

and other activities essential to participation in agricultural and other programs of the Department.

Paragraph (3)(A) of section 2501(a) authorizes the Secretary to make grants to, and enter into contracts and other agreements with, an eligible entity to provide information and technical assistance under this subsection. In addition, paragraph (4)(B) of section 2501(a) authorizes any agency of the Department to participate in any grant, contract, or agreement entered into under this subsection by contributing funds, if the agency determines that the objectives of the grant will further the authorized programs of the contributing agency.

#### B. Purpose, Priorities and Fund Availability

The purpose of the Native American Outreach Program conducted under section 2501(a) is 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 participation in, USDA programs. Proposals must target outreach and technical assistance efforts to Native American communities. Native American refers to a member of a federally recognized American Indian tribe, band, group, or Nation, including Alaska Indians, Aleuts, Eskimos and Alaska native villages of the United States.

Proposed projects may address one, some, or all four (4) of the objectives described below; however, priority will be given to proposals that address more than one of the objectives and/or serve to cover the broadest geographic representation for Native American communities:

1. Enhance education campaigns directed to Native American producers, tribal governments, tribal communities, and TCU for program delivery opportunities available through USDA agencies;

2. Provide additional education and knowledge about USDA supported programs and opportunities to potential participants in Native American communities;

3. Work with educational organizations to enhance capacity development in the food and agricultural sciences in order to provide Native Americans additional information regarding program delivery and career opportunities;

4. Provide tribal governments information about USDA programs for plant and animal safeguards internally

and on border lands in support of homeland security.

Funded projects need not be national in scope; however, grantees will be expected to coordinate their efforts and establish appropriate linkages with other grantees, where feasible, to advance progress in accomplishing all four (4) objectives. There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards. In FY 2003, USDA anticipates that approximately \$600,000 will be available to fund applications submitted in response to this RFA. Funds for this activity have been provided by six mission areas of USDA: Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP); Research, Education and Economics (REE); Rural Development (RD); Food Safety (FS); Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services (FFAS); and Natural Resources and Environment (NRE).

#### C. Eligibility

Applications may be submitted by:

1. An Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)) or a national tribal organization that has demonstrated experience in providing agriculture education or other agriculturally related services to Native American farmers and ranchers in a region.

2. Any community-based organization, network, or coalition of community-based organizations that:

- (a) Has demonstrated experience in providing agricultural education or other agriculturally related services to Native American farmers and ranchers;

- (b) Has provided to the Secretary documentary evidence of work with Native American farmers and ranchers during the two-year period preceding the submission of an application for assistance under this program (documentary evidence shall include a narrative providing specific information regarding: the scope of past projects, including the number of Native American farmers and ranchers served or in the area served by the organization; activities conducted; community involvement; and copies of prior agreements, press releases, news articles, and other contemporaneous documents supporting the narrative); and

- (c) does not engage in activities prohibited under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (see part III, B., 17. for certification requirement).

3. An 1890 institution or 1994 institution (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and

Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)), including West Virginia State College.

4. An Indian Tribal Community College or an Alaska Native Cooperative College.

5. An Hispanic-serving institution (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)).

6. Any other institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that has demonstrated experience in providing agriculture education or other agriculturally related services to Native American farmers and ranchers in a region.

7. An organization or institution that received funding under the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Competitive Grants Program (OASDFR) before January 1, 1996, but only with respect to projects that the Secretary considers are similar to projects previously carried out by the organization or institution under the OASDFR.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project; however, applications will be evaluated based on the qualifications of key project personnel so these participants' roles and responsibilities must be detailed.

#### D. Indirect Costs

Pursuant to section 1462 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3310), indirect costs for this program are limited to 19 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, the recovery of indirect costs under this program may not exceed the lesser of the institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 19 percent of total Federal funds awarded. Another method of calculating the maximum allowable is 23.456 percent of the total direct costs. (This limitation also applies to the recovery of indirect costs by any subawardee or subcontractor, and should be reflected in the subrecipient budget.) If no rate has been negotiated, a reasonable dollar amount (equivalent to or less than 19 percent of total Federal funds requested) in lieu of indirect costs may be requested, subject to approval by USDA. This same indirect cost limitation applies to subcontracts.