Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) Meeting

March 2015

Cynthia Montgomery, Deputy Director, Office of Grants and Financial Management
NIFA’s Challenge

• Implementation Efforts of 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Guidance) coincide with the following:
  – Agricultural Act of 2014, Farm Bill
  – NIFA Financial Assistance Policy Guide
  – Agency and Departmental Requirements
2014 Farm Bill

• New program/program changes
  – Preparation and approval of RFAs
  – Regulatory process for program rules

• New matching requirement
  – Exceptions
  – Waiver/Regulatory process

• Center of Excellence
  – Webinars
Proposed Competitive Grant Programs
Center of Excellence Opportunities in FY15

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<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture and Food Research Initiative – Challenge Areas</td>
<td>Farm Business Management and Benchmarking</td>
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<td>Agriculture and Food Research Initiative – Foundational Program</td>
<td>Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification</td>
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<td>Aquaculture Research</td>
<td>Methyl Bromide Transition</td>
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<td>Biomass Research and Development Initiative</td>
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<td>Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program</td>
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<td>Children, Youth, and Families at Risk</td>
<td>Rural Health and Safety Program</td>
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<td>Crop Protection/Pest Management</td>
<td>Specialty Crop Research Initiative</td>
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Financial Assistance Policy Guide

- Single, comprehensive guidance document
- Provides guidance for competitive & capacity grants
- Updates and replaces former Administrative Manuals
Agency and Departmental Requirements

• Challenges:
  ● Conflict of Interest
  ● Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) OMB Data Act guidance
  ● Indirect Costs
Agency and Departmental Requirements

• Administrative Metrics-Each agency provided baseline data to the Dept by January 15, 2015.
  – Inventory of OMB Information Collection for Grants Cooperative Agreements
  – Number of Fixed Awards
  – Impact Agency Exceptions by the CFDA
  – Indirect Cost Extensions
Award Terms and Conditions

• NIFA-specific award terms
• USDA Department-wide Grant and Cooperative Agreement General Terms and Conditions
Summary

• Adopted 2 CFR Part 200 in its entirety
• USDA is streamlining Grant and Cooperative Agreement General Terms and Conditions
  – Agencies developing supplemental guidance
  – NIFA-specific award terms
• Communication Strategy
Thank you!
Contact Information

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