

USDA - Agricultural Research Service
1890 Faculty Research Sabbatical Program (FRSP)

FY 2020 Program Information



Application Deadline: **January 31, 2020**

ARS Point of Contact: **1890FRSP@usda.gov**

For additional information, contact Stephanie Pearl, Office of National Programs, at 202-510-8006.



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education, and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

Program Description

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is committed to enhancing the agricultural research capacity of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities (LGUs) by partnering with them in a program offering research and training opportunities to tenure-track and research-track faculty at 1890 LGUs. This 1890 Faculty Research Sabbatical Program (FRSP) will provide mutual benefit to the 1890 LGUs and ARS: 1890 LGU faculty will have the opportunity to work alongside ARS scientists in established research programs, develop new research skills and techniques, and co-author research papers resulting from these collaborations. ARS scientists will benefit from bringing new and talented partners into their research programs and establishing new research partnerships with 1890 LGUs.

ARS will invest up to \$500,000 each year into the 1890 FRSP, pending annual appropriations. Awards will be made to the 1890 LGU in the form of Non-Assistance Cooperative Agreements (NACAs) as authorized in 7 U.S.C. 3318(b). The ARS-LGU research partners may identify opportunities to develop additional long-term funding ideas to sustain their research relationships beyond the term of the sabbatical, including the [1890 Institution Teaching, Research and Extension Capacity Building Grants \(CBG\) Program](#) offered by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

For the Federal fiscal year (FY) 2020 program, applicants may propose to conduct cooperative research in one of the two following types of sabbaticals:

- A 6- to 12-month residency at an ARS laboratory, funded at up to \$125,000 to support expenses (e.g., salary, housing, personal living expenses, travel, and research costs); or
- A summer residency, funded at up to \$75,000 to support expenses (e.g., salary, housing, personal living expenses, travel, and research costs) for 2 consecutive 3-month summer residencies. Awards would support ongoing research collaborations through the end of the second summer residency.

Although this program is primarily intended to support 1890 LGU faculty members, faculty may opt to use a portion of their funds to support travel expenses of their students participating in the collaborative research project.

The ARS host mentor/ Principal Investigator (ARS PI) may retain up to \$25,000 of the total funding awarded for travel to the home institution of the 1890 LGU faculty member (Cooperator PI) or for laboratory supplies procured by ARS. The ARS host mentor will have the option to retain these funds in FY 2020 (preferred) and/or FY 2021.

ARS will make awards by April 1, 2020. Program participants must begin their proposed research collaboration no later than September 1, 2020. 1890 LGU faculty members must begin drawing funds from the FY20 NACA via the DHHS-Payment Management System no later than September 30, 2020. The residency at the ARS laboratory may begin as early as May 15, 2020, or as late as June 1, 2021. At the conclusion of the agreement, the 1890 LGU faculty member and ARS host mentor will be required to complete an accomplishment report.

The [ARS website](#) is a valuable resource 1890 LGU scientists can use to identify current ARS research projects and locations of interest. ARS is USDA's chief scientific in-house research agency and conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination to:

- Ensure high-quality, safe food, and other agricultural products;
- Assess the nutritional needs of Americans;
- Sustain a competitive agricultural economy;
- Enhance the natural resource base and the environment; and
- Provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.

ARS scientists who are soliciting new 1890 LGU collaborators are listed on the [1890 Partnerships Hub](#).

Eligibility

ARS will accept proposals from faculty at any of the 1890 LGUs for the 1890 FRSP. The proposal must be co-authored by:

- A tenure-track or research-track 1890 LGU faculty member who:
 - Has been employed for a minimum of 3 years in his/her current position at the time of proposal submission; and
 - Is approved for sabbatical leave by his/her home institution; and
- Any full time ARS scientist* (ARS host mentor) who:
 - Will be the ARS PI on the NACA and host mentor for the 1890 LGU faculty member;
 - Has successfully completed the prescribed probationary period, is in good standing relative to performance, and has his/her supervisor's approval;
 - Has adequate facilities and other resources needed to host the 1890 LGU faculty member; and

- Has worked with the 1890 LGU faculty member to identify a research project that is complementary and relevant to his/her in-house research program.

*The ARS host mentor must have an active delegation of authority as an ARS Principal Investigator prior to any award to the 1890 LGU. Category I or IV scientists or the National Agricultural Library are eligible to host 1890 LGU faculty through this program.

Any 1890 LGU faculty member who has participated in the 1890 Faculty Research Sabbatical Program in the past may reapply for the program, provided that at least 3 years have passed since the start date of their previous residency.

Proposal and Submission Instructions

Applicants may use the provided 1890 Faculty Research Sabbatical Program [Project Information Template](#) to complete their application. The 1890 LGU faculty member and his/her prospective ARS host mentor must jointly develop a proposal that contains the following information:

1. Names, affiliations, and contact information of the 1890 LGU faculty member and ARS host mentor;
2. An indication of whether the 1890 LGU faculty member has participated in the program in the past and a description of how the previous sabbatical built capacity;
3. Project number for the parent ARS intramural project (to be provided by the ARS host mentor);
4. Project title, sabbatical type, and anticipated start and end dates;
5. An introduction that provides background context and describes the significance of the proposed research;
6. Objectives of the work to be conducted by the 1890 LGU faculty member during his/her sabbatical leave;
7. Materials and methods required to accomplish the proposed research;
6. Resources currently available at the ARS location to support the proposed research;
7. Expected outputs and impacts of the proposed research;
8. Benefits of the proposed cooperative research to U.S. agriculture, the 1890 LGU, ARS, and the parent ARS intramural project;
9. Description of how the sabbatical will enhance the capabilities of the 1890 LGU faculty member and how capacity building will occur. This description should be prepared collaboratively by the 1890 LGU applicant and prospective ARS host mentor;
10. An explanation of how the proposed project differs from the 1890 LGU faculty member's previous 1890 FRSP sabbatical, if applicable; and
11. Requested budget (total not to exceed \$125,000 for the 6- to 12-month sabbatical or \$75,000 for the summer residency):
 - a. 1890 LGU faculty members shall prepare their budget on the [OMB Research and Related Budget form](#) and provide a separate budget justification. The funds requested in this form would be the funds included in the NACA to the 1890 LGU, if the project is funded.

- b. The ARS host mentor shall prepare their budget on page 8 of the [Project Information Template](#).

Additionally, applicants are required to provide:

- The curriculum vitae of the 1890 LGU faculty member;
- The curriculum vitae of the ARS host scientist (including any prior mentoring experience); and
- A letter from the Authorized Official of the 1890 LGU that:
 - Documents institutional approval for submission of the application and of the proposed research;
 - Describes the specific arrangements at the 1890 LGU with respect to salary and date and duration of the sabbatical leave; and
 - Recognizes the full-time nature of the sabbatical leave, including agreement that the 1890 LGU faculty member will be conducting the research at the ARS location and thus will be minimally engaged in their normal faculty duties.

Successful proposals will:

- Propose innovative research on some aspect of agriculture or food relevant to the ARS mission and programs;
- Have potential benefits and impact for the state where the 1890 LGU is located and beyond;
- Strengthen the expertise and research capacity of the 1890 LGU applicant; and
- Enhance the scope or impact of the ARS host mentor's research project.

Note: this is not a Federal assistance award and does not involve Grants.gov. The ARS host mentor must submit the completed application package to their Research Leader who shall forward the application package(s) to their Area Director's Office. The Area Director's Office must then email all approved applications to 1890FRSP@usda.gov no later than January 31, 2020.

Application Review and Selection

All application packages for the 1890 Faculty Research Sabbatical Program will be screened to ensure they satisfy the requirements as described above. Those that do not will be returned without additional review.

Proposals will be reviewed by an internal panel and evaluated on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the ARS mission;
- Ability to further the development of the 1890 LGU faculty applicant;
- Scientific merit of the proposed research; and
- Relevance and utility to the base-funded research of the ARS host scientist.

Although ARS will attempt to maximize the number of institutions receiving awards, multiple awards may be made to the same university based on the quality of the proposals.

The ARS Administrator will make the final selection of proposals for funding based on the panel's evaluations.