

State Agricultural Experiment Stations¹ and Agricultural Research Programs: Capacity Grants/Programs Resource Guide²

Background:

“Capacity grants” is an encompassing term describing a type of federal assistance available through the National Institute for Food and Agriculture. Capacity grants, formerly known as formula funds, are available to the Land-grant University System. An institution’s designated authority determines which projects will be supported by the allocation to the institution.

While there are a number of capacity grants offered by NIFA, this resource focusses on programs that support research. These programs include the Hatch Regular Research Fund (or Hatch Regular), Hatch Multistate Research Fund (or Hatch Multistate), and Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-grant institutions (also known as Evans-Allen Research Program).

This resource list is intended to provide a user with administrative guides and websites, examples of institutional policies and practices, and general guide (with citations) for the commitment of the funds associated with capacity programs.

List of administrative resources:

- [Guidelines for Multistate Activities](#) (these are being updated)
- [User Guide for the National Information Management Support System \(NIMSS\)](#)
- [Northeastern Supplement to the Guidelines for Multistate Research Activities](#)
- [National Institute of Food and Agriculture \(NIFA\) Federal Assistance Policy Guide](#)
- [The Hatch Act of 1887 \(Regular Research Fund\) FY 2024 RFA](#)
- [The Hatch Act of 1887 \(Multistate Research Fund\) FY 2024 RFA](#)
- [Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-grant Institutions – Section 1445](#)

Informational websites:

- [agInnovation](#)
- [Multistate Research Fund Impacts](#)
- [Land-Grant Impacts](#)
- [ESCOPE](#)
- [Capacity Grants](#)
- [NIFA Reporting System](#)

Best practices:

- [Competitive Allocation of Capacity Funds](#) (in 2017 NERA assembled strategies that institutions use to competitively allocate capacity funds).

¹ The nationwide organization of 1862 state agricultural experiment stations and 1890 agricultural research programs is now known as [agInnovation](#).

² Compiled: January 30, 2024, by Rick Rhodes, David Leibovitz, and...

Institutional capacity fund policies and practices:

- Cornell University: <https://cals.cornell.edu/agricultural-experiment-station/funding-research/information-cornell-researchers>
- University of Massachusetts: <https://ag.umass.edu/research/information-about-accessing-research-funds>
- University of New Hampshire: <https://colsa.unh.edu/new-hampshire-agricultural-experiment-station/faculty/research-project-types>

1862 Institutions: State Agricultural Experiment Stations

Pertinent legislation, code of federal regulations, or policy guide citations that:

- Establish State Agricultural Experiment Stations ([Hatch Act of 1887 as currently amended](#)) and provides a definition of SAES as a “department which shall have been established, under direction of the college or university or agricultural departments of the college or university in each State in accordance with an Act approved July 2, 1862”. (The “Act” is the [First Morrill Act](#).)
- Provide the basis for federal funding of agricultural research at the State Agricultural Experiment Stations (The Hatch Act of 1887, [7 U.S. Code § 361a-i](#)).
- Describe the legislative authority and basis for federal funding for agricultural research activities at State Agricultural Experiment Stations ([The Hatch Act of 1887 \(Regular Research Fund\) FY 2024 RFA](#) and [The Hatch Act of 1887 \(Multistate Research Fund\) FY 2024 RFA](#)).
- Define the scope of work related to research, investigations, and experiments undertaken by State Agricultural Experiment Stations ([7 U.S. Code § 361b - Congressional statement of policy; researches, investigations and experiments](#)).
- Suggest that the areas of work that are eligible for support by Hatch funds (Hatch Regular and Match Multistate) are broad and include research on all aspects of agriculture, including soil and water conservation and use; plant and animal production, protection, and health; processing, distribution, safety, marketing, and utilization of food and agricultural products; forestry, including range management and range products; multiple use of forest rangelands, and urban forestry; aquaculture; home economics; human nutrition; rural and community development as it relates to agriculture; sustainable agriculture; and molecular biology and biotechnology inasmuch as work can contribute to agricultural advancements. Research may be conducted on issues of local, state, regional, or national concern ([The Hatch Act of 1887 \(Regular Research Fund\) FY 2024 RFA](#) and [The Hatch Act of 1887 \(Multistate Research Fund\) FY 2024 RFA](#)).

- Identify that the Hatch Act, through the Hatch Regular Research Fund and Hatch Multistate Research Fund, supports agricultural research at the State Agricultural Experiment Stations ([National Institute of Food and Agriculture \(NIFA\) Federal Assistance Policy Guide](#), page 208).
- Identify the State Agricultural Experiment Stations by name/institution ([The Hatch Act of 1887 \(Regular Research Fund\) FY 2024 RFA](#) and [The Hatch Act of 1887 \(Multistate Research Fund\) FY 2024 RFA](#)).
- Identify the allocation of funds to a State Agricultural Experiment Station and the required match (See Appendix A in [The Hatch Act of 1887 \(Regular Research Fund\) FY 2024 RFA](#) and [The Hatch Act of 1887 \(Multistate Research Fund\) FY 2024 RFA](#)).
- Designate the authority over the capacity funds to the “chief administrative officer, who is the same as the Experiment Station Director”. ([National Institute of Food and Agriculture \(NIFA\) Federal Assistance Policy Guide](#), page 208 and [7 U.S. Code § 361e. Payment of allotments to State agricultural experiment stations; directors and treasurers or other officers; accounting; reports to Secretary; replacement by States of diminished, lost or misapplied allotments; subsequent allotments or payments contingent on such replacement](#)).
- Identify the requirements of deploying the capacity funds including-
 - Submission of a Plan of Work ([7 U.S. Code § 361g. Duties of Secretary; ascertainment of entitlement of State to funds; plans of work](#)). The Plan of Work includes a summary of the planned projects or programs in the State using capacity funds, a description of how the 1:1 match requirement will be met, and a description of the merit (or peer) review process ([7 U.S. Code § 361c - Authorization of appropriations and allotments of grants](#)).
 - Dedicating twenty-five percent of the total Hatch allocation to a station to multistate agricultural research ([7 U.S. Code § 361c - Authorization of appropriations and allotments of grants](#)). This is typically met through the full deployment of a State Agricultural Experiment Station’s Hatch Multistate Research Fund allocation.
 - Hatch Regular Funds and Hatch Multistate Research funds may only be used on approved Hatch Regular and Hatch Multistate Research projects ([The Hatch Act of 1887 \(Regular Research Fund\) FY 2024 RFA](#) and [The Hatch Act of 1887 \(Multistate Research Fund\) FY 2024 RFA](#)).
 - Submission of reports that include a Plan of Work (POW) update, Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results (Annual Report), Program/Project Initiation in the NIFA Reporting System (NRS), Program/Project progress reports, Project

Financial Report, OGFM Supplemental, and Federal Financial Report (SF-425) ([The Hatch Act of 1887 \(Regular Research Fund\) FY 2024 RFA](#) and [The Hatch Act of 1887 \(Multistate Research Fund\) FY 2024 RFA](#)).

- Explain the activities and timeline for submitting a multistate research project proposal ([Northeastern Supplement to the Guidelines for Multistate Research Activities](#)).
- Provide the capacity grant reporting cycle ([NIFA Reporting System](#)).

1890 Institutions: Agricultural research activities

Pertinent legislation, code of federal regulations, or policy guide citations that:

- Provide the basis for federal funding for agricultural research at the 1890 Land-grant Institutions, including Tuskegee University, West Virginia State University, and Central State University ([7 U.S. Code § 3222 Agricultural research at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University](#)).
- Describe the legislative authority and basis for federal funding for agricultural research activities at State Agricultural Experiment Stations ([Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-grant Institutions – Section 1445](#)).
- Describes the purpose of the funding which is to support agricultural research activities at 1890 Land-grant Institutions that is aligned with the [USDA Strategic Plan 2022-2026 \(Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-grant Institutions – Section 1445\)](#).
- Identify the eligible universities by name ([Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-grant Institutions – Section 1445](#)).
- Identify the allocation of funds to a n 1890 Land-grant Institution and the required match (See Appendix A in [Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-grant Institutions – Section 1445](#)).
- Identify the requirements of deploying the capacity funds including-
 - Submission of a Plan of Work ([7 U.S. Code § 361g. Duties of Secretary; ascertainment of entitlement of State to funds; plans of work](#)). The Plan of Work includes a summary of the planned projects or programs in the State using capacity funds, a description of how the 1:1 match requirement will be met, and a description of the merit (or peer) review process ([7 U.S. Code § 361c - Authorization of appropriations and allotments of grants](#)).
 - Submission of reports that include a Plan of Work (POW) update, Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results (Annual Report), Program/Project Initiation in the NIFA Reporting System (NRS), Program/Project progress reports, Project

Financial Report, OGFM Supplemental, and Federal Financial Report (SF-425)
([Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-grant Institutions – Section 1445](#)).

- Provide the capacity grant reporting cycle ([NIFA Reporting System](#)).

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