



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

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# NIFA Update: Transition, Function, and Transformation

USDA NIFA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



# NIFA Transition – Staffing Activity

	July 15, 2020
<b>Total Approved Positions</b>	<b>302</b>
<b>Permanent Staff</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>2020 Hires</b>	
<b>Washington DC</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>105</b>

**~5 new hires per pay period**

**12 New National Program Leaders**

**Successful recruitment events**

**Virtual interviews and onboarding**



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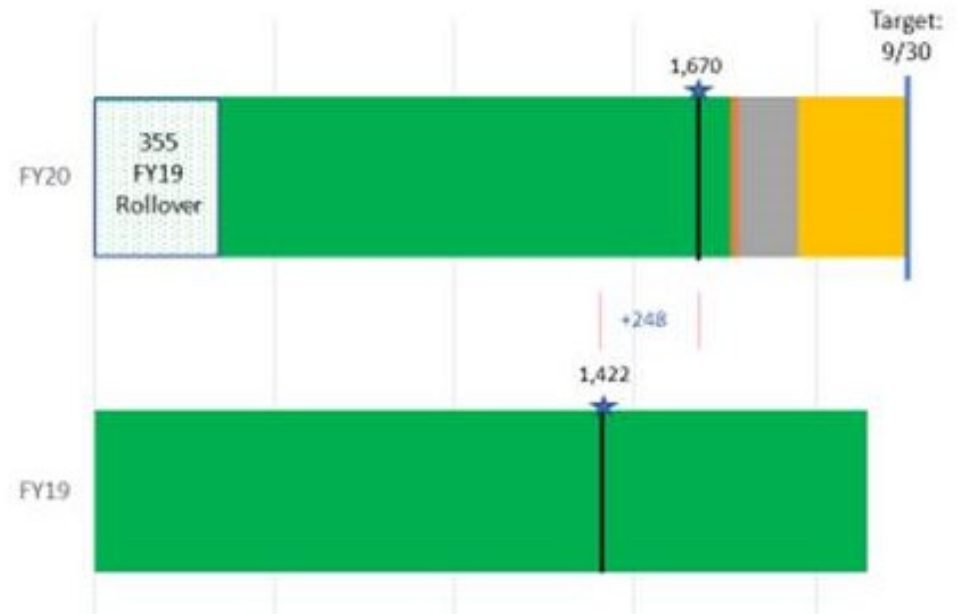
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# NIFA Transition – Science Division Staff

Ag Systems (Eng and Econ)	Animal Systems	Env Systems	Education and MSIs	Family & Consumer Sciences	Food and Nutrition	Plant Systems
<b>Kevin Kephardt</b>	<b>Deb Hamernik</b>		<b>Peter Motavalli</b>	<b>Suzanne Stluka</b>	<b>Mark Carter</b>	
Ganesh Bora	Tim Sullivan	Megan O'Rourke	Carlos Ortiz		Mallory Koenings	John Erickson
		Kamran Abdollahi	M. Manoharan		Lisa Jahns	Amer Fayad
						Erica Kistner- Thomas
						Vance Owens
						Vijay Nandula
						Ann Stapleton

# NIFA Function – Program Implementation



Completed	
% Overall	% Assign
78.2%	90.4%
100%	-

# NIFA Function – New Programs in 2020

	Budget (in million)	Status
<b>1890 Centers of Excellence</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Awarded</b>
<b>1890 Scholarship</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Awarded</b>
<b>ECDRE (Citrus Greening)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Proposals under review</b>
<b>New Beginnings for Tribal Students</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Proposals under review</b>
<b>Ag. Genome to Phenome</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Award being processed</b>
<b>Research Equipment Grant</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Proposals under review</b>
<b>Urban Agriculture</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>RFA being prepared</b>



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# NIFA

# NIFA Function – COVID-19 Impacts and Actions

- **Frequently Asked Questions**
  - Application Deadlines
  - Project impacts
- **Opportunities**
  - AFRI Research and Extension
  - SBIR
  - AFRI Education and Youth Programs
  - Supplements and extensions

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) ▾

**USDA** United States Department of Agriculture  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

ABOUT TOOLS DATA GATEWAY BUDGET & LEGISLATION CONTACT LANGUAGE

HOME TOPICS PROGRAMS GRANTS NEWSROOM IMPACTS RESOURCES 🔍

HOME > NIFA CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESOURCES FOR PARTNERS

## NIFA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources For Partners

Print Tweet Share LinkedIn Share

**C**oronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Information for NIFA Partners, Researchers, Stakeholders, Applicants, and Grantees

UPDATED: THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020; 9:47 A.M. ET

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19): INFORMATION FOR NIFA PARTNERS, RESEARCHERS, STAKEHOLDERS, APPLICANTS, AND GRANTFFS

# NIFA Function – COVID-19 AFRI Program

## • Topics

- Health and Security of Livestock
- Food and Food Processing
- Well being of Farm, Food Service Providers, and Rural Americans
- Economic Security

## • Stats and Status

- 350 queries
- 96 applications
- 9-12 awards for a total of 9-10 million expected
- Seven awards made, others will be made in this week



# NIFA Function – COVID-19 AFRI Program

- **K-14 education and youth development programs during reopening**

  - Deadline August 20th

- **Grants**

  - 1 million for regional impacts

  - 3 million for national programs

The screenshot shows the NIFA website header with the USDA logo and navigation links: ABOUT, TOOLS, DATA GATEWAY, BUDGET & LEGISLATION, CONTACT, LANGUAGE. Below the header is a secondary navigation bar with icons for HOME, TOPICS, PROGRAMS, GRANTS, NEWSROOM, IMPACTS, RESOURCES, and a search icon. A breadcrumb trail reads: HOME > RESOURCES > CALENDAR > RAPID RESPONSE: FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES IN ...

## Rapid Response: Formal and Non-Formal Educational Experiences in Food and Agricultural Sciences During the Time of Social Distancing Program Priority Area Webinar

Please join us for the Rapid Response: Formal and Non-Formal Educational Experiences in Food and Agricultural Sciences During the Time of Social Distancing Program Priority Area webinar:

When: Jul 28, 2020; 12:00 PM ET / 11:00 AM CT  
Where: Online via Zoom

Share buttons for Print, Tweet, Facebook, and LinkedIn are visible.





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NIFA

# Building NIFA for the Future

**Focus on our stakeholders and partners**

**Imagine the future processes, programs, and people**

**Efficiency**

**Agility**

**Trust**

**Respect**

**Speed**

**Transparency**

**Diversity**

# Analysis of the Feedback

## Transparency, Clarity, Consistency, Trust

#	Category	Description
1	<b>Optimize Processes In Key Grant Lifecycle Stages</b>	Optimize processes in three key stages of the grant lifecycle: pre-award, award notification through award budget transfer, administration of ongoing grant
2	<b>Increase Communication and Outreach</b>	Increase and improve communication and outreach to customers, the greater agricultural community, Congress, the general public, and other Federal agencies
3	<b>Improve Documentation and Messaging</b>	Provide consistent, clear and professional documentation and messaging
4	<b>Establish Foundation of Knowledge</b>	Establish foundation of knowledge across agency and customers
5	<b>Improve Use of Website and Other Technologies</b>	Utilize potential of NIFA website and other technologies to increase transparency and improve efficiency
6	<b>Address Capacity Fund Programs</b>	Re-think approach for administering and managing capacity fund programs
7	<b>Address Matching Funds and Indirect Costs</b>	Consider altering matching funds and indirect cost limit requirements

# Project CAFÉ Overview

*COLLABORATIVELY ACHIEVING FUNCTIONAL EXCELLENCE*

## Purpose

To fulfill NIFA's scientific mission by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery

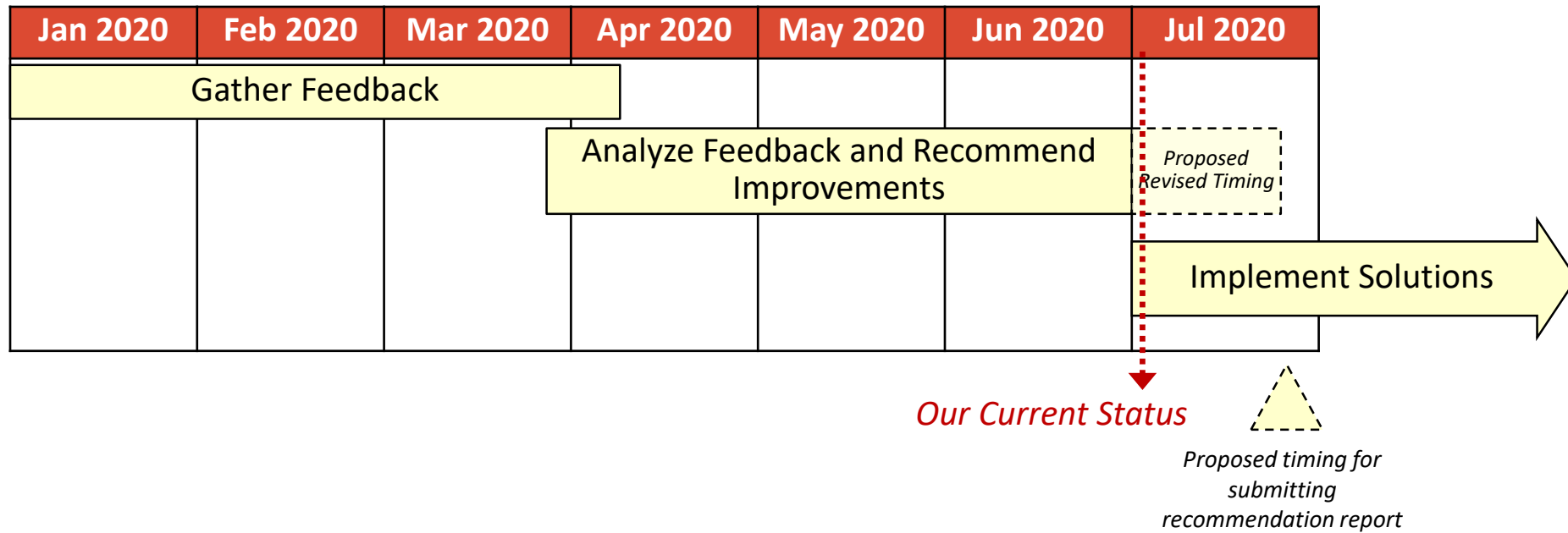
## Stakeholder input

1. NIFA's primary external partners: Land Grant Universities
2. NIFA's external stakeholders: farmers, ranchers, families and American taxpayers
3. NIFA Employees
4. Partner science agencies (including internal USDA agencies)

## Analysis of stakeholder comments received by a Board:

- Adel Shirmohammadi (*Chair*)
- Michael Fitzner, Davida Tengey, Waits Raulerson, Erin Riley

# Timeline for Project CAFÉ



The Board would like to get the Executive Council’s feedback on this timing as well as the preferred approach for delivering / presenting its recommendation report

## Project CAFÉ Status

July 3, 2020

INVESTING IN SCIENCE  
SECURING OUR FUTURE  
WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV

### Overall Status of Project CAFÉ

Gather Feedback

100%

Analyze Feedback &  
Recommend Improvements

95%

Implement  
Improvements

5%

### Gather Feedback Phase

100% Complete

**Key stats:**

- Received feedback from **40 sources**, comprised of 36 external stakeholder groups and 4 sources of internal feedback (e.g., listening sessions and survey)
- In total, these sources provided approximately **900 comments** that directly responded to the four questions posed by NIFA

### Analyze Feedback & Recommend Improvements

95%

**Status of analysis by comment category:**

Category	# of Comments	% of Total	Analysis Status
Process Improvement	204	23%	100% Complete
Communication & Documentation	244	27%	100% Complete
Knowledge Management	66	7%	100% Complete
Technology	109	12%	100% Complete
Capacity Programs	212	23%	100% Complete
Funding Requirements	36	4%	100% Complete
Other	35	4%	100% Complete

**Results of analysis to-date:**

- Eight quick action** opportunities identified
- 40 longer-term** improvement opportunities identified

The Board is currently working on its recommendation report. Upon its completion, this phase of work will be 100% complete

## Project CAFÉ Dashboard

July 3, 2020

INVESTING IN SCIENCE  
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### Implement Improvements

5%

**Status of improvements identified:**

	Identified (#)	Presented to Executive Council (#)	Approved by Executive Council (#)
Quick Action Opportunities	8	8	5
Longer-term Improvements	40	23	0

**Status of approved opportunities:**

	Estimated Timeframe for Completion (# days)	Kick-off Date	Current Status
Program & Grants Management Specialist training	90	TBD	0% Complete
Reinforce quality comments from panels to applicants	90	TBD	0% Complete
Standardize application deadlines	90	TBD	0% Complete
Reliable technology and support for virtual panels	90	TBD	0% Complete
Memo to PIs regarding mitigation of delays from notification to award	90	TBD	0% Complete



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# Exciting time at NIFA

## Transition, Transformation, and Innovation

# Thank you.

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