

NIFA Update and Plan of Work Update

Q: What's the status of NIFA's response to the Plan of Work Panel Recommendations? Specifically: sharing KAs for to the NIFA priority areas? Including a table for reporting volunteer time?

A: The KA crosswalk to the five NIFA Priority Areas is now published on NIFA's AREERA State Plan of Work web page at:
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/reporting/planrept/pdf/11_crosswalk_kas_five_defs.pdf.

Q: I attended a conference where the NIFA speaker told us Childhood Obesity had been changed to be Nutrition and Childhood Obesity, which makes more sense. Childhood Obesity is a very narrow focus.

A: The NIFA Priority remains Childhood Obesity. If it changes in the future we will surely let you know.

Q: We listed one of our NIFA Planned Programs as "Climate Change and Natural Resources." Does this satisfy the requirement?

A: Yes

Q: So if we are going to be lumpers, it means deleting all 10 planned programs, and recreating them as the 5 NIFA plus one other state program, for the FY2010 Report? Right?

A: Yes and no. Yes you may recreate them as the 5 NIFA Priorities, but the requirement is that you have at least the five NIFA Priorities as Planned Programs. You may have more as your State sees fit. Thus, you are not limited to the five NIFA Priorities.

Q: Will the national indicators being produced by the National Outcomes and Indicators Workshop in New Orleans be expected to be used for this April 1 reports and updates?

A: No. We expect to have them ready for use by the Plan of Work and Annual Report due on April 1, 2012.

Q: When and how will you share the results from the Feb. national conference? Specifically implementation of recommendation re: outcomes and indicators?

A: We will first share them at the next Reporting Web Conference scheduled for April 14, 2011. We will also share them in a special Plan of Work Newsletter and plan to discuss them at the Administrator's Officers Conference in Anchorage, Alaska in May.

Q: Is there any update on when REEport will be active?

A: There is no further update. We are taking a step back and plan on deploying a more robust, complete system all at once instead of in phases as was originally planned.

Q: Reporting outcomes in the ARA asks for values then the text piece. I sometimes find the text I have represents a subset of the value I am reporting. If I include the data appropriate to the text it is appropriate to report this way?

A: Yes

Q: In the Dec. 9 web conference, you mentioned the possibility that the AD-419 will be simplified to "roll up" all of the "Other Federal Research Funds" line items (219-318) into a single line item. Are AD-419 improvements/updates still being discussed?

A: Yes, we are still discussing this issue. However, we are still heavily leaning towards simplifying that section to "roll up" all the "Other Federal Research Funds" line items (currently 219-318) into a single line item in the REEport financial report for formula grants.