

# CREATE-21

## FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSES

CREATE-21 is a bold and comprehensive plan to double authorized funding levels for intramural and extramural food, agricultural, and natural resource research, teaching, and extension programs at USDA. This element is included within the CREATE-21 proposal because there are dozens of critical and urgent national problems that will not be solved in an acceptable timeframe unless USDA science program levels are substantially and immediately increased.

The other fundamental purpose of CREATE-21 is to bring together in a single organization the many scientific research agencies, offices, programs, projects, personnel, and facilities currently spread across USDA and more tightly integrate this intramural research capacity with the extramural research, teaching, and extension capacity within land-grant universities and related institutions.

## DETAILS AND BENEFITS

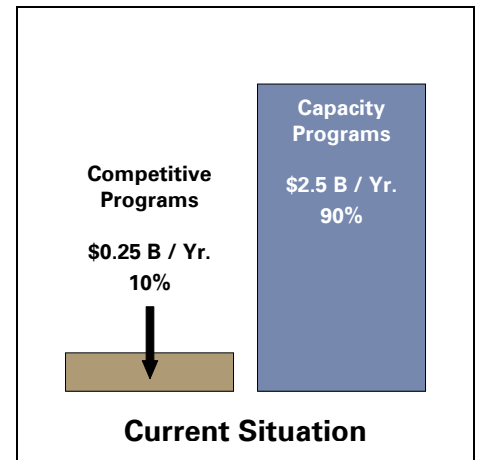
Food, agricultural, and natural resources research, extension, and education programs are spread over four USDA agencies: (1) Agriculture Research Service (ARS); (2) Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES); (3) Economic Research Service (ERS); and (4) Forest Service R&D. As a result, there is frequent programmatic duplication, no “lead-agency” to address critical national issues, and a lack of clear and simple integration across agencies.

CREATE-21 addresses these shortcomings by integrating ARS, CSREES, ERS, and Forest Service R&D (including their functions, personnel, programs, and activities) within a new organization, the National Institutes for Food and Agriculture (NIFA):

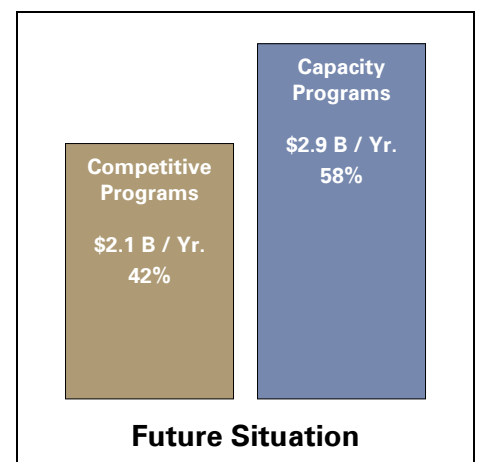
- NIFA will be an independent agency reporting directly to the Secretary of Agriculture and headed by a Director who is an acknowledged expert. The Director will be nominated by the President, confirmed by the Senate for a single six-year term, and guided and assisted by a Council of Advisors. (This is loosely modeled on a structure similar to those successfully employed by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.)
- The Director and his/her team will manage a broad and integrated portfolio of programs organized by problem/solution areas and will include six national institutes: (1) Economic Opportunities in Agriculture and Natural Resources; (2) Nutrition and Health; (3) Rural and Urban Community Development; (4) Natural Resources and Environment; (5) Food Safety and Agricultural Security; and (6) Families, Youth, and Communities.



*From Mostly Capacity...*



*... to a Balanced Portfolio*



**Continues...**

- NIFA’s “competitive” programs will be open to all qualified universities/investigators and will be aimed at solving problems of pressing multistate, national, or international significance.
- NIFA’s “capacity” programs will maintain and expand the intramural research capabilities within USDA (e.g. ARS, ERS, and USFS R&D) and the research, extension, education, and international capabilities within land-grant universities and related institutions.
- Finally, NIFA will have special funding provisions to enhance the capacity and competitiveness of the 1890, 1994, small 1862 land-grant institutions, and related agricultural colleges.

**POSITIVE OUTCOMES**

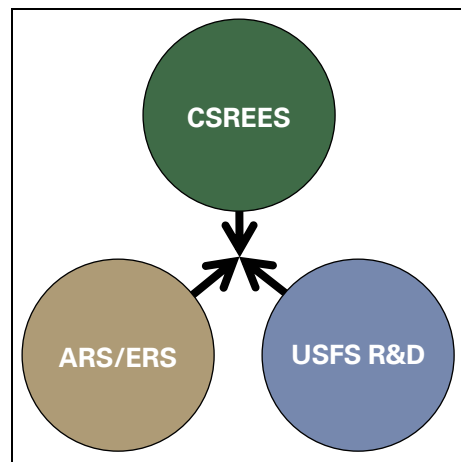
We believe that integrating ARS, CSREES, ERS, and Forest Service R&D into one cohesive organization will produce several positive outcomes:

- Program integration will be strengthened by consolidating the research capacity of ARS, ERS, and Forest Service R&D and aligning these intramural resources more closely with the research, education, and extension capacity of America’s land-grant universities and related institutions.
- Budgetary efficiency will be improved through elimination of duplicative programs and activities and a streamlined bureaucracy.
- Organizational flexibility will be increased through a variable structure organized around six major problem-solution areas (the six institutes listed above).
- Stakeholder participation will be enhanced through a Council of Advisors and other new mechanisms for improved and increased input at all levels.

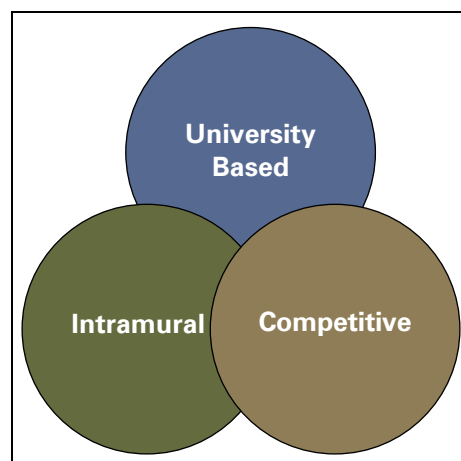
In addition to the organizational elements described above, CREATE-21 envisions increased funding for NIFA’s competitive and capacity programs:

- Competitive funding will (after seven years) reach \$2.1 billion per year, with fundamental research constituting 55 percent of the total and integrated programs the remaining 45 percent.
- Capacity funding will (after seven years) reach \$2.9 billion per year, enabling intramural USDA research and extramural programs at land-grant universities and related institutions to maintain and extend their base operations.
- If CREATE-21 is enacted and fully funded, after seven years the competitive/capacity ratio – considering existing funds (\$2.7 billion) and new funds (\$2.7 billion) – would be 42 percent competitive and 58 percent capacity funding. Currently, the ratio is approximately 10 percent competitive and 90 percent capacity.
- However, to “jump start” the funding enhancement program, \$200 million per year in mandatory funding would flow immediately to NIFA from the statutory authority for the Initiative for Future Agricultural and Food Systems (IFAFS) program.

*From Collaboration...*



*... to Integration*



**CREATE-21 is a proposal from the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. NASULGC, a public university association, has 215 members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.**

**For More Information:  
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