

AFRI PROJECT AND GRANT TYPES | FAQ

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WORKSHOP GRANTS

What is the process for applying for workshop grants?

Not all program area priorities allow workshop grant applications, please consult Part I, C of the RFA to determine if a particular program allows them. Letters of Intent are required for all workshop grants prior to submission of applications. The workshop grant LOI must be submitted to the program area priority contact(s) a minimum of 195 days before the workshop begins for Foundational and Applied Science Program Workshop Grants and a minimum of 255 days before the workshop begins for Education and Workforce Development Workshop Grants. Applications should be submitted after receiving an LOI decision response and must be submitted a minimum of 150 days before the workshop begins for Foundational and Applied Science Program Workshop Grants and a minimum of 210 days before the workshop begins for Education and Workforce Development Workshop Grants. Please see [AFRI Notice of Funding Opportunities](#) and [AFRI NOFO Resources](#) (“AFRI Grant Types” and “AFRI Letter of Intent Instructions in the Attachment list) for more information. Additionally, there may be instructions for workshop grants included in the grant application instructions and workshop grant evaluation criteria listed in the AFRI Review Criteria (found in the Attachment list on [AFRI NOFO Resources](#)).

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

What is the purpose of AFRI Food and Agriculture Science Enhancement (FASE) grants?

The purpose of AFRI Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) grants is to strengthen

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science capabilities in research, education, and/or Extension and outreach programs. FASE grants are designed to help institutions or States that have been less successful receiving AFRI grants, and to attract new scientists, pre- and post-doctoral fellows, and educators into careers in high-priority areas of national need in agriculture, food, and environmental sciences.

What are the FASE Grant types?

The FASE grant types are:

- Fellowship grants:
 - Pre-doctoral Fellowship grants
 - Post-doctoral Fellowship grants
- New Investigator grants:
 - New Investigator Standard Grants
 - New Investigator Seed grants
- Strengthening Grants:
 - Strengthening Seed grants,
 - Sabbatical grants,
 - Equipment grants,
 - Strengthening standard grants,
 - Strengthening Coordinated Agricultural Project grants, and
 - Strengthening Workshop grants.
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What is the eligibility for pre-doctoral fellowships grants?

The applicant must have advanced to candidacy, (as determined by the applicant's institutional requirements) by the application deadline. Applicants are expected to provide documentation from his or her institution (usually the applicant's advisor, department, or the institution's graduate programs office) by the application deadline. Check the [Agriculture and Food Research Initiative – Education and Workforce Development NOFO](#) for more information.

What is the eligibility for post-doctoral fellowships grants?

The applicant's doctoral degree must have been conferred no earlier than the date specified in the NOFO (based upon the application deadline), and no later than the date specified in the Postdoctoral Fellowships Program in the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative –Education and Workforce Development (AFRI-EWD) NOFO. Please visit the [AFRI-EWD Program](#) for additional information.

How do you apply for a FASE grant?

FASE grant applications are solicited under the program area priorities of each AFRI Notices of

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Funding Opportunities (NOFO). It is important to read each AFRI NOFO to identify the appropriate program area priority description that is relevant to the focus of your application. Each NOFO includes information on the types of FASE grants that are being solicited, the eligibility requirements, and instructions for the preparation and submission of a FASE application.

Is there any dedicated funding for FASE grants?

Yes, there are dedicated funds (FASE set-aside) for all the FASE grant types except the New Investigator grant types:

- 3.75% of the AFRI funds available for grants each year is allocated to Pre-and Post –doctoral fellowship grants.
- 11.25% of the AFRI funds available for grants each year is allocated to strengthening grants.

STRENGTHENING GRANTS

What is the eligibility for strengthening grants (Seed grants, Sabbatical grants, Equipment grants, Strengthening Standard grants, Strengthening Coordinated Agricultural Project grants and Strengthening Workshop grants)?

Strengthening grants are limited to institutions that qualify as a 1) small and mid-sized or minority-serving institution that has had limited institutional success for receiving Federal funds or (2) State Agricultural Experiment Stations or degree-granting institutions eligible for USDA Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) funding. Please see the FAQs below for explanations of small and mid-sized institution, minority-serving institution, limited institutional success, and EPSCoR.

A New Investigator from one of these strengthening-eligible types of institutions can have their application considered as both a New Investigator application and a Strengthening application.

A [Decision Tree](#) is available to help determine eligibility for a FASE Strengthening grant

The eligibility requirements for FASE grants are complex. Is there an easy way for me to determine eligibility?

Yes, a [Decision Tree](#) is available to help determine eligibility for a FASE Strengthening grant.

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What is a small and mid-sized institution?

A small and mid-sized institution is an academic institution with a current total enrollment of 17,500 or less including graduate and undergraduate and full- and part-time students. The institution must possess a significant degree of autonomy. Significant degree of autonomy is defined by being independently accredited as determined by reference to the current version of the *Higher Education Directory*, published by Higher Education Publications, Inc., 6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 648, Falls Church, Virginia 22042. Eligible small or mid-sized institutions must also have limited institutional success.

What is a minority-serving institution?

For the AFRI program, minority-serving institution is defined by enrollment of minority group or combination of minority groups exceeds 50%, including graduate and undergraduate and full and part-time students. An institution in this instance is an organization that is independently accredited as determined by reference to the current version of the Higher Education Directory, published by Higher Education Publications, Inc., 6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 648, Falls Church, Virginia 22042 (703-532-2300) of total enrollment. Eligible minority-serving institutions must also have limited institutional success.

What is limited institutional success?

Limited institutional success means institutions that are not among the 100 most successful universities and colleges for receiving Federal funds for science and engineering research. A list of the top 100 most successful institutions is provided in Table 1 in each AFRI NOFO.

I am a lead Project Director (PD) and my institution is eligible for Strengthening funding, but my Co-Project Directors' (Co-PDs) institutions are not. Can my proposal still be considered for Strengthening funding?

Yes, only the lead PD's institution must meet the eligibility criteria for Strengthening grants.

EPSCOR

How does the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) relate to the FASE program?

The FASE program is considered an "EPSCoR-like program" because it aims to improve the research infrastructure and competitiveness of universities and colleges or State Agricultural Experiment Stations in States that have historically received less AFRI research funding in order to spread the

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agricultural sciences and engineering efforts geographically. However, State Agricultural Experiment Stations or degree-granting institutions in an EPSCoR State are only one of the eligibility categories for FASE program.

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