Service Provider portfolio
USDA/NFC Shared Financial Service Provider and Grantor Offering

1. Business-Led Governance Structure
   - Every customer has a seat on the governance board
   - Collaborative environment (collaborate on similar efforts, know what is coming when)
   - Through scale, drive grants policy leadership in the Federal sector

2. Experienced Team & Inclusive Operations
   - Agency-led Tier 0 to accommodate unique business needs: Ability to incorporate members of your business team to co-staff Tier 0 support
   - Pooled Tier 1-3 support teams to handle access and system issues, using scale to lower costs

3. Proven, Rapid & Flexible On-boarding
   - Assessment approach to define and order the pieces you need based on your business priorities
   - Rapid, agile, and demonstrated implementation & on-boarding approach that tailors Grantor to your organization

4. Hybrid SAP & Pega Platform
   - Pega-powered grantee-portal
   - SAP data warehouse & reporting
   - SAP-powered grants case tool
   - SAP-powered financials
   - Virtualized, scalable environments

5. Broad & Flexible Grants Functionality
   - Broad, full range of functionality across the grants lifecycle
   - More capabilities planned and rolling out every 4 months
NIFA’s Grant System Selection: 

Grantor 

Benefits- 
• Meets 5 initial goals  
• Provides robust integration with agency financial system (a newly added goal)  
• Fills gaps related to financial reporting, capacity grants, and reporting

Next Steps- 
• 3-4 month assessment (capitalize on NIH reports)  
• 2.5 year, full program implementation
Questions