

For the purpose of this program, the following definitions are applicable:

- (1) Beginning farmer or rancher means a person that has not operated a farm or ranch; or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years.
- (2) A socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmer, rancher, or agricultural producer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
- (3) A limited-resource farmer or rancher is one who has: 1) direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than \$116,800 in each of the previous 2 years (in 2005 dollars, adjusted for inflation each year), and 2) a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous 2 years.
- (4) Advisory Council means a group from the broad spectrum of stakeholders appointed by the Center Director to evaluate through a merit review process of pre-proposals and proposals and to make funding recommendations to the Center Director.
- (5) Agricultural Risk Management means the informed use, as appropriate, of the full range of agricultural risk management activities, including futures, options, agricultural trade options, crop insurance, cash forward contracting, debt reduction, production diversification, farm resources risk reduction and other risk management strategies, by agricultural producers. It includes those risks encountered in the production, marketing, financial, legal, and human resource(s) aspects of farm and ranch operations.
- (6) Authorized Center Officer means the Center Director or any employee of the Center who has the authority to issue or modify grant instruments on behalf of the Center director.
- (7) Authorized organizational representative means the president, director, chief executive officer, or other designated official of the applicant organization, who has the authority to commit the resources of the organization.
- (8) Budget period means the interval of time (usually 12 months) into which the project period is divided for budgetary and reporting purposes.
- (9) Cash contributions means the applicant's cash outlay, including the outlay of money contributed to the applicant by non-Federal third parties.
- (10) Center Director means the Director of the Regional Risk Management Education Center and any other officer or employee of the Center to whom the authority involved is delegated.
- (11) Department or USDA means the United States Department of Agriculture.
- (12) Education activity means formal classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, and practicum experience in the food and agricultural sciences and other related matters such as faculty development, student recruitment and services, curriculum development, instructional materials and equipment, and innovative teaching methodologies.

- (13) Extension activity means an act or process that delivers science-based knowledge and informal educational programs to people, enabling them to make practical decisions.
- (14) Grant means the award by the Center Director of funds to an eligible organization or individual to assist in meeting the costs of conducting, for the benefit of the public, an identified project which is intended and designed to accomplish the purpose of the program as identified in these guidelines.
- (15) Grantee means the organization designated in the grant award document as the responsible legal entity to which a grant is awarded.
- (16) Merit review means an evaluation whereby the quality and relevance of a proposed project to program goals are assessed.
- (17) Partnering means a joint effort among two or more institutions, organizations and/or other entities with the capacity to conduct projects intended and designed to accomplish the purpose of the program.
- (18) Performance target means expected measurable accomplishments that can be used to document the extent of change brought about by the project.
- (19) Project director means the single individual designated in the grant application and approved by the Secretary who is responsible for the direction and management of the project.
- (20) Prior approval means written approval evidencing prior consent by an authorized center officer as defined in (3) above.
- (21) Producers means individuals, families, or other entities in the U.S. engaged in the business of agricultural production and marketing before the farm gate.
- (22) Project means the particular activity within the scope of the program supported by a grant award.
- (23) Project period means the period, as stated in the award document, during which Federal sponsorship begins and ends.
- (24) Qualified Public and Private Entities means public or private groups, organizations, or institutions that have established and demonstrated capacities to conduct projects that accomplish the purposes of the program as designated in these guidelines.
- (25) Regions means (1) the **Northeast Region** consisting of the 12 northeast States and the District of Columbia (ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, and WV) ; (2) the **Southern Region** consisting of 13 States plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (VA, NC, SC, KY, TN, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA, TX, AR, and OK); the **North Central Region** consisting of 12 States (OH, MI, IN, IL, MO, KS, IA, WI, MN, NE, SD, and ND); and the **Western Region** consisting of 12 States and the American Territories in the Pacific (HI, AK, WA, OR, CA, ID, NV, UT, AZ, MT, WY, CO, and NM).
- (26) Third party in-kind contributions means non-cash contributions of property or services provided by non-Federal third parties, including real property, equipment, supplies and other expendable property, directly benefiting and specifically identifiable to a funded project or program.