



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# 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.”



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

INVESTING IN SCIENCE | SECURING OUR FUTURE | [WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV](http://WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV)

# 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



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

INVESTING IN SCIENCE | SECURING OUR FUTURE | [WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV](http://WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV)

# 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



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

INVESTING IN SCIENCE | SECURING OUR FUTURE | [WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV](http://WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV)

# 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](http://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



# [GrantsMod]

## 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

# [GrantsMod]

## 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 **[GrantsMod]** 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

# [GrantsMod]

## 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



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

INVESTING IN SCIENCE | SECURING OUR FUTURE | [WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV](http://WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV)

# Questions