

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

AFRI FOUNDATIONAL & APPLIED SCIENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

OFFICE OF GRANT & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

CALS OFFICE OF GRANT & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT



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AFRI FOUNDATIONAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES (FAS) PROGRAM



The AFRI Foundational program focuses on building a foundation of fundamental and applied knowledge in food and agricultural sciences critical for solving current and future societal challenges.

It is the largest federal program for competitive grant funding for fundamental and applied research, extension, and education in food and agriculture.

INCREASED FUNDING AVAILABLE

- \$300 million estimated program funding in 2023
- \$290 million per year for 2021 and 2022 (more current info not available)

UI CALS SUCCESS

- UI and CALS has substantial success already
- **CALS PIs** have received AFRI funding for ~**23 projects** between 2016 and 2020 (newer data not available)





Funding Priorities—by Farm Bill Categories (FY23 anticipated funding)

- Plant Health and Production and Plant Products (\$61 million)
- Animal Health and Production and Animal Products (\$57 million)
- Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health (\$39 million)
- Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment (\$39 million)
- Agriculture Systems and Technology (\$36 million)
- Agriculture Economics and Rural Sociology (\$30 million)
- Crosscutting Programs (addressing 2 or more of the above priorities) (\$36 million)
 - Agricultural Microbiomes in Plant Systems and Natural Resources
 - Critical Agricultural Research and Extension (CARE)
 - Data Science for Food and Agricultural Systems (DSFAS)
 - Inter-Disciplinary Engagement in Animal Systems (IDEAS)
 - Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events Across Food and Agricultural Systems
 - Tactical Sciences for Agricultural Biosecurity
 - Extension, Education & USDA Climate Hubs Partnership
 - AFRI Commodity Board Co-Funding Topics



DUE DATES

AFRI FAS FY2023 Due Dates

Program deadlines throughout August-December 2023. Full details available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/agriculture-food-research-initiative-afri/afri-deadlines

AFRI FAS Conference Grants

- Rolling deadline
- Required LOI must be submitted at least 195 days before the start of the proposed conference
- Full conference grant application must be submitted at least 150 days before the start of the proposed conference

NEW: CALS and OSP Deadlines

if not met, you may not be allowed to apply unless under approved extenuating circumstances

OSP Deadline

- 4 full business days prior to grant deadline
- ALL final documents must be uploaded in VERAS and grants.gov (accessed via VERAS)

CALS Deadline

- 10 full business days prior to grant deadline
- All documents in VERAS ready for review by OGPD and CALS-GMS staff





PROJECT AND GRANT TYPES

PROJECT TYPES

- Research
- Education
- Extension
- Integrated (includes at least two of the three functions above)

GRANT TYPES

- Standard
- Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP)
- Conference
- Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) (see next slides)
 - Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellowships
 - New Investigator
 - Strengthening
 - Seed
 - Equipment
 - Sabbatical
 - Strengthening Standard
 - Strengthening CAP
 - Strengthening Conference



GRANT TYPES

Standard

 Supports targeted original scientific agricultural knowledge: Research, Education, Extension, or Integrated Projects

Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP)

- Supports large-scale, multi-million-dollar projects
- Multi-function projects must incorporate at least 2 of the 3 components (Research, Extension, and Education)

Conference

 Support scientific meetings that bring together scientists to identify research, education, and/or extension needs, update information, or advance an area of science

Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE)

- This is not a separate program; it is an **enhancement** UI qualifies for to help target set-aside funds
- Strengthen science capabilities in Research, Education, & Extension Programs
- Help less successful institutions develop competitive projects
- Attract new scientists into careers in high-priority areas of national need
- See next 2 slides for FASE grant types





GRANT TYPES: FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE ENHANCEMENT (FASE)

FASE Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellowships

- Provides fellowships to predoctoral and postdoctoral students in the agricultural sciences
- Goal: to prepare the next generation of scientists through doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships

FASE New Investigator

- Defined as:
 - Less than 5 years postgraduate, career-track experience
 - Has NOT received competitive Federal research funds beyond pre- or postdoctoral grants or AFRI seed grants
 - Do not need to be US citizens if associated with US Institution
 - Can be Research, Education, and/or Extension
 - Application written same as non-new investigator expect check the box indicating New Investigator eligibility

There are Two Types of New Investigator Grants available:

FASE New Investigator Standard Grants

- A Standard Grant application in which the Project Director meets the eligibility criteria for New Investigators.
- Check the New Investigator box under FASE on the AFRI Project Type form

FASE New Investigator Seed Grants

- An individual applicant may submit only one Seed Grant per fiscal year as PD
- New Investigators may only receive one New Investigator Seed Grant as PD during their career
- Budget limited to \$300,000 (total costs) for 2 years
- Check both both the New Investigator and Seed Grant boxes under FASE on the AFRI Project Type form

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GRANT TYPES: FASE, CONTINUED

NOTE: 15% of AFRI funding is set aside for strengthening grants

FASE Strengthening

Proposals limited to a 7-page project narrative

- **Seed** (\$200,000 over 2 years)
 - Collection of preliminary data leading to future standard AFRI application
 - Seed applications only need good ideas, not preliminary data
- **Equipment** (up to \$50,000)
 - Purchase of a single piece of equipment
 - Requires cost-share/matching (non-federal sources)
- Sabbatical
 - Up to one year of salary, and funds for travel and supplies
 - Mini-sabbaticals are also allowed (a few weeks or months)

Proposals with standard 18-page project narrative

same definitions and application as for non-FASE grant types

- Standard
- Strengthening CAP
- Strengthening Conference

For all 3:

- Same application as Standard, check the box indicating FASE eligibility
- Reviewed with other Standard applications, not separately

Seed, Equipment & Sabbatical applications are reviewed together within the AFRI program submitted to.

These 3 grant types are ranked relative to each other, with competition <u>only</u> among those 3 grant types

2 chances for funding:

Compete with all applications (strengthening and nonstrengthening)

1st **Chance:** If selected then will receive program funding (not from set-aside funds)

2nd Chance: If not funded but ranked well in the fundable range, will be evaluated for funding from the 11.25% set-aside funds

SOURCES: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/afri-request-applications-resources



RESOURCES TO LEARN ABOUT PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS

AFRI-FUNDED PROJECTS BY STATES

- Link to summaries for projects funded in each state
- https://nifa.usda.gov/afri-funded-projectsstate

CURRENT RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (CRIS)

- Searchable database of USDA-funded projects
- https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/

Current Research Information System (31)

| 2017 | | | Retrieved 6 | recoras |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Title | Awd Yr Prop No | Investigator | Institution | View |
| INCREASING REGIONAL TO GLOBAL- SCALE RESILIENCE IN FEW SYSTEMS THROUGH COORD. STORAGE MGMT IN CONCERT WITH INNOVATION IN TECH.& INSTITUTIONS | 2017 2016-09857 | Cosens, B. A. | UNIV OF IDAHO MOSCOW, IDAHO | Brief Full |
| CHARACTERIZATION AND MANIPULATION OF ABIOTIC STRESS SIGNALING IN TOMATO | 2017 2016-10554 | Xiao, F. | UNIV OF IDAHO MOSCOW, IDAHO | Brief Full |
| INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROJECT TO STUDY AND IMPROVE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS IN THREE STATES | 2017 2016-10945 | Higgins, L. | UNIV OF IDAHO MOSCOW, IDAHO | Brief Full |
| OVINE FAANG PROJECT | 2017 2016-10149 | Murdoch, B. M. | UNIV OF IDAHO MOSCOW, IDAHO | Brief Full |
| CHARACTERIZATION OF THE CYST NEMATODE UBIQUITIN LIGASE EFFECTOR AND ITS VIRULENCE IN HOST POTATO PLANTS | 2017 2016-09301 | Xiao, F. | UNIV OF IDAHO MOSCOW, IDAHO | Brief Full |
| INLAND PACIFIC NORTHWEST WHEAT- BASED SYSTEMS: LANDSCAPES IN TRANSITION | 2017 2016-11575 | Johnson- Maynard, J. | UNIV OF IDAHO MOSCOW, IDAHO | Brief Full |

2017



SUCCESS RATES

In FY2020, NIFA received ~2,283 proposals for AFRI Foundational grants and made 527 awards (~23%)

MOST COMPETITIVE PROGRAM AREAS*

 Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health (17% of proposals funded in FY20) Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment (21% of proposals funded in FY20)

LEAST COMPETITIVE PROGRAM AREAS

- Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities (39% of proposals funded in FY20)
- Animal Health and Production and Animal Products (27% of proposals funded in FY20)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

^{*} FY2020 is the most recent year available for program rates.



| FY20 AFRI Program Priority Area | # of Applications | # of Awards | Percent Funded | FY20 Funding |
|--|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| PLANT HEALTH AND PRODUCTION AND PLANT | | | | |
| PRODUCTS | | | | |
| Foundational Knowledge of Agricultural Production Systems | 80 | 12 | 15% | \$ 5,434,552 |
| Foundational Knowledge of Plant Products | 41 | 11 | 27% | \$ 4,763,181 |
| Pests and Beneficial Species in Agricultural Production Systems | 114 | 16 | 14% | \$ 6,721,928 |
| Pollinator Health: Research and Application | 61 | 12 | 20% | \$ 5,661,911 |
| Plant Breeding for Agricultural Production | 80 | 20 | 25% | \$ 11,044,724 |
| Physiology of Agricultural Plants | 80 | 14 | 18% | \$ 5,928,181 |
| Plant Biotic Interactions | 12 | 12 | 100% | \$ 6,112,326 |
| TOTAL | 468 | 97 | 21% | \$ 45,666,803 |



| FY20 AFRI Program Priority Area | # of Applications | # of Awards | Percent Funded | FY20 Funding |
|--|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION AND ANIMAL | | | | |
| PRODUCTS | | | | |
| Animal Breeding and Functional Annotation of Genomes | 24 | 9 | 38% | \$ 4,150,000 |
| Animal Reproduction | 66 | 16 | 24% | \$ 5,898,759 |
| Diseases of Agricultural Animals | 149 | 31 | 21% | \$ 14,018,595 |
| Animal Nutrition, Growth, and Lactation | 71 | 25 | 35% | \$ 9,429,000 |
| Welfare and Well-being of Agricultural Animals | 34 | 8 | 24% | \$ 3,550,000 |
| Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases | 4 | 4 | 100% | \$ 6,731,861 |
| TOTAL | 348 | 93 | 27% | \$ 43,778,215 |



| FY20 AFRI Program Priority Area | # of Applications | # of Awards | Percent Funded | FY20 Funding |
|--|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| FOOD SAFETY, NUTRITION, AND HEALTH | | | | |
| Food Safety and Defense | 110 | 21 | 19% | \$ 7,873,028 |
| Food and Human Health | 79 | 13 | 16% | \$ 5,828,070 |
| Diet, Nutrition, and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases | 51 | 6 | 12% | \$ 4,729,538 |
| Novel Foods and Innovative Manufacturing Technologies | 95 | 16 | 17% | \$ 6,765,923 |
| Mitigating Antimicrobial Resistance Across the Food Chain | 40 | 6 | 15% | \$ 5,186,973 |
| TOTAL | 375 | 62 | 17% | \$ 30,383,532 |



| FY20 AFRI Program Priority Area | # of Applications | # of Awards | Percent Funded | FY20 Funding |
|--|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| BIOENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND ENVIRONMENT | | | | |
| Soil Health | 68 | 16 | 24% | \$ 11,084,314 |
| Water Quantity and Quality | 61 | 13 | 21% | \$ 5,798,140 |
| Sustainable Biomass Feedstock Systems | 0 | 0 | 0% | \$ 1,049,974 |
| Sustainable Agroecosystems | 88 | 14 | 16% | \$ 6,358,664 |
| Interagency Climate Change (interagency program) | 4 | 4 | 100% | \$ 1,470,000 |
| TOTAL | 221 | 47 | 21% | \$ 25,761,092 |



| FY20 AFRI Program Priority Area | # of Applications | # of Awards | Percent Funded | FY20 Funding |
|--|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY | | | | |
| Nanotechnology for Agricultural and Food Systems | 78 | 12 | 15% | \$ 5,158,612 |
| Engineering for Agricultural Production Systems | 96 | 16 | 17% | \$ 6,260,434 |
| Bioprocessing and Bioengineering | 112 | 12 | 11% | \$ 4,809,123 |
| National Robotics Initiative (interagency program) | 6 | 6 | 100% | \$ 5,000,001 |
| Cyber-Physical systems (interagency program) | 21 | 21 | 100% | \$ 7,524,571 |
| Al Institutes (interagency program) | 3 | 3 | 100% | \$ 8,539,999 |
| TOTAL | 316 | 70 | 22% | \$ 37,292,740 |



| FY20 AFRI Program Priority Area | # of Applications | # of Awards | Percent Funded | FY20 Funding |
|---|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES | | | | |
| Small and Medium-Sized Farms | 45 | 24 | 53% | \$ 6,925,209 |
| Economis, Markets, and Trade | 55 | 18 | 33% | \$ 9,025,576 |
| Social Implications of Food & Agricultural Technologies | 5 | 1 | 20% | \$ 500,000 |
| Environmental and Natural Resource Economics | 34 | 12 | 35% | \$ 5,919,196 |
| Rural Economic Development | 30 | 11 | 37% | \$ 2,861,387 |
| TOTAL | 169 | 66 | 39% | \$ 25,231,368 |



| FY20 AFRI Program Priority Area | # of Applications | # of Awards | Percent Funded | FY20 Funding |
|---|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| CROSSCUTTING PROGRAMS | | | | |
| Tactical Sciences for Agricultural Biosecurity | 32 | 6 | 19% | \$ 4,308,368 |
| Agricultural Innovation through Gene Editing | 28 | 10 | 36% | \$ 2,785,830 |
| Inter-Disciplinary Engagement in Animal Systems (IDEAS) | 32 | 8 | 25% | \$ 7,237,000 |
| Agricultural Microbiomes | 48 | 10 | 21% | \$ 6,797,547 |
| Food and Agriculture Cyberinformatics Tools (FACT) | 81 | 16 | 20% | \$ 8,059,808 |
| Critical Agricultural Research and Extension (CARE) | 63 | 27 | 43% | \$ 6,129,915 |
| Impacts Across Food and Agricultural Systems | 102 | 15 | 15% | \$ 1,000,000 |
| TOTAL | 386 | 92 | 24% | \$ 36,318,468 |

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DEVELOPING YOUR PROPOSAL

COORDINATION AND PLANNING

- Start early!
- Start your proposal in VERAS <u>https://www.veras.uidaho.edu</u>
- Read the RFP/RFA thoroughly
- Contact the program manager to discuss your idea
- Scale your budget to your proposed work
- Coordinate with partners (i.e., subawards and service contracts)
- Use the CALS OGPD AFRI Checklist and Tip Sheets
- Read the RFP/RFA again
- Submit Early!
- Plan for multi-year efforts to secure funding (e.g., tier your research from seed grant to standard research to larger-scale integrated project)
- Revise and resubmit if not successful

OGPD RESOURCES



Our purpose is to increase the amount of grant funding awarded to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

We support all aspects of the proposal submission process to federal and state funding programs.

Proposal preparation

- Process management (VERAS, grants.gov, subawards, etc.)
- Review and edit <u>all documents</u> (iterative process)
- Budget development
- Online Resources (templates and instructions, for key personnel, project summary, budget, etc.):
 - https://www.uidaho.edu/cals/services/grant-and-project-development/services/resources
- Examples from successful proposals
 e.g., logic model, management plans, data management, etc.

Proposal strengthening

- Review/compare RFA and proposal
- Provide feedback, comments, advice
- Strengthen documentation of need using secondary data
 - O Indicators Idaho website: www.indicatorsidaho.org



AFRI PEER REVIEW PROCESS





National Institute of Food and Agriculture

www.nifa.usda.gov @USDA_NIFA



Peer Review

- NIFA relies on a rigorous peer review process by research, extension, and/or education experts to select proposals of highest merit
- The program-specific evaluation criteria detailed in RFAs may include:
 - Scientific Merit
 - Qualifications of the Project Team
 - Institutional Capacity and Availability of Facilities
 - Project Planning & Management
 - Relevance to Agriculture and Program Priorities

AFRI FOUNDATIONAL PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS



Key resources to prepare your application

- AFRI Foundational Request for Applications (RFA):
 https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-foundational-applied-science-program
- Additional Information for AFRI FAS RFA Part IV C (contains crucial detail not in the RFA): https://www.nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/AFRI-FAS-RFA-Additional-Information-for-Part-IV-C-FY23.pdf
- AFRI Foundational Checklist (prepared by CALS OGPD) (Attached to this email and on our website)
- NIFA templates: https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/application-support-templates
- AFRI Request for Applications Resources: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/afri-request-applications-resources

CALS-OGPD can also provide select example documents from prior successful proposal submissions.



AFRI FOUNDATIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS



Program requirements vary so review the RFA and supplemental instructions carefully

- Project Summary/Abstract (250-word limit, use NIFA template)
- Project Narrative (18 pages for most proposals; 7 pages for sabbatical, equipment, and seed grants)
 - Check for additional requirements for your project or grant type
- Budget
- Budget Justification
- Bibliography & References Cited
- Facilities & Other Resources
- Equipment
- Key Personnel Roles (2 pages)
- Logic Model (2 pages)
- Management Plan (3 pages)
- Data Management Plan (2 pages)
- Documentation of Collaboration
 - Letters of Support from stakeholders, industry, non-profits, etc. (not allowed by some programs)
 - Letters of Commitment/Collaboration from subrecipients and consultant/contractors
- Senior/Key Personnel Documents (including consultants)
 - Biographical sketch (2 pages + publication list)
 - Current & Pending Support (use NIFA template)
 - Conflict of Interest (include full names, use NIFA template)
- Forms generated within VERAS/grants.gov interface:
 - SF424 documents
 - Project Type
 - Human and Animal Research Protocols
 - Felony and Tax Certification (OSP)
 - Keywords (8-10 keywords provided by the PD)



BUDGET



OGPD can provide the following budget assistance:

Developing your budget

- What objectives and activities are you proposing
- What resources are needed to meet these objectives: e.g., salary/fringe, travel, materials/supplies, tuition, and indirect costs/F&A (sticker shock!)
- Reviewers will call you out for submitting an 'overly ambitious project'

Making sure your budget is reasonable, allocable, and allowable

- Reasonable—is the budget sufficient and appropriate for what you're proposing
- Allocable—can an expense be separated and charged to the grant (e.g., not ½ of a computer)
- Allowable—is an expense allowed by the federal guidelines (e.g., red flags for food/refreshments; administrative employees; participant incentives. Absolutely not allowed: entertainment, gifts, alcohol, lobbying, fundraising, etc.)
- Creating a budget justification: a text version describing your budget in more detail

Managing subaward process

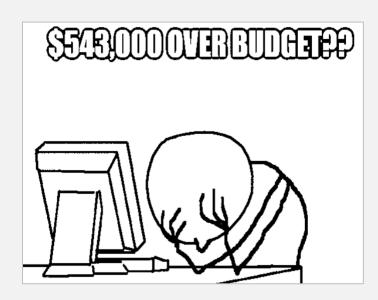
- Gather UI-OSP and sponsor-required documentation—TIME INTENSE PROCESS
- Manage other institutions' ability to complete in a timely manner and allow UI-OSP time to review
- Aim to have all subaward documents in place 3 weeks before deadline.
- Requirements from subawardee institutions:
 - UI Subrecipient Form
 - Budget
 - Budget Justification
- Scope of Work
- Letter(s) of Commitment
- Key Personnel Documents (Biosketch, Current & Pending, Conflict of Interest

BUDGET

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OGPD budget assistance, continued

- VERAS/Grants.gov
 - Entering budget and budget justification into VERAS and online federal application portals (grants.gov)
- NOTE: AFRI indirect costs/F&A are currently limited to 30% of Total Federal Funds Awarded
 - Equivalent to 42.857% of Total Direct Costs, <u>including indirect costs in awards to other</u> institutions.
 - UI OSP <u>requires</u> all institutions share the burden of this limit.
 - Once the subrecipient budget is finalized, OSP determines the amount each institution must reduce their indirect costs. Funds are shifted from indirect costs to direct costs (keeping the budget total the same).
 - This adds another round of interaction with subrecipient institutions, which takes time.



BUDGET



KEEP IN MIND:

- Budget creation, revision, re-revision, and finalization can be very time consuming, frustrating, and will take you away from working on your proposal narrative
- Start your budget early in the proposal preparation process
- Once you finalize your budget and all proposal documents, your VERAS entry must be approved by the following:
 - CALS: Debbie Gray (CALS OGPD) or Amy Norman (CALS Grant Management Services)
 - Assigned Sponsored Programs Administrator, OSP
 - Your Department Head
 - Department Head of any other co-PI(s)
 - CALS Dean's Administration / Holly Waters (CALS GMS)
 - Dean's Administration from other participating College(s)
 - Sarah Martonick, OSP Director and UI's Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)



UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO RESOURCES

CALS OFFICE OF GRANT & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT <u>cals-grants@uidaho.edu</u>

- Debbie Gray, Interim Director
- Julie Colson, Grant Assistant

CALS GRANT MANAGEMENT SERVICES calsgms@uidaho.edu

- Holly Waters, Director
 - Oversight for CALS internal processing of proposals
 - Ensures compliance throughout the grant lifecycle
- Debbie Gray and Amy Norman
 - Final review of all CALS grants prior to submission to OSP
- Grant Specialists: Robyn Wakefield, Kallie Yielding, Amy Norman
 - Budget review, cost-share identification, and financial and Post-Award management assistance

CALS DEVELOPMENT

- Jen Root, Senior Director of Development <u>iroot@uidaho.edu</u>
 - Responsible for CALS fundraising efforts, may be able to identify cost-share/matching funds

UI OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- UI Office of Sponsored Programs
 - Pre-Award Contact: A Sponsored Programs Administrator (SPA) will be assigned to your project
 - Assists with grant submission compliance prior to funding;
 - O Provides final approval before submission to funder
 - OSP Post-Award Contact: <u>post-award@uidaho.edu</u>
 - Oversees all Post-Award (after a proposal has been awarded) activities
- UI Research & Faculty Development
 - · Carly Cummings, Director ccummings@uidaho.edu
 - Provides trainings, manages the limited submission process, and assists with some aspects of proposal development with a focus on larger-scale, interdisciplinary projects

UI FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE RELATIONS

- Shawna Lindquist, Director, Endowment & Gift Administration
 - Assists with determining if funds from external sponsors are to be treated as a gift or a grant



SUMMARY/HINTS



- Get started in VERAS as soon as you decide to submit a proposal (helps us / OSP manage workload)
- Read the RFA and relevant documents at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of your proposal development process
- Follow the instructions closely (including font size, margins, proposal section requirements, allowable/non-allowable costs, required budget items (e.g., travel to project director meetings), file names, etc.
- Have someone who is not familiar with your area of expertise read your proposal
- Contact us as soon as you begin to plan your proposal!

