

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Cooperative State Research,
Education, and Extension Service****1890 Institution Teaching and
Research Capacity Building Grants
Program for Fiscal Year 1998;
Solicitation of Applications**

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research,
Education, and Extension Service,
USDA.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) is announcing the 1890 Institution Teaching and Research Capacity Building Grants Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 1998. Proposals are hereby requested from eligible institutions as identified herein, for competitive consideration of capacity building awards.

The authority for this program is contained in section 1417(b)(4) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (NARETPA) (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(4)). Under this authority, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the Higher Education Programs (HEP) of CSREES will award competitive grants of eighteen months to three-years duration, subject to the availability of funds. These grants will be made to the historically black 1890 Land-Grant Institutions and Tuskegee University to strengthen their programs in the food and agricultural sciences in the targeted need areas as described herein. The Capacity Building Grants Program is designed specifically to build the institutional capacities of the eligible colleges and universities through cooperative initiatives with Federal and non-Federal entities. This program addresses the need to (1) Attract more minority students into the food and agricultural sciences, (2) expand the linkages among the 1890 Institutions and with other colleges and universities, and (3) strengthen the teaching and research capacity of the 1890 Institutions to more firmly establish them as full partners in the food and agricultural science and education system. In addition, through this program, USDA will strive to increase the overall pool of qualified applicants for the Department to make significant progress toward achievement of the Department's goal of increasing participation of under represented groups in Departmental programs.

DATES: Project grant applications must be received on or before January 26, 1998. Proposals received after January

26, 1998 will not be considered for funding.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard M. Hood, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 2251, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-2251; Telephone: (202) 720-1973; E-mail: rhood@reeusda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This program is subject to the provisions found at 7 CFR part 3406, 62 FR 39330, July 22, 1997. These provisions set forth procedures to be followed when submitting grant proposals, rules governing the evaluation of proposals and the awarding of grants, and regulations relating to the post-award administration of grant projects.

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.216, 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants Program.

Eligibility

Proposals may be submitted by any of the sixteen historically black 1890 Land-Grant Institutions and Tuskegee University. The 1890 Land-Grant Institutions are: Alabama A&M University; University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff; Delaware State University; Florida A&M University; Fort Valley State University; Kentucky State University; Southern University and A&M College; University of Maryland—Eastern Shore; Alcorn State University; Lincoln University (MO); North Carolina A&T State University; Langston University; South Carolina State University; Tennessee State University; Prairie View A&M University; and Virginia State University. An institution eligible to receive an award under this program includes a research foundation maintained by an 1890 land-grant institution or Tuskegee University.

Available Funds

The amount available for this program in FY 1998 is \$9.2 million. After administrative and other deductions of approximately 4 percent (including peer panel and related costs), it is anticipated that \$8.8 million will be available for project grants. Of this amount, approximately \$4.45 million will be used to support teaching projects and \$4.35 million will be used to support research projects. Awards will be based upon peer review panel recommendations; however, up to ten percent of the funds allocated for teaching and up to ten percent of the funds allocated for research may be used to support projects in either area based upon administrative decision by CSREES.

Program Areas

In FY 1998, the Capacity Building Grants Program will support both teaching and research projects.

Targeted Areas

The targeted need areas to be supported by capacity building grants in FY 1998 are:

For teaching project grants—curricula design and materials development, faculty preparation and enhancement for teaching, instruction delivery systems, scientific instrumentation for teaching, student experiential learning, and student recruitment and retention.

For research project grants—studies and experimentation in food and agricultural sciences, centralized research support systems, technology delivery systems, and other creative projects designed to provide needed enhancement of the Nation's food and agricultural research system.

In FY 1998, eligible institutions may propose projects in any discipline(s) of the food and agricultural sciences; there are no limits on the specific subject matter/emphasis areas to be supported.

Degree Levels Supported

In FY 1998, proposals may be directed to the undergraduate or graduate level of study leading to a baccalaureate or higher degree in the food and agricultural sciences.

Proposal Submission Limitations

In FY 1998, there is no limit on the number of proposals an eligible institution may submit. However, there are funding limitations in FY 1998 that will affect the number of awards eligible institutions and individuals may receive. Therefore, institutions are encouraged to establish on-campus quality control panels to ensure that only high quality proposals having the greatest potential for improving academic and research programs are submitted for consideration. Eligible institutions may submit grant applications for either category of grants (teaching or research); however, each application must be limited to either a teaching project grant proposal or a research project grant proposal.

Maximum Grant Size

In FY 1998, the following limitations apply: A teaching proposal may request a grant for up to \$200,000. A research proposal may request a grant for up to \$300,000.

Note: These maximums are for the duration of the project, not per year.

Project Duration

A regular, complementary, or joint project proposal may request funding for a period of eighteen months to three-years duration.

Funding Limitations per Institution

In FY 1998, the following two limitations will apply to the institutional maximum: (1) No institution may receive more than four grants, and (2) no institution may receive more than 10 percent of the total funds available for grant awards (approximately \$880,000).

For a Joint Project Proposal (submitted by an eligible institution and involving two or more other colleges or universities assuming major roles in the conduct of the project), only that portion of the award to be retained by the grantee will be counted against the grantee's institutional maximum. Those funds to be transferred to the other colleges and universities participating in the joint project will not be applied toward the maximum funds allowed the grantee institution. However, if any of the other colleges and universities participating in the joint project are 1890 Institutions or Tuskegee University, the amount transferred from the grantee institution to such institutions will be counted toward their institutional maximums. For Complementary Project Proposals, only those funds to be retained by the grantee institution will be counted against the grantee's institutional maximum.

Funding Limitation per Individual

In FY 1998, the maximum number of new awards that an individual (Project Director or Principal Investigator) may receive is two grants. This restriction does not apply to joint projects.

Funding Limitation per Targeted Need Area

In FY 1998, the maximum number of new awards that an individual may receive in a given fiscal year, in any one targeted need area, that focuses on a single subject matter area or discipline, is one grant. This restriction would not apply to proposals that address multiple targeted need areas and/or multiple subject matter areas.

Matching Funds

The Department strongly encourages non-Federal matching support for the program. For FY 1998, the following incentive is offered to applicants for committing their own institutional resources or securing third-party contributions in support of capacity building projects:

Tie Breaker—The amount of cash and non-cash matching support for each proposal, will be used as the primary criterion to break any ties (cases where proposals are equally rated in merit) resulting from the proposal review process conducted by the peer review panels. A grant awarded on this basis will contain language requiring such matching commitments as a condition of the grant.

Please Note: Proposals *must* include *written verification* from the donor(s) of any actual commitments of matching support (including both cash and non-cash contributions) derived from the university community, business and industry, professional societies, the States, or other non-Federal sources.

The cash contributions towards matching from the institution should be identified in the column "Applicant Contributions to Matching Funds" of the Higher Education Budget, Form CSREES-713. The cash contributions of the institution and third parties as well as non-cash contributions should be identified on Line N., as appropriate, of Form CSREES-713.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria as provided in the Administrative Provisions, 7 CFR part 3406, will be used to evaluate proposals for the FY 1998 competition.

Program Application Materials

An Application Kit containing program application materials will be made available to eligible institutions upon request. These materials include the Administrative Provisions, forms, instructions, and other relevant information needed to prepare and submit grant applications. Copies of the Application Kit may be requested from the Proposal Services Unit; Grants Management Branch; Office of Extramural Programs; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2245; 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.; Washington, D.C. 20250-2245. The telephone number is (202) 401-5048. When contacting the Proposal Services Unit, please indicate that you are requesting forms for the FY 1998 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants Program.

Application materials may also be requested via Internet by sending a message with your name, mailing address (not e-mail) and telephone number to psb@reeusda.gov that states that you wish to receive a copy of the application materials for the FY 1998 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants Program. The materials will then

be mailed to you (not e-mailed) as quickly as possible.

When and Where to Submit Proposals

An original and seven (7) copies of a proposal must be submitted. Each copy of the proposal must be stapled securely in the upper left-hand corner (DO NOT BIND). All copies of the proposal must be submitted in one package. Proposals submitted through the mail must be received on or before January 26, 1998. Proposals submitted through the U.S. mail should be sent to the following address: 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants Program; c/o Proposal Services Unit; Grants Management Branch; Office of Extramural Programs; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2245; 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.; Washington, D.C. 20250-2245. The telephone number is (202) 401-5048. Hand-delivered proposals (brought in person by the applicant or through a courier service) must be received on or before January 26, 1998 at the following address: 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants Program; c/o Proposal Services Unit; Grants Management Branch; Office of Extramural Programs; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Room 303, Aerospace Center; 901 D Street, S.W.; Washington, D.C. 20024. Proposals transmitted via a facsimile (fax) machine will not be accepted.

Note that in FY 1998, Form CSREES-711, "Intent to Submit a Proposal," is not requested nor required for the 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants Program.

Program Contacts

The 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants Program is managed by the CSREES Higher Education Programs. For further information concerning the FY 1998 program, contact Mr. Richard Hood, National Program Leader, Higher Education Programs, CSREES, USDA, at (202) 720-1973; or via the Internet: rhoood@reeusda.gov. Dr. McKinley Mayes, 1890 College Program Coordinator, CSREES, USDA is also available to assist you. He can be reached at (202) 720-3511; or via the Internet: mmayes@reeusda.gov.

Done at Washington, D.C., this 19th day of September 1997.

Colien Hefferan,

Associate Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.
[FR Doc. 97-25408 Filed 9-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P