FACT SHEET

Grants Modernization and the New ezFedGrants System

In 2013, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) launched a grants modernization initiative to streamline its grant application and award processes. This business transformation initiative will result in increased efficiency and reduced costs for NIFA grantees and staff. One main component of this initiative is to transition to a new grants and financial management system, ezFedGrants. NIFA has started this transition along with several other USDA agencies.

Goals of the ezFedGrants System

- Strengthen financial oversight
- Increase transparency and simplify processes for grantees
- Provide self-service capabilities
- Promote a paperless environment
- Improve management and reporting of data and results

Who will use ezFedGrants?

NIFA staff began using ezFedGrants in fall 2016 to process all FY2017 capacity (noncompetitive) program applications.

FY 2017 capacity grantees will use ezFedGrants to: check application and agreement status and submit Federal Financial Reports (SF-425).

In the future, all NIFA grant programs – both capacity and competitive – will be managed through ezFedGrants.

How does ezFedGrants affect the grant application process?

ezFedGrants streamlines capabilities for managing capacity grants. However, many grant application steps will remain the same. When eligible institutions apply to capacity grant Requests for Applications (RFAs), they will still apply through Grants.gov. The Automated Standard Application for Payment (ASAP) system will still be used to receive grant funds. Also, grantees will continue to use the REEport and Plan of Work systems for programmatic and accomplishment reporting.

When will ezFedGrants be available?

ezFedGrants went live in October 2016. Competitive grant programs will not use ezFedGrants until a later date, although the long-term goal is for NIFA to manage all of its grant programs in ezFedGrants.

If you are a grants administrative or financial officer who works with NIFA capacity programs at an eligible institution, then you may need access to ezFedGrants. This is a multi-step process, and complete instructions are available at www.nifa.usda.gov/ grants-modernization. Email operational questions on how to use the ezFedGrants system to **electronic@nifa.usda.gov**.

For more information and updates, visit the NIFA Grants Modernization webpage at www.nifa.usda.gov/ grants-modernization. If the website does not address your questions contact electronic@nifa.usda.gov.

Additional information and training aids can be found on the USDA ezFedGrants client page: https://nfc.usda.gov/FSS/clientservices/ezFedGrants/index.php