



National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
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# National Institute of Food and Agriculture: Finding Your Competitive Advantage

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# Keys to Competitive Success

- Understand NIFA mission
- Explore the full range of programs
  - **Many options (find your advantage!)**
- Communicate with the National Program Leader or Leaders in your area of interest
- Participate
  - Ad hoc Reviewer to Panelist
  - Grantsmanship Workshops
  - Applicant to Awardee!



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# Keys to Competitive Success: Understanding the NIFA Mission

- NIFA supports Agriculture
- Emphasis is on US Agriculture
- Applications vs proposals
- NIFA supports both applied and basic research
- NIFA also supports education and extension



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# Keys to Competitive Success: Explore Programs

- NIFA has over 40 different programs authorized by Congress
- Look to contribute to the mission and not just for your discipline in the program title
- Do you qualify for targeted support (EPSCoR, MSI, small to mid sized, New Investigator)?



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# Keys to Competitive Success: Communicate & Participate

- NIFA National Program Leader contact information in every Request for Applications
- It is the NPL's job to communicate with you, however you must be proactive!
- Participate: workshops, panels, apply
- Participate: mentors and wingmen



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## Panel Participation

- Panelists from diverse institutions including 1890 and minority serving institutions, federal labs, etc.
- Faculty from all levels (Assistant, Associate and Full Professor)
- Geographic balance
- Travel and Time commitment (NIFA pays travel and honorarium)
- Talk to the NPL and send CV. Be persistent.



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# Grantsmanship Workshops

- Provides overview of programs to applicants
- Mock Peer Review Panel
- “Face time” with National Program Leaders
- Tips on grant-writing from experts
- Travel fellowships for attendees from minority-serving institutions (up to 40)
- Offered in Washington, D.C.



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