

Limited Submissions Announcement

A limited submission opportunity is available from the United States Department of Agriculture and has been posted to the [UTSA Limited Submission Opportunities webpage](#).

[USDA Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields Program \(WAMS\) Overview:](#)

For the FY 2018 award cycle, NIFA intends to support projects with a target audience of K-14 students (kindergarten through twelfth grade plus two years of post-secondary schooling (e.g., vocational technical institutions or community or junior colleges). **4 year undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral focused projects will not be awarded** under this grant announcement. Projects with a primary target of 4-year undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral studies should consider NIFA's workforce and development focused programs. More information is available here: <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/nifa-reinforces-agricultural-education-pipeline>

The WAMS grants program directly aligns with:

- [2014-2018 USDA Strategic Plan](#), specifically Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4;
- [USDA Research, Economics and Education Action Plan](#), specifically Goal 6;
- [2014-2018 NIFA Strategic Plan](#), specifically Strategic Goal 1 Sub-goal 1.7

WAMS-funded project activities must support the creation, adaptation, and adoption of learning materials and teaching strategies to operationalize what we know about how students learn. Many of these concepts are identified in the National Research Council's publication: How People Learn. WAMS-funded projects shall also focus on imparting both technical knowledge as well as 'soft' skills such as communication, team work, and problem solving, as these are abilities expected by employers. These concepts may be found in the publication: Comparative Analysis of Soft Skills: What is Important for New Graduates?

The purpose of this program is to support research, education/teaching, and extension projects that increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in STEM. NIFA intends this program to address educational needs, as determined by each institution, within broadly defined areas of food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences.

Applications recommended for funding must highlight and emphasize the development of a competent and qualified workforce in the food, agricultural, natural resources and human sciences (FAHN sciences). WAMS-funded projects should improve the economic health and viability of rural communities by developing research and extension initiatives that focus on new and emerging employment opportunities in STEM occupations. Projects that contribute to the economic viability of rural communities are also encouraged.

Eligibility:

Applications may only be submitted by the following eligible applicants: (a) State agricultural experiment stations; (b) **colleges and universities**; (c) university research foundations; (d) other research institutions and organizations; (e) Federal agencies; (f) national laboratories; (g) private organizations or corporations; and, (h) individuals.

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Application Limit:

Each eligible, individual institution, independent branch campus, and branch institution of a State system may submit one application as an individual institution (see Part II, C.1., Regular Grant). Institutions that received a grant under this program in a prior year are still eligible to submit and receive a grant this year.

Award Amount:

For FY 2018, NIFA will make only one award per eligible institution for a maximum of \$100,000. The project period may range from 24 to 36 months (two to three years).

***Cost Share Requirement:**

The recipient of an award from the WAMS program must provide funds, in-kind contributions, or a combination of both, from sources other than funds provided through such grant in an amount that is at least equal to the amount awarded by NIFA unless one of the exemptions described herein is applicable (see RFA for cost share exemptions).

Cost-share commitments must be documented via formal memo from the funder/financial supporter (i.e., Dean, External Sponsor, etc...) and attached via PDF to your Limited Submission Application.

Timeline:

Limited Submission Application Due: February 22, 2018

Selection Notification: March 9, 2018

Proposal Due to Funder: March 28, 2018

Questions? Please reference the [UTSA Limited Submissions website](#) or contact LimitedSubmissions@utsa.edu