



USDA plans to fund new research on humanitarian food aid

By Sara Wyant

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Washington, Feb. 25. Humanitarian food aid may one day be healthier, thanks to new research funded by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The agency expects to provide about \$3.8 million in grants to support the development and field testing of new ready-to-use foods, fortified blended foods, high-energy foods, micronutrient powders or other food products designed to improve the nutritional delivery and functional form of humanitarian food assistance.

"Millions of people around the world depend on food aid delivered by the United States for their survival every day," NIFA Director Roger Beachy said. "It is our responsibility to make sure that in emergency situations, these people are receiving food that supplies them with the nutrients they need."

NIFA expects to release the request for applications for the program next month with a 60-day open period. Approximately \$3.8 million in grants will be awarded in Fiscal Year 2010 on a competitive basis as part of NIFA's Food Aid Nutritional Education Program (FANEP) Projects.

Eligible applicants include state agricultural experiment stations and cooperative extension services, all colleges and universities, other research or education institutions and organizations, federal and private agencies and organizations and individuals who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Foreign entities are not eligible to apply; however, award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply, provided such organizations are necessary to conduct the project.

NIFA does not require cost-sharing or matching support for FANEP projects. However, priority will be given to applications that demonstrate active partnership with and in-kind support from the private sector.

FANEP is administered through Section 724 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Programs Appropriation Act (Public Law 111-80), which specified for a grant program to enhance the health of individuals, especially infants and young children, at risk for or suffering from malnutrition by further improving the nutritional content, product composition, packaging and other components of food products delivered

through the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program and the Food for Peace Title II humanitarian assistance programs.

Before applying, applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process, which can take as long as two weeks for new applicants. More info is at the [Grants.gov](#) Web site. For more information, visit www.nifa.usda.gov.

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