

## § 3430.609

or include nongovernmental and community-based organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach.

(c) *Regional balance.* In making awards under this subpart, CSREES shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure geographical diversity.

## § 3430.609 Other considerations.

(a) *Set aside.* Each fiscal year, CSREES shall set aside at least 25 percent of the funds used to support the standard BFRDP projects under this subpart to support programs and services that address the needs of the following groups:

(1) Limited resource beginning farmers or ranchers (as defined in § 3430.602).

(2) Socially disadvantaged beginning farmers or ranchers (as defined in section 355(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2003(e))).

(3) Farmworkers desiring to become farmers or ranchers.

(b) *Consecutive awards.* An eligible recipient may receive a consecutive grant for a standard BFRDP project under this subpart.

(c) *Duration of awards.* The term of a grant for a standard BFRDP project under this subpart shall not exceed 3 years. Awards for all other projects under this subpart shall not exceed 5 years. No-cost extensions of time beyond the maximum award terms will not be considered or granted.

(d) *Amount of grants.* A grant for a standard BFRDP project under this subpart shall not be in an amount that is more than \$250,000 for each year.

## Subparts K–L [Reserved]

## Subpart M—New Era Rural Technology Competitive Grants Program

SOURCE: 74 FR 45973, Sept. 4, 2009, unless otherwise noted.

## § 3430.900 Applicability of regulations.

The regulations in this subpart apply to the program authorized under section 1473E of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching

## 7 CFR Ch. XXXIV (1–1–10 Edition)

Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319e), as amended.

## § 3430.901 Purpose.

The purpose of this program is to make grants available for technology development, applied research, and training, with a focus on rural communities, to aid in the development of workforces for bioenergy, pulp and paper manufacturing, and agriculture-based renewable energy workforce.

## § 3430.902 Definitions.

The definitions applicable to the program under this subpart include:

*Advanced Technological Center* refers to an institution that provides students with technology-based education and training, preparing them to work as technicians or at the semi-professional level, and aiding in the development of an agriculture-based renewable energy workforce. For this program, such Centers must be located within a rural area.

*Bioenergy* means biomass used in the production of energy (electricity; liquid, solid, and gaseous fuels; and heat).

*Biomass* means any organic matter that is available on a renewable or recurring basis, including agricultural crops and trees, wood and wood wastes and residues, plants (including aquatic plants), grasses, residues, fibers, and animal wastes, municipal wastes, and other waste materials.

*Community College* means

(1) An institution of higher education that:

(i) Admits as regular students persons who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State in which the institution is located and who have the ability to benefit from the training offered by the institution;

(ii) Does not provide an educational program for which the institution awards a bachelor's degree (or an equivalent degree); and

(iii) (A) Provides an educational program of not less than 2 years in duration that is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree; or

(B) Offers a 2-year program in engineering, mathematics, or the physical or biological sciences, designed to prepare a student to work as a technician

or at the semi-professional level in engineering, scientific, or other technological fields requiring the understanding and application of basic engineering, scientific, or mathematical principles of knowledge (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(6)).

(2) For this grants program, such Community Colleges must be located within a *rural area*.

*Conference/Planning Grants* means the limited number of RTP grants that will fund strategic planning meetings necessary to establish and organize proposed technology development, applied research and/or training projects.

*Eligible institution/organization* means a *community college*, or an *advanced technological center*, that meets eligibility criteria of this program, and is located in a *rural area*.

*Eligible participant* means an individual who is a *citizen or non-citizen national of the United States*, as defined in 7 CFR 3430.2, or lawful permanent resident of the United States.

*Fiscal agent* means a third party designated by an authorized representative of an eligible institution/organization which would receive and assume financial stewardship of Federal grant funds and perform other activities as specified in the agreement between it and the eligible institution/organization.

*Joint project proposal* means

(1) An application for a project;

(i) Which will involve the applicant institution/organization working in cooperation with one or more other entities not legally affiliated with the applicant institution/organization, including other schools, colleges, universities, community colleges, units of State government, private sector organizations, or a consortium of institutions; and

(ii) Where the applicant institution/organization and each cooperating entity will assume a significant role in the conduct of the proposed project.

(2) To demonstrate a substantial involvement with the project, the applicant institution/organization submitting a joint project proposal must retain at least 30 percent but not more than 70 percent of the awarded funds, and no cooperating entity may receive less than 10 percent of awarded funds.

Only the applicant institution/organization must meet the definition of an eligible institution/organization as specified in this RFA; other entities participating in a joint project proposal are not required to meet the definition of an eligible institution/organization.

*Outcomes* means specific, measurable project results and benefits that, when assessed and reported, indicate the project's *plan of operation* has been achieved.

*Plan of Operation* means a detailed, step-by-step description of how the applicant intends to accomplish the project's *outcomes*. At a minimum, the plan should include a timetable indicating how outcomes are achieved, a description of resources to be used or acquired, and the responsibilities expected of all project personnel.

*Regular project proposal* means an application for a project:

(1) Where the applicant institution/organization will be the sole entity involved in the execution of the project; or

(2) Which will involve the applicant institution/organization and one or more other entities, but where the involvement of the other entity(ies) does not meet the requirements for a joint proposal as defined in this section.

*Rural Area* means any area other than a city or town that has a population of 50,000 inhabitants and the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such a city or town.

*Technology Development* means the practical application of knowledge to address specific State, regional, or community opportunities in the bio-energy, pulp and paper manufacturing, or agriculture-based renewable energy occupations. NOTE: In general, technology is more than the development of a single product, but is instead a system of related products, procedures and services to ensure a systems approach to address a specific issue.

*Training* means the planned and systematic acquisition of practical knowledge, skills or competencies required for a trade, occupation or profession delivered by formal classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, or practicum experience.