

E. Matching Requirements

There is no requirement for award recipients to provide matching funds under this program.

F. Funding Restrictions

Program funds may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

G. Types of Applications

All applications submitted in response to this RFA will be new applications. All applications will be reviewed competitively using the selection process and evaluation criteria described in part IV, Review Process.

Part II. Program Description

A. Project Types

In FY 2003, CSREES anticipates making one to three grants. Applicants may propose project budgets of up to \$600,000. However, applicants should factor into their request the number of objectives they propose to address, recognizing that USDA will endeavor to make progress toward accomplishing all four (4) objectives (described in part I, B.) and achieving national representation with these funds. Project periods may not exceed eighteen (18) months.

B. Program Description

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

The purpose of the Native American Outreach Program is to develop and deliver outreach activities that will inform Native American farmers and ranchers, tribal governments, tribal communities, and TCU about the availability of, and encourage their participation in, USDA programs. 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.

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. Applicants must describe their plans to involve stakeholders in identifying needs and evaluating the success of the project in meeting those needs. Applicants also must submit management plans that explain how the project will be managed to ensure efficient administration of the grant.

Applications must incorporate a project evaluation component that will permit a qualitative and quantitative assessment of expected project impacts (see part III, B., 5.). Depending on project objectives, the following performance indicators could be utilized:

1. Increased number of workshops and/or training opportunities directed to increase collaboration between USDA agencies and Native Americans;

2. Increased participation among Native American people in farm, risk management and conservation programs offered by the USDA;

3. Increased number of education/outreach demonstration projects and/or an increase in the number of exchange programs between Native American educational organizations and USDA; and

4. Increased contact with Native Americans regarding emergency planning for preparedness and security for a safe food supply.

Applicants addressing project objectives 1 and/or 2 (as described in part I, B.) should provide a brief synopsis of the program(s) they are incorporating in their proposed projects. These can include, but are not limited to: The various farm and risk management programs that encourage producers with both cropping and livestock operations to adopt agriculture practices that can increase profitability; the various conservation programs and technical assistance provided by local Natural Resources Conservation Service offices that can help Native American producers better manage their natural resources through voluntary incentive-based approaches; USDA services and technical expertise designed to help producers gain an understanding of economically injurious plant and animal diseases; programs to identify and solve farm, home, and community problems through education and technical assistance; services designed to increase understanding of the role and opportunities for forest dependent rural communities; programs to improve market access opportunities for agricultural products in emerging markets; programs that aid in the development of infrastructure needs for

rural communities; and the facilitation of participation in the national Agricultural Census.

Applicants addressing project objective 3 (as described in part I, B.) should provide a brief synopsis of the program(s) they are incorporating into their proposed projects. Funded activities could include, but are not limited to: Using food and agricultural sciences programs available at educational institutions to help deliver enhanced USDA program information; creating exchange programs between institutions and USDA staff to enhance capacity of education programs in the food and agricultural sciences; and providing information on career opportunities within USDA or other state, Federal, or tribal governments to graduates of such accredited programs.

Examples of outreach activities that could be funded as part of project objective 4 (as described in part I, B.) include, but are not limited to: Distributing to Native American farmers and ranchers documents that remind them of the steps they can take to secure their operations, and discussing these documents with them; updating Native American farmers and ranchers about security efforts for disaster reporting; and providing Native American farmers and ranchers with Foreign Animal Disease Awareness Training seminars.

Pertinent USDA agricultural programs include but are not limited to the following, identified by their Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance title and number: Plant and Animal Care (10.025); Emergency Conservation Program (10.054); Production and Flexibility Payments for Contract Commodities (10.055); Forestry Incentives Program (10.064); Conservation Reserve Program (10.069); Wetlands Reserve Program (10.072); Tribal College Equity, Endowment and Research (10.221, 10.222, and 10.227); Homeland Security—Agriculture (10.304); Noninsured Assistance (10.451); Cooperative Extension Service (10.500); Emerging Markets Program (10.603); Rural Business Enterprise Grants (10.769); Soil Survey (10.903); Environmental Quality Incentives Program (10.912); Farmland Protection Program (10.913); Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (10.914); Agricultural Statistics Reports (10.950); and Grasslands Reserve Program.

On a semi-annual basis, grantees must submit progress reports to CSREES. In addition, grantees must participate in at least two national meetings of Native Americans, to be agreed upon in consultation with CSREES, which will serve to highlight their active participation in outreach and