

National Research Initiative (NRI)

Increased funding needed for key competitive grants program at CSREES.

The United States has a university-based system that integrates agriculture, health, and environmental research with higher education and public outreach activities. This unique system is a partnership between America's land-grant and related universities and the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

Some CSREES programs are administered under formulae that provide each state and territory with sufficient funds to underwrite vital agriculture and natural resource research stations and extension offices. However, many other programs — most notably the National Research Initiative (NRI) — require scientists and professionals from universities across the nation to compete directly against each other in peer-reviewed competitions.

Both Congress and the administration have recognized the enormous value of CSREES competitive programs in recent years by providing modest increases to the NRI. However, much more must be done:

- America's farmers and foresters need additional genomic data and biotechnology tools to expand food and fiber production, processing, and international trade.
- U.S. healthcare professionals need greater insight into the relationships between diet and health.
- Extension specialists and their clients need expanded knowledge about water quality to help protect the environment and safeguard our food system.
- University educators need additional funding to train new generations of food, agriculture, and natural resource scientists (many of whom are turning to better-funded disciplines).

NASULGC supports the President's CSREES budget request of \$256.500 million for the National Research Initiative.

NASULGC'S PRIORITY REQUEST FOR FY 2009

- National Research Initiative \$256.500 M



The NRI supports leading-edge research, extension, and teaching efforts that...

- Explore the linkages between food and health, thereby helping to combat obesity and chronic diseases.
- Provide innovative new methods to fight insects, weeds, and plant and animal diseases on farms, forests, and ranches.
- Establish new crops, improve livestock, and establish new economic opportunities through genomics and molecular biology.
- Create better food and processing techniques, leading to higher values and greater profitability.
- Help keep pathogens and other dangers from our air, water, soil, plants, and animals.
- Generate new economic opportunities to sustain and grow rural communities.



NASULGC, A Public University Association, represents 217 U.S. universities and has members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.

National Research Initiative (NRI)

Appropriations Bill	Agriculture
Agency	Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (USDA)
Account	Research and Education Activities
Project (Program) Name	National Research Initiative

Requested Amount **\$256,500,000**

Authorization	7 U.S.C. 450i(b), (National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977.)
Description	This CSREES <u>program</u> provides peer-reviewed, competitively-awarded grants to support: (1) high priority fundamental and mission-linked research of importance in the biological, environmental, physical, and social sciences relevant to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural communities; and (2) competitively awarded research, extension, and education grants addressing key issues of national and regional importance to agriculture, forestry, and related topics.
Benefits / Impacts Justification / Explanation	<p>The National Research Initiative is the flagship CSREES competitive grants programs. It benefits the nation in numerous ways, providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ America’s farmers and foresters with the genomic data and biotechnology tools to expand food and fiber production, processing, and international trade. ■ U.S. healthcare professionals with insight into the relationships between diet and health. ■ Extension specialists and their clients expanded knowledge about water quality to help protect the environment and safeguard our food system. ■ University educators with the funding to train new generations of food, agriculture, and natural resource scientists.

Funding History

FY 2009 (President’s Budget)	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2004
\$256,500,000	\$190,883,000	\$190,229,000	\$181,170,000	\$179,552,000	\$164,027,000

Misc. Information

Matching Funds	There is no matching requirement.
Final Recipients	1862, 1890, and 1994 Land-Grant institutions; other universities; government agencies; and a wide variety of other eligible recipients.
Note for Senate Offices	Funding is <u>not</u> being requested for this program through another appropriations bill.

Additional Information > www.nasulgc-bac.com/kb.htm