A Year of Transformation

October 9, 2020

Association of Nutrition Departments and Programs

USDA NIFA

United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
www.nifa.usda.gov
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INVESTING IN SCIENCE | SECURING OUR FUTURE | WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV
Lisa Jahns, PhD, RDN  
National Program Leader  
Lisa.Jahns@USDA.GOV

Mallory Koenings, PhD, RDN  
National Program Leader  
Mallory.Koenings@USDA.GOV

Institute for Food Safety and Nutrition, Division of Nutrition

USDA NIFA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
The NPL’s Role

To Provide Excellent Customer Service

• Pre-proposal communications
  – Questions about applications

• Recommend proposals for award
  – Assist with peer-review panel development
  – Manage panel process
  – Make funding recommendations based upon panel decisions

• Post-award management
New NIFA - Places

1 Mile from 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, DC

- Small DC staff (~20) located at the USDA Headquarters (Whitten Building)
- National Science Liaisons will host visitors and meet with DC-based organizations
New NIFA - Places

- 805 Pennsylvania Avenue, Kansas City
- ~300 positions in KC
- NIFA panels, Project Director meetings, and other events will be hosted in KC

1,059 Miles from 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, DC
New NIFA Focused on Stakeholders

NIFA invests in research, education, and extension with integrity, efficiency, and respect for all.

We value:

• creative, diverse, and innovative thinking
• a teamwork environment rooted in trust, commitment to public service, and employee empowerment
• an inclusive approach to collaboration and clear, consistent, and transparent communication, both within our teams and with our stakeholders and customers.
Key Drivers for NIFA’s Science

NIFA’s Science Priorities

Administration

Congress

Stakeholders
USDA Strategic Goals

Goal 2: Maximize the ability of American agricultural producers to prosper by feeding and clothing the world;
Goal 3: Promote American agricultural products and exports;
Goal 4: Facilitate rural prosperity and economic development;
Goal 5: Strengthen the stewardship of private lands through technology and research;
Goal 6: Ensure productive and sustainable use of our national forest system lands; and
Goal 7: Provide all Americans access to a safe, nutritious, and secure food supply.
USDA Science Blueprint

Theme 1 - Sustainable Ag Intensification
Theme 2 - Ag Climate Adaptation
Theme 3 - Food and Nutrition Translation
Theme 4 - Value Added Innovations
Theme 5 - Ag Science Policy Leadership

Food Safety and Health

Nutrition and Health Promotion
FY2021: House Action Highlights

• NIFA Budget $1.8 B
  – Appropriations and mandatory
• >65 programs (budget lines)
• ~2,100 awards expected
• Notable new programs
  – Research Equipment Grants ($5M)
  – 1890 CoE program ($14M)
  – 1890 Scholarships ($10M)
  – Ag Genome ($1M)
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

• America’s flagship competitive grants program that provides funding for fundamental and applied research, education, and extension projects in the food and agricultural sciences

• Now 2-year RFA to facilitate stakeholder planning (2021-2022)

• Anticipated amount per year - $290M
AFRI 2021: Opportunities in Foundational and Applied Science

Increased budget size: $650K minimum for regular grants

Partnership Opportunities: (additional $150K in budget)
- MSIs, small institutions
- International

New Investigator seed grants ($300K for two years)
- All AFRI program areas
- Expected to attain >30% funding rate
- Reviewed in the same panel but ranked separately
AFRI Priority Areas 2021-2022

1. Plant Health and Production and Plant Products
3. Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health
4. Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment
5. Agriculture Systems and Technology
6. Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities
Food Safety, Nutrition and Health

- Food Safety and Defense
  - May 27, 2021 August 25, 2022
- Novel Foods and Innovative Manufacturing Technologies
  - June 10, 2021 September 1, 2022

- Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases
  - May 27, 2021; August 25, 2022

- Food and Human Health
  - June 10, 2021; September 1, 2022
- Mitigating Antimicrobial Resistance Across the Food Chain
  - June 10, 2021 September 1, 2022
Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases

• Project Types
  – Integrated projects ONLY
  – Research, education, and extension

• Grant Types
  – Standard
  – Conference
  – FASE (Strengthening Standard, New Investigator, Strengthening Conference, Seed, Equipment, and Sabbatical) Grants only
Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases

- Grants must not exceed $1M total per project (including indirect costs) for project periods of three to five years
- Applicants must address at least one of the following:
  - Develop, implement, and evaluate innovative research, educational, and outreach strategies to improve eating patterns that support the prevention of chronic disease;
  - Investigate, assess, and recommend food and nutrition research and program interventions with the goal to improve and sustain health; or
  - Improve food security and nutritional health outcomes for low-income people through an evidence-based approach to healthy eating and active living lifestyle programs, thereby supporting a pathway to self-sufficiency
Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases

• Projects must reflect understanding of the multifaceted and interactive nature of research, education, and extension-outreach

• Projects must also reflect knowledge of food availability and access, healthy lifestyles, and better food and nutrition choices
Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases

Mallory Koenings
(202) 604-1985
Mallory.Koenings@usda.gov
Food and Human Health

- Project Types
  - Research ONLY

- Grant Types
  - Standard
  - Conference
  - FASE (Strengthening Standard, New Investigator, Strengthening Conference, Seed, Equipment, and Sabbatical) Grants only
Food and Human Health

• Grants must not exceed $650,000 total per project (including indirect costs) for project periods of three to five years. $800,000 may be requested with appropriate collaborations.

• Applicants must address at least one of the following:
  – Enhance the nutritional value of foods through improved bioavailability of vitamins, minerals, and bioactive components and improved absorption of vitamins, minerals, and bioactive components including nanoscale delivery;
  – Investigate the multi-directional impact of food composition and structure (including micro- and nano-structures) on human gut health (i.e., nutrient absorption rates, secondary metabolites, pathogen interaction, physiological indications, sensory signaling, etc.) to assess the safety, quality, and nutritional value of foods; and/or
  – Investigate the role of the food components or contaminants on the human gut microbiome and its metabolites, and the subsequent impact on human health.
Food and Human Health

• Justification must be provided for the relationship of the bioactive component(s) being studied to human health outcomes and/or the health of the human gut microbiome.

• Priority will be given to applications that use a whole food approach or that address health effects of a combination of two or more bioactive components found in food. The whole food approach may also be one that adds enrichment, fortification or micro- and nano-encapsulation to enhance bioavailability of bioactive components in food.

• This program area priority does not support research on the development of dietary supplements, research on dietary therapies for existing disease, or for the establishment, expansion, or maintenance of dietary databases.
Food and Human Health

Lisa Jahns
(816) 820-9584
Lisa.Jahns@usda.gov
Other Opportunities

• AFRI’s Education and Workforce Development (EWD) Program
  – professional development opportunities for K-14 educational professionals
  – workforce training at community, junior, and technical colleges
  – training of undergraduate students in research and extension
  – fellowships for predoctoral candidates and postdoctoral scholars

Other Opportunities

• Equipment Grant Program

  - Emphasizes shared-use instrumentation that will enhance the capabilities of researchers and extension agents both within and outside the proposing organization

Other Opportunities

The list is (almost) endless
Check back often!

https://nifa.usda.gov/rfa-list
Thank you!