STREAMLINING EFFORTS FOR NON CAPACITY GRANTS

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STREAMLINING EFFORTS FOR NON-CAPACITY GRANTS

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OVERVIEW

Streamlining Efforts

• Streamlining Goals
• Continuation Grants
• Grants Requiring Matching Funds
• Grants with Sub-awards
Streamlining Goals

- In conformance with the Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200, NIFA aims to reduce administrative burden on awardees
- Reducing award delays by streamlining Awards Management Division (AMD) review process
Streamlining Continuation Awards

• Multiple year awards reviewed and approved for the full period of performance
• Funding provided in annual increments
  • Contingent on sufficient progress, relevance and funding availability
Streamlining Continuation Awards

• Decrease number of business processes for Grantees and NIFA

• Skips the Grants.gov process for out years
  • No need to apply via an RFA (program will send an e-mail directly to recipient to trigger continuation)
Streamlining Continuation Awards

- Decreases number of required forms for out years (if no changes)

- Out years of awards become an amendment to the initial award
New Continuation Process

- NIFA National Program Leader (NPL) will trigger the Continuation award via e-mail
- Letter from NPL outlines required information for the next increment of funds
- Signature page
- Annual Federal Financial Form (SF 425)
New Continuation Process

• Document Project Changes
• Annual Progress report in REEport
• E-mail completed package to
  • Program Specialist
  • National Program Leader
New Continuation Process

What hasn’t changed?

• Type of award is still a Continuation
• Program still has to recommend award and its funding amount
• AMD conducts a full review of the initial application; streamlined review for out years
MATCHING STREAMLINING
Matching Streamlining

- Some NIFA programs require matching
  - Matching funds may be 100% or less depending on program requirements
  - Matching may be cash or in-kind
  - Matching sources may be grantee organization or third-party
- Previously required substantial third-party documentation for NIFA review
Matching Streamlining

• Letters of Commitment for Third Party In-Kind, or Cash match are no longer required.

• Reduces number of documents to be included in the proposal submitted via Grants.gov
Matching Streamlining

• List of matching sources and amounts being pledged submitted with proposal

• Budget shows both Federal and Non-Federal Funds

• Budget justification clearly explains how Federal and Non-Federal Funds will be expended.
Matching Streamlining

• Grantee required to keep all pledge letters for audit purposes or possible desk reviews

• All funds will be withheld pending return of counter-signed Notice of Award by the Authorized Representative

• Signed Notice of Award sent via e-mail to awards@nifa.usda.gov and the Administrative Point of Contact.
STREAMLINING SUB-AWARDS
Streamlining Sub-awards

• Many projects include collaborations with other entities to assist in carrying out objectives of award

• Award recipient must meet eligibility requirements; sub-award organizations do not

• Letters of commitment, budgets and budget narratives previously required for NIFA review
Streamlining Sub-awards

- Unless a sub-award is to a Federal Agency, or the total amount to sub-awards is over 50% of the award, sub-award budgets are no longer required
- Recipient must maintain documentation of sub-award budgets and expenditures
- Letters of Commitment signed by an Authorized Representative and a Statement of Work for each sub-award are required
Streamlining Sub-awards

• The responsibility for review of sub-award agreements and budgets resides with the recipient (2 CFR 200.331)
• NIFA’s grant agreement is with the recipient, not the sub-awardee
• Reduces number of pages to be submitted through grants.gov
• Reduces review time of sub-awards by limiting review of sub-award information within recipient’s budget narrative
Streamlining Sub-awards

- NIFA will add language to the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide regarding new requirements
- Recipients must perform a risk assessment for sub-awardees in accordance with 2 CFR 200.331
- Recipient must check Sam.gov for suspension or debarred status for all sub-award entities
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