



## **MISSION**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) mission is to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues.

# DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## **BUDGET**

~\$38M Combined SBIR/STTR budget

## **NUMBER OF AWARDS**

Phase I ~80 per year

Phase II ~35 per year

## **UNIQUENESS**

In addition to the agricultural science topics, USDA also includes programs to support rural community development – In 2019, The National Institute of Food and Agriculture awarded 13 grants to U.S. small business to promote and improve sustainability and profitability of small and mid-size farms and ranches, and nine grants for rural and community development.

## **TOPIC AREAS / AREAS OF INTEREST**

- **Forests and Related Resources** - Focuses on the health, diversity and productivity of forests and grasslands by sustaining forest resources, addressing climate change impacts, developing value-added materials and protecting existing ecosystems.
- **Plant Production and Protection** – Biology - enhances crop production and protection through biological approaches that reduce the impact of harmful agents, advance plant improvement methods, and develop new food and specialty crop plants.
- **Animal Production and Protection** - Develops and markets innovative technologies to help agricultural animal producers improve production efficiency, prevent diseases and outbreaks, conserve resources, and reduce costs of production.
- **Conservation of Natural Resources** - Creates technology for conserving and protecting essential resources while sustaining optimal agricultural productivity by enhancing air, soil, and water quality; developing irrigation techniques; reducing erosion and pollution caused by agriculture enterprises; and promoting these new technologies.
- **Food Science and Nutrition** - Develops products and processes from new knowledge; improves methods of processing and packaging for better quality and nutritional value; and promotes programs and products that increase consumption and understanding of healthy foods while reducing childhood obesity.
- **Rural and Community Development** - Conceptualizes and commercializes new and existing technology, products, processes and services that enhance efficiency and equity of public and private investments; builds a diversified workforce; increases resilience to natural and human disasters; and improves economic vitality of rural communities and the reduction of poverty.
- **Aquaculture** - Improves private sector production and competitiveness by increasing reproductive efficiency and genetic improvement in fish and shellfish; enhancing animal health, food safety, production efficiency, and cost-effective production of alternative proteins; and reducing water usage.
- **Biofuels and Biobased Products** - Promotes product usage through innovative technologies that increase biofuels and biobased products from agricultural materials and provide new opportunities to diversify agriculture's role in the raw materials industry.
- **Small and Mid-size Farm** - Increases sustainability and profitability of farms and ranches through newly developed plant, animal, organic, and natural products; enhanced farm safety; increased operation efficiency; and conservation of natural resources.
- **Plant Production and Protection** – Engineering - Enhances crop development and safety by reducing the impact of harmful agents and developing economically and environmentally.

**General SBIR Program Information:** <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/small-business-innovation-research-program-sbir>

**USDA funding requirements:** <https://nifa.usda.gov/grants>

**USDA Funding Opportunities:** <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/page/search-grants>