



FY 2010 National Needs Graduate Fellowship (NNF) Grants Program RFA

National Institute of Food and
Agriculture

March 24, 2010
NNF@nifa.usda.gov



Purpose of NNF Program

- Support competitive grants that:
 - Develop intellectual capital
 - Ensure preeminence of U.S. food and agricultural system
 - Collaboratively with higher education institutions, train students for Master's and/or Doctoral level degrees in the Targeted Expertise Shortage Areas (TESA) identified in the RFA.



Eligible Applicants – Graduate Degree-Granting Institutions

- 1862 Land-Grant Institutions
- 1890 Land-Grant Institutions
- 1994 Land-Grant Institutions
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions
- Private Institutions of Higher Ed
- State Controlled Institutions of Higher Ed
- University of the District of Columbia



Beneficiary Eligibility

- (1) Be citizens or nationals of the United States as defined in this announcement (refer to 7 CFR 3430.202 Definitions);
- (2) Have strong interest, as judged by the institution, in pursuing a degree in a national targeted expertise shortage area and in preparing for a career as a food or agricultural or natural resources scientist or professional; and
- (3) Not have –
 - a. completed two semesters or equivalent hours (one (1) year) of full-time study as defined by the institution, or
 - b. passed candidacy/qualifying examinations, whichever is later; and
 - c. been enrolled previously in the academic program at the same degree level.



Targeted Expertise Shortage Areas

- (1) Animal and Plant Production – specifically Animal Well-Being** (Ethologists; Bioethicists; Turkey Reproductive Physiologists); Integrated fields of quantitative genetics, statistics, computational biology, and breeding for animals and for plants;
- (2) Forest Resources** – particularly in decision sciences; land use and landscape analysis; ecosystem processes and forest health; utilization technology; and communicating forest research results, new technologies, and scientific applications to resource managers;
- (3) Agricultural Educators and Communicators** – specifically related to increasing preparedness of K-12 students entering two- and four-year colleges to pursue degrees that will impact the USDA mission; advance research-based cyberlearning; and develop branding to increase public understanding that food, agricultural and related sciences are vital to U.S. participation in the global science and technology economy;
- (4) Agricultural Management and Economics** – specifically in agricultural trade policy, resource economics, and economics of alternative energy;



Targeted Expertise Shortage Areas

(5) Food Science and Human

Nutrition – specifically in food and nutrition for health, and to reduce obesity;

(6) Sciences for Agricultural

Biosecurity – particularly in animal pathology and food animal diagnostics, invasive species, and other areas impacting the security of the food systems; and

(7) Training in Integrative

Biosciences for Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems (integrative training in food and agricultural, social and economic disciplines) for food, agricultural and environmental systems, particularly in sustainable ecosystems and functional integrative, environmental, and natural resources management.



What Is Supported in NNF Grants?

Stipend: NNF typically awards \$40,000 for each Master's level training [\$18,500 per year for two (2) years as student stipend] and \$78,000 for each doctoral level training [\$24,500 per year for three (3) years as student stipend].

Cost of Education Allowance: For each level of student training, there is a \$1,500 per student per year cost-of-education allowance for the institution.

IRTA: There will be \$8,000 for doctoral level NNF Fellows and \$4,500 for Master's level NNF Fellows.



Typical Funding Level

- Average award size for M.S. Level – \$120,000.00
- Average award size for Ph.D. Level – \$234,000.00
- Average number of slots funded per application:
 - Two Ph.D. level
 - Three (3) M.S. level Fellows
 - Two IRTAs



Stipend Duration

- **Master's Level**: A NNF Fellow at the Master's degree level who maintains satisfactory progress is eligible to receive grant support for a maximum of **twenty-four (24) months, during a thirty-month period.**
- **Doctoral Level**: A NNF Fellow at the doctoral degree level who maintains satisfactory progress is eligible to receive grant support for a maximum of **thirty-six (36) months, within a forty-two-month period.**



Award Duration

- Maximum by law: Five (5) years
 - 18-month recruitment interval
- No Renewals
- Any eligible applicant may apply in each year the program is published.



Funding Limits

- Maximum funding request per NNF application: \$258,000.00
- Maximum NNF award level per institution in FY 2010 grant cycle: \$516,000.00



Applicant Must Know Before Preparing An Application

- No limit to the number of applications any eligible institution may submit;
- There must be ONE TESA per application;
- For a single application, a proposer may request support for any combination of M.S., Ph.D. and/or IRTA;
- Any current NNF Project Director may apply.



Content of Application

- Applicants must follow RFA instructions
- Page Limit is adhered to stringently:
 - Project Narrative: 25 pages
 - Tables & Figures: 5 pages
 - Appendices to Project Narrative: 5 pages
- Letters of Support are included in the 5-page limit
- Applicants may elect to include tables/figures with text to meet the total 30 pages for the Project Narrative.



Research & Related Budget Preparation

- Section D (Travel) is used for IRTA
- Section E (Participant/Trainee Support Costs) is used for
 - # 2. Stipend
 - # 5. Other is used for Cost of Education Allowance
Enter Number of Graduate Students to be supported
- NOTE: NNF does not support salaries nor overhead.



Budget Snap Shot

5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.	Total funds requested for all equipment listed in the attached file	
	Total Equipment	

Additional Equipment

D. Travel

	Funds Requested (\$)
1. Domestic Travel Costs (Incl. Canada, Mexico and U.S. Possessions)	
2. Foreign Travel Costs	
3. Travel Cost	

E. Participant/Trainee Support Costs

	Funds Requested (\$)
1. Tuition/Fees/Health Insurance	
2. Stipends	200,000.00
3. Travel	
4. Subsistence	
5. Other <input type="text" value="Cost of Education Allowance"/>	37,500.00
<input type="text" value="5"/> Number of Participants/Trainees	Total Participant/Trainee Support Costs
	237,500.00

RESEARCH & RELATED Budget (C-E) (Funds Requested)



Resources for Preparation of Application

- **National Needs Graduate Fellowship Grants Program**

<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/nnf/nnf.html>

- **Annual NNF Program Summaries**

http://faeis.ahnrit.vt.edu/serd/serd_grants.shtml

Fellowships/Scholarship Appointment and Exit Forms—NIFA 2010

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/pdfs/natl_needs.pdf



Ready to Apply

- RFA

<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/graduateandpostgraduatefellowshipsserd.cfm>

- Submit Application **only** through www.grants.gov

- **Synopsis**

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=nnVpLq8QY2DytgPJCnKpvWKDTJB3yy9PV9bpprzzVvPsYS61VqQ5!1585175360?oppld=53070&mode=VIEW>

- **Application Instructions and Application Package**

<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/UpdateOffer?id=17414>



Contacts

- 1) Support (**Electronic Application Process** Issues) in Proposal Services Unit - NIFA - 202- 401- 5048 OR electronic@nifa.usda.gov .
- 2) Program Office (**Programmatic Technical** Issues) in National Needs Graduate Fellowship Grants Program -NIFA- 202-720-1973 OR NNF@nifa.usda.gov. (The e-Mail option will be managed by several program personnel and is assured of a rapid response.)
- 3) **Application Submission** Issues in www.grants.gov seek assistance by e-mail: support@grants.gov or phone: 1-800-518-4726. Hours of Operation: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Want To Be a Peer Reviewer?

Soliciting interest from faculty and other professionals to serve as peer reviewers.

Send e-mail with request for consideration and a full **curriculum vita** to: NNF@nifa.usda.gov.

The FY 2010 NNF peer panel meeting is July 7 – 9 in Washington, DC.



Other NIFA Support in USDA Mission Areas

- Are you a pre-doctoral student who has been admitted to candidacy and seeking a fellowship?
- Are you interested in postdoctoral training and received your doctoral degree after January 1, 2007?
- Eligible students will be able to apply for Pre-doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships supported in the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). See, <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri.html>.

Contact: AFRI@nifa.usda.gov