

**Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields Program (WAMS)
Solicitation CFD 10.318**

<https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/rfa/FY%202016%20WAMS%20RFA.pdf>

Full Application Due: April 17, 2016

Award ceiling: FY 2016 is approx., \$400,000.00, (an applicant may request up to \$100,000.00 total amount)

Purpose: To support research and extension projects that increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in who will pursue and complete a postsecondary degree in STEM. To address education needs, as determined by each institution in broadly defined areas of food and agricultural sciences and related disciplines.

Need to focus on one or more these Need Areas:

- Curriculum Design, Materials Development and Library Resources
- Faculty Preparation and Enhancement of Teaching
- Instruction Delivery System
- Scientific Instrumentation for Teaching and Research
- Student Experiential Learning
- Student recruitment, retention, and educational equity, (including the provision of student financial assistance)

Long-Term Goal: WAM applicants are encouraged to submit applications that will result in building linkages with other institutions and having a significant, ongoing commitment to the food and agricultural sciences generally in the specific need areas. The goals of such with joined initiatives should include:

- Maximizing the development and use of limited resources (including faulty, facilities, and equipment) by generating a critical mass of expertise and activity focused on a target Need Area(s);
- Increasing cost-effectiveness through achieving economic scale; strengthening the scope and quality of a projects impact; and
- Promoting coalition building likely to transcend the project's lifetime and lead to future ventures.

Successful Project Will: Choose to develop studies that have relevancy within the communities that these institutions serve.

- ✓ Apply Studies in the Food and Agricultural Sciences by applying the knowledge in natural and social sciences to real-world problems by: 1) conducting plant or animal breeding programs, 2)evaluating new bio-processing techniques, 3)evaluating ways to enhance utilizations of resources to promote rural development, 4) Identify control factors in consumer demand for agricultural products, 5) analyze social economic aspects of nutrition, housing and lifestyle choices, 6) identify State, regional, community, national, and global problems in nutrition and obesity prevention;
- ✓ Apply Research support systems by: 1) Establish centralized support systems to meet State, regional and community needs, 2) Storage, maintenance, characterization, evaluation and enhancement of germ plasma for animal and plant breeders, 3) Digital databases for scientific information, 4) Service centers for highly specialized methodologies;
- ✓ Technology information delivery systems to promote innovations and improvement in delivery benefits of food and agriculture sciences: 1) Computer-based decisions to support systems to small scale farmers ranchers, herders or fisherman, 2) Delivery system for nutrition information or resource management assistance to low-income population;
- ✓ Encourage other creative projects that are designed to provide enhancements to institutions in applied research and related community development projects.