



1890 CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

GLOBAL FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY INITIATIVE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

MAY 27, 2020

Fostering and Strengthening Collaborative, Integrative, Multidisciplinary, and Multi-Institutional Research and Extension Initiatives

Submission Deadline: June 30, 2020, 5:00 pm EST

1. Background

On behalf of the nineteen 1890 universities, the Center of Excellence for International Engagement and Development (CEIED) has received funds from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to support teaching, research, extension, and integrated projects designed to increase the country's supply of a globally educated workforce and support critical global development needs. CEIED's funded projects will include experiential learning, study abroad, and leadership skills development opportunities for students; and collaborative research and extension to address trans-boundary challenges affecting food and nutritional security that have mutual benefits domestically and abroad.

This initiative is one of the outcomes from the cooperative partnership between USDA and 1890 universities under the auspices of the USDA 1890 Taskforce. The USDA 1890 Taskforce approved the establishment of these 'Anniversary Centers' to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the signing of the Second Morrill Act of 1890.

2. Available Funding

The goal of the 1890 CEIED is to engender a dynamic, collaborative partnership of the 1890 institutions and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The partnership will leverage the collective capacity of the partner institutions and their domestic and international partners to develop and deliver interdisciplinary, multistate, and integrated research, education, and engagement initiatives to help address critical challenges in various areas of the Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences (FANRHS). This will include supplying the country with a globally smart and diverse workforce, and supporting critical global development needs through research and extension.

NIFA grant to CEIED was awarded on May 19, 2020 for a total federal contribution of \$1.6M. Specifically, these funds will support the implementation of innovative, collaborative initiatives and projects that will:

- (1) Increase the supply of globally trained degree recipients in the FANRHS disciplines by innovatively integrating a study abroad/study at home learning, discovery, and engagement curriculum into the 1890 undergraduate and graduate educational experience;
- (2) Foster and strengthen collaborative and integrative multidisciplinary, multi-institutional, research and extension activities involving 1890 Institutions and international partners that address trans-boundary challenges in the areas of global food and nutritional security; and
- (3) Develop a robust infrastructure that will leverage the collective 1890 human and cyber capital and partnerships to support the growth and delivery of the Center's international programming.

3. Funding and Award Restrictions

- a) This RFA is only open to 1890 institutions.
- b) Only one proposal should be submitted per institution, but institutions can participate in multiple submissions.
- c) Project performance period **may not exceed June 30, 2022.**
- d) Projects must demonstrate multidisciplinary and multi-institutional collaboration.
- e) A statement of: 1) how the collaboration addresses common needs or opportunities; 2) how the collaboration might be sustained past the term of the proposal, and 3) how the resources available at cooperating institutions will be leveraged.
- f) Proposals must demonstrate how the grant will add value to current or future **collaborative, integrative, multidisciplinary, and multi-institutional research and extension** initiatives.

g)
Applications submitted under this program must adhere to all USDA NIFA guidelines as pertains to grants under the COE program. See original RFA for COEs (pg. 5) on priorities and purpose and page 6 global engagements provisions and other award administration provisions (pg. 19-21). (<https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/rfa/fy-2020-centers-of-excellence-1890-institutions-rfa-20191106.pdf>)

4. Project Type

Applicants may submit applications for projects addressing the **research and extension activities involving 1890 Institutions and international partners that undertake transboundary challenges in the areas of global food and nutritional security.**

a. Priorities and Deliverables

i. *Priorities*

Foster and strengthen collaborative, integrative, multidisciplinary, and multi-institutional

research and extension activities involving 1890 Institutions and international partners that address trans-boundary challenges in the areas of global food and nutritional security.

ii. Deliverables

- Increase thematic expertise across 1890 Universities in specialized research related to global food and nutritional security (i.e., livestock production, plant management systems, agroforestry, renewable bioenergy, food safety, phytosanitary, nutrition, soil and water quality, plant breeding, climate change, watershed modeling, global food security and defense, entomology and acarology, development economics, marketing systems and sectors thereof, international trade and policy analysis).
- Increase the number of new projects on global food and nutritional security implemented at respective 1890 institutions.
- Enhance on-going research and extension programs in selected target regions of sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.
- Enable the exchange of technology and discoveries across targeted regions.

b. Funding Levels

To be considered, applications must address transboundary challenges in the field of global food and nutritional security. Taking into consideration the deliverables under these priorities, projects must demonstrate the evidence of collaborative, multidisciplinary, and multi-institutional efforts. There will be six awards under this “**Global Food and Nutritional Security Initiative**” RFA. The maximum allowable funding for each project will not exceed \$96,000. Indirect Costs are allowed at a rate of no more than 30% of TTFA.

5. Proposal Structure

a. Format and Length

- a) Proposal narratives should use *1.5 spaced* pages of written text (no smaller than 11 points, Times New Roman) with 1” margins.
- b) Cover sheet (1 page, format provided—see **Appendix A**).
- c) Summary (1 page).
- d) Narrative (No more than 6 pages, to include project rationale, innovation, objectives, methods, anticipated results and outcomes, evaluation plans, statement of collaboration, institutional capability, continuation plans, and key personnel role and qualification).
- e) Budget (format provided—see **Appendix B**).
- f) Budget justification (1 page max).
- g) CVs of investigators (two pages limit).
- h) Letters of commitment from collaborating partners
- i)

b. Review/Evaluation Guidelines

Proposals will be evaluated by the Ad Hoc Panel based on the rubric described in **Appendix C**.

c. Timeline

- RFP released – May 27, 2020
- Proposals due – June 30, 2020 (5:00pm EST)
- Proposals reviewed – July 20, 2020
- Start and end dates: August 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022

d. Submission

Proposals should be submitted as an e-mail attachment (pdf) no later than June 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM EST to 1890 Universities Foundation: kj62654@gmail.com

Appendix A. Project Cover Sheet.

COVER SHEET

Project Title:

Proposed Start Date:

Principal Investigator(s):

Name	Institution	Role in Project

Project Contact (list one person to act as the primary contact):

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
E-mail:	

Type of Project: Global Food and Nutritional Security Grant

Total Amount Requested: \$96,000 (Maximum)

Appendix B. Budget

BUDGET

Items	Amounts
Personnel Stipends	
Sub-Total	
Travel (Airfares etc.)	
Other travel costs	
Sub-Total	
Other Direct Costs	
Sub-Total	
Indirect Costs	
Grant Total	

Detailed Budget Justification

Please provide a detailed budget justification (**1 page max**).

Appendix C. Proposal Evaluation Rubric

Evaluation Rubric		Score
Potential for advancing the quality of research and extension programs both domestically and abroad (45 points)	Impact on addressing transboundary challenges in the areas of global food and nutritional security (Integrating research and extension; and multidisciplinary in nature)	20
	Sound continuation plans	5
	Innovation	10
	Products and results	5
	Institutional commitment	5
Overall methodology and quality of the proposal (35 points)	Proposed methods	10
	Project evaluation	5
	Results dissemination	5
	Global partnerships and collaborative efforts across the 1890 system	15
Project personnel and qualification (10 points)	Qualification of key personnel (4 points)	4
	Role and responsibilities of key personnel	3
	Management plan	3
Project budget allocation and effectiveness (10 points)	Budget allocation and justification	5
	Cost effectiveness of the budget	5
TOTAL		100