

# Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

#### Native American Outreach Program: Request for Applications and Request for Input

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

**ACTION:** Notice of request for applications and request for input.

**SUMMARY:** The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) requests applications for the Native American Outreach Program for fiscal year (FY) 2003 to develop and deliver outreach activities that will inform Native American farmers and ranchers, tribal governments, tribal communities, and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) about the availability of, and encourage their participation in, USDA programs.

**DATES:** Applications must be received by close of business (COB) on August 18, 2003 (5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time). Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for funding. Comments regarding this RFA are requested within three months from the issuance of this notice. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** The address for hand-delivered applications or applications submitted using an express mail or overnight courier service is: Native American Outreach Program; c/o Proposal Services Unit; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Room 1420, Waterfront Centre; 800 9th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024; Telephone: (202) 401-5048.

Applications sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be sent to the following address: Native American Outreach

Program; c/o Proposal Services Unit; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2245; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2245.

Written stakeholder comments should be submitted by mail to: Policy and Program Liaison Staff; Office of Extramural Programs; USDA-CSREES; STOP 2299; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2299; or via e-mail to: *Rfp-Oep@csrees.usda.gov*. (This e-mail address is intended only for receiving comments regarding this RFA and not requesting information or forms.) In your comments, please state that you are responding to the Native American Outreach Program RFA.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Diana Jerkins; Program Director; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2243; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2243; Telephone: (202) 401-6996; Fax: (202) 401-6488; e-mail: *djerkins@csrees.usda.gov*.

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#### Stakeholder Input

CSREES is requesting comments regarding this RFA from any interested party. These comments will be considered in the development of any subsequent RFA for the program. Such comments will be used to meet the requirements of section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)(2)). This section requires the Secretary to solicit and consider input on a current RFA from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, extension and education for use in formulating future RFAs for competitive programs. Comments should be submitted as provided in the **ADDRESSES** and **DATES** portions of this announcement.

#### Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

This is a new program listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance that is authorized under the same legislation as 10.443, Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers.

##### Part I. General

##### A. Legislative Authority and Background

Section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)) authorizes the Secretary to make grants to eligible institutions and organizations so that they may provide outreach and technical assistance to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to own and operate farms and ranches and to participate equitably in the full range of agricultural programs offered by the Department. This assistance shall enhance coordination of the outreach, technical assistance, and education efforts authorized under various agriculture programs and include information on and assistance with commodity, conservation, credit, rural, and business development programs, application and bidding procedures, farm and risk management, marketing