



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency (FSA)



OUTREACH AND EDUCATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FINANCIAL EDUCATION FOR FSA PROGRAMS, FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Informational Webinar
June 7, 2016
2:00 p.m. (Eastern)



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The Farm Service Agency: Our Mission and Goals



Mission

Serve farmers and ranchers by providing access to capital and delivering programs that support the economic viability of rural America.

To achieve this mission it is essential that every farmer have the knowledge and opportunity to participate in FSA programs.



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FSA Eligible Programs



FSA Program Targets for Proposals

Farm Programs, Farm Loans and
Price Support



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Authority and Purpose



Authority

The authority to make cooperative agreements is Section 607(b)(4) of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C.2204b(b)(4)).

Purpose

Provide additional outreach and education to producers related to Agency programs and operations and thereby:

- (1) Increase access to Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs and services.
- (2) Improve technical assistance and financial education related to FSA farm and farm loan programs.

Focus and Emphasis

All audiences, which includes potential and established producers.

Emphasis on increased outreach to ethnic minorities, women, new, beginning, veterans, urban, and non-commodity crop growers (specialty crop, fruit vegetable growers).



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Examples of the Types of Efforts Covered by Cooperative Agreements



Competitive Cooperative Agreements for:

- Outreach (Meetings, Educational Materials, Analysis, Research)
- Technical Assistance
- Financial and Borrower Technical Assistance



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Timetables, Eligibility & Applications



Who is eligible to apply?

- Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status
- Institutions of higher learning
- Public and state controlled institutions of higher learning

Application Content

- SF-424 Short, Application for Federal Domestic Assistance
- SF-424-A Budget Information – Non Construction Programs
- Budget Narrative
- Project Abstract
- Project Narrative
- Work Plan
- Performance Evaluation Criteria
- Qualifications of Personnel
- Other Similar Efforts Accomplishments & Outcomes
- Risk-Based Criteria

Funding Restrictions

Please review the RFA for a complete list of restrictions. A few included are the:

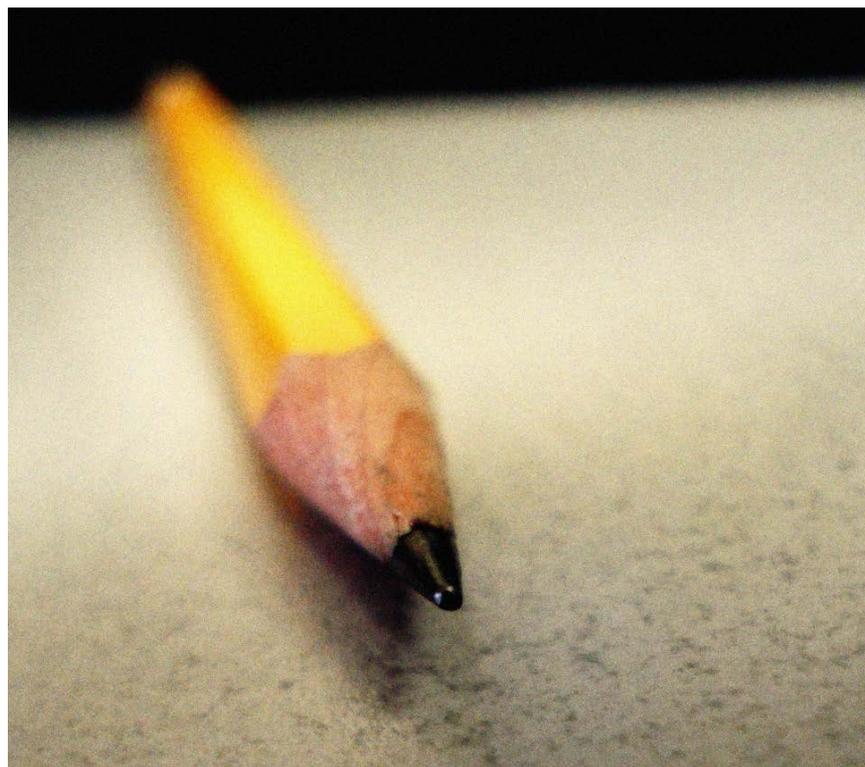
- Purchase of food, beverage, alcohol, give away promotional items or entertainment;
- Lending money to support farming or ag business operations or expansion
- Purchase/rental or installation of fixed equipment

Application Submissions

How many projects can I apply for?

Applicants must include all proposed activity under a single application for a single purpose. However applicants can submit multiple applications for multiple purposes (outreach, technical assistance, or financial education)

Application Review, Scoring and Awards Process



- Eligibility Screening
- Panel Review
- Evaluation Criteria
- Selection Process

Evaluation Criteria

- Benefits (0-30 Points)
- Project Description, Feasibility, Work Plan (0-20)
- Budget and Cost Effectiveness (0-20)
- Performance Evaluation Criteria (0-10)
- Partnerships (0-10)
- Risk (0-10)

General Award Information

- Awards to those applications judged most meritorious under the procedures outlined in RFA.
- Payments provided on a reimbursable Basis.
- Project need not be initiated on the agreement effective date, but as soon thereafter as practical to attain goals within project period.



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Cooperator Responsibilities



Required Cooperator Reports

- Financial Status Report
- Quarterly Performance Reports
- Final Project Performance Reports

Additional Cooperator Responsibilities

- Collaborate with FSA regarding the development and implementation of the tasks associated with the project purpose.
- Provide performance and outcome measure data to FSA on a regular basis as determined by FSA
- Provide an accounting for the cooperative funding received.
- Monitor funds or services and certify neither will be used for ineligible purposes.

Questions?

Send an email to

fsaoutreach@wdc.usda.gov

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document will be developed and posted online at www.fsa.usda.gov/outreach



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Contacts:

- For questions specific to this funding opportunity and submission of performance reports, please contact the ADODR: J. Latrice Hill fsaoutreach@wdc.usda.gov or 202.690.1700.
- For questions related to cooperative agreements generally, submission of financial reports, and submission of final performance reports, please contact the ADO: Robert Stephenson
- Robert.Stephenson@wdc.usda.gov or 202.720.4019
- For questions related to www.grants.gov contact support@grants.gov
800.518.4726 or www.grants.gov