

§ 3415.15

the limitation of total available funding for each research program area as announced in the program solicitation.

(c) No awarding official will make a grant based upon an application covered by this part unless the application has been reviewed in accordance with the provisions of this part and unless said reviewers have made recommendations concerning the scientific merit and relevance to the program of such application.

(d) Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, such recommendations are advisory only and are not binding on program officers or on the awarding officials of CSREES and ARS.

§ 3415.15 Evaluation factors.

In carrying out its review under § 3415.14, the peer review group will take into account the following factors unless, pursuant to § 3415.5(a), different evaluation criteria are specified in the annual program solicitation:

- (a) Scientific merit of the proposal.
- (1) Conceptual adequacy of hypothesis;
- (2) Clarity and delineation of objectives;
- (3) Adequacy of the description of the undertaking and suitability and feasibility of methodology;
- (4) Demonstration of feasibility through preliminary data;
- (5) Probability of success of project;
- (6) Novelty, uniqueness and originality; and
- (7) Appropriateness to regulation of biotechnology and risk assessment.
- (b) Qualifications of proposed project personnel and adequacy of facilities.
- (1) Training and demonstrated awareness of previous and alternative approaches to the problem identified in the proposal, and performance record and/or potential for future accomplishments;
- (2) Time allocated for systematic attainment of objectives;
- (3) Institutional experience and competence in subject area; and
- (4) Adequacy of available or obtainable support personnel, facilities, and instrumentation.
- (c) Relevance of project to solving biotechnology regulatory uncertainty for United States agriculture.

7 CFR Ch. XXXIV (1–11 Edition)

(1) Scientific contribution of research in leading to important discoveries or significant breakthroughs in announced program areas; and

(2) Relevance of the risk assessment research to agriculture and environmental regulations.

PART 3418—STAKEHOLDER INPUT REQUIREMENTS FOR RECIPIENTS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION FORMULA FUNDS

Sec.

- 3418.1 Definitions.
- 3418.2 Scope and purpose.
- 3418.3 Applicability.
- 3418.4 Reporting requirement.
- 3418.5 Failure to comply and report.
- 3418.6 Prohibition.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301; 7 U.S.C. 7612(c)(2).

SOURCE: 65 FR 5998, Feb. 8, 2000, unless otherwise noted.

§ 3418.1 Definitions.

As used in this part:

1862 institution means a college or university eligible to receive funds under the Act of July 2, 1862 (7 U.S.C. 301, *et seq.*).

1890 institution means a college or university eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321, *et seq.*), including Tuskegee University.

1994 institution means an institution as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note).

Formula funds means agricultural research funds provided to 1862 institutions and agricultural experiment stations under the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361a, *et seq.*); extension funds provided to 1862 institutions under sections 3(b) and 3(c) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c)) and section 208(c) of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act, Pub. L. 93-471; agricultural extension and research funds provided to 1890 institutions under sections 1444 and 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA)(7 U.S.C. 3221 and 3222); education formula funds provided to 1994 institutions under section 534(a) of