



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# Funding Opportunity - American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals

General Interest Outreach Webinar

November 7, 2022

# Webinar Agenda

- Introduction to APHIS' Work under the American Rescue Plan – *Abby Stilwell, Program Manager*
- General Funding Information and Priorities – *Sarah Allely, Program Manager*
- How to Apply – *Christina Klaus, Agreements Specialist*
- Guidelines for Using ARP Funds – *Heather Trainum, Agreements Specialist*
- Proposal Review Process – *Sarah Allely, Program Manager*
- Tips for Applicants – *Abby Stilwell, Program Manager*
- Wrap Up and Q&A – *Travis Weger, Public Affairs Specialist*

*\*The webinar recording, and a PDF of the slides will be available on the APHIS One Health website on the Funding Opportunities page*

APHIS provided crucial support during the U.S. response to the COVID-19 pandemic

## **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**

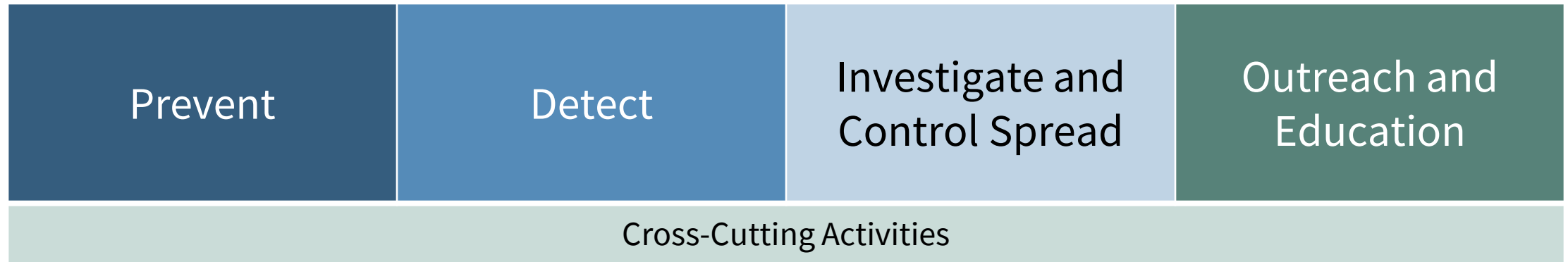
- Included \$300 million in funding for APHIS to conduct monitoring and surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 in susceptible animals







# APHIS' Strategic Framework



“We developed this Strategic Framework to build One Health capacity and improve the country’s ability to prevent, detect, report, and respond to SARS-CoV-2, including potential emerging variants.”

—APHIS' American Rescue Plan (ARP) Surveillance Program: Strategic Framework

# Animal groups

- Farmed animals
- Companion animals
- Free-ranging wildlife
- Animals in human care

# Focus areas

- Enhance surveillance
- Determine animal susceptibility
- Enhance biosecurity practices
- Understand transmission
- Improve diagnostics



# General Funding Information and Priorities





# ARP Funding Opportunities

Funding Opportunity	Eligible Applicants	Open Period	Funding
SARS-CoV-2 in Animals (General)	Cooperators within U.S. States and territories including State and Federal agencies, Tribal nations, universities, nongovernmental organizations, and private entities	Nov 1, 2022 – Jan 15, 2023	Up to \$25 million
SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Opportunity (Tribal)	Tribes, Tribal Organizations and those working on their behalf	Nov 1, 2022 – Jan 31, 2023	Up to \$5 million

APHIS is providing up to \$30 million to fund key activities that meet our priorities

# ARP Funding Opportunities: Funding Priorities

1

Address gaps in surveillance and investigation activities for SARS-CoV-2 in animals, including farmed animals, captive wildlife, free-ranging wildlife, and companion animals.

2

Expand knowledge of species susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 to improve understanding of potential roles or routes of transmission.

3

Develop surveillance tools and strategies for the rapid detection and characterization of new variants of SARS-CoV-2 to support an early warning system to prevent or limit future SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks.

4

Identify effective interventions, and other measures to prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2 at the human-animal interface and/or impacts on the food supply.



*[Read the details about the funding priorities in the announcement.](#)*



# Important Dates

Event	General Opportunity	Tribal Opportunity
Application Deadline	January 15, 2023	January 31, 2023
Complete Initial Application Screening*	January 20, 2023	February 3, 2023
Review Period*	February 2023	February 2023
APHIS Approval of Spending Plan* Applicant Notification*	March 2023	March 2023
Execute Awards and Begin Projects*	March – May 2023	March – May 2023

\*Estimated timeline

# Additional Webinars

Webinar	Date	Time
Second General Outreach Webinar	November 14, 2022	11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. EST
First Tribal Outreach Webinar	November 29, 2022	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EST
Second Tribal Outreach Webinar	December 13, 2022	1:00 p.m. -2:30 p.m. EST
<a href="#">ezFedGrants Training</a>	Various	Various

# General Information

This funding opportunity is provided to carry out the animal health provision as described in Section 1001 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP).

- An eligible applicant may submit multiple proposals for this funding opportunity
- Applicants may request between \$50,000 and \$5,000,000 per proposal
- Project start dates: Mar 15 – May 15, 2023

APHIS will prioritize projects that address the needs of high-risk, underserved, non-traditional, niche, and hard-to-reach audiences.

# How to Apply for ARP Funds





# Pre-Work

If you think you will ever apply for any APHIS funding, do this pre-work now to avoid obstacles during the application process.

- **Register with System for Award Management (SAM.gov):** Register with SAM.gov. Please allow at least two weeks after you submit your registration for it to become active in SAM.gov.
  - \*NEW\* Complete the **Financial Assistance Certification Report** on SAM.gov
- **Create an eAuthentication Account:** <https://www.eauth.usda.gov/home>
  - USDA eAuthentication Local Registration Authority Locations  
<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?type=lra>
- **Establish an ezFedGrants (eFG) Account:** USDA ezFedGrants system (<https://www.ocfo.usda.gov/ezFedGrants>)



**ezFedGrants**

# Additional Administrative Information

## Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) replaced the DUNS on April 4, 2022

- Applicants are now **required** to have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Number
  - The UEI number is automatically assigned when a new entity is registered in SAM.gov
  - If your organization is already registered in Sam.gov, you have already been automatically assigned a UEI number and no additional actions are needed
  - The Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number is no longer necessary
  - Make sure to register early to avoid delays

# Requesting ezFedGrants Access

There are two steps to request access to ezFedGrants:

- Request USDA Level 2 eAuthentication
- Request access to ezFedGrants

## Job Aids:

For help with **existing** eAuthentication accounts or passwords, you can [visit the USDA eAuthentication Website](#) for help. Additional information is also available here: [eAuthentication Frequently Asked Questions](#).

For help with the USDA ezFedGrants system, applicants may contact the ezFedGrants help desk at [ezFedGrants@cfo.usda.gov](mailto:ezFedGrants@cfo.usda.gov)

# Federal vs. Non-Federal Applicants

- **Non-Federal applicants** must submit all application materials electronically using [ezFedGrants](#)
- An overview of the [ezFedGrants](#) system can be found on the following website: <https://www.ocfo.usda.gov/ezFedGrants>
- **Federal applicants** must submit all required application materials via email to [APHIS.ARP.Agreements@usda.gov](mailto:APHIS.ARP.Agreements@usda.gov) by the deadline listed below.

Application packages must be submitted by  
11:59 PM HST on **January 15, 2023**



# What to Include in the Application

- **Work Plan** - *this is the BODY of your proposal*
- **Financial Plan**
- **SF-424** – Application for Federal Assistance (*completed directly in ezFedGrants*)
- **SF-424A** – Budget Information (*completed directly in ezFedGrants*)
- **Certification Regarding Lobbying** – Only for awards >\$100K
- **SF-LLL** – Disclosure of Lobbying Activities; only for awards >\$100K
- **Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement** – If claiming indirect costs
- **Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Correspondence** – If applicable

## ✓ American Rescue Plan Funding Opportunity

USDA APHIS American Rescue Plan (ARP):  
SARS-CoV-2 in Animals General and Tribal  
Funding Opportunities – Information for  
Applicants

**All forms are  
located on the  
APHIS One Health  
Website**

# Work Plan

- Located on the [One Health website](#)
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the work plan template provided
- The template includes detailed guidance for all required information in the Work Plan
- When completed, upload your Work Plan attachment in ezFedGrants

American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals  
Proposal Work Plan Template

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

**Project Title**

**Name of Organization Submitting the Proposal**

**Type of applicant**  
Select the type of applicant that most closely represent the organization submitting the proposal:  
Choose an item.

*For Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments or Native American Tribal organizations representing Federally recognized Native American Tribal Governments, list the name(s) of the Indian Tribal entities as they appear on the Bureau of Indian Affairs, [Interior; Indian Tribal Entities Within the Contiguous 48 States Recognized by and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs website](#).*

**Total Funding Amount Requested**

*\$ Amount listed here should match the Financial Plan, SF-424, and SF-424A. Use whole dollar amounts.*

**Regulatory Compliance Statement**  
Select *one* statement from the following:

The activities described in this proposed Work Plan are compliant with current Federal

# Financial Plan

DETAILED FINANCIAL PLAN TEMPLATE			
American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals			
This Financial Plan for non-Federal entities must match the SF-424-A, Section B – Budget Categories. Funding requested under the budget categories must be described in the Work Plan.			
Project Title:			
Recipient Name:			
Time Period:	(to be added post award)		
		Year 1	
Cost Category	Item Description	Quantity	Requested Amount
Personnel			
	Personnel Subtotal		\$
Fringe Benefits			
	Fringe Subtotal		\$
Travel			

- Template is located on the [APHIS One Health website](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/onehealth)
- Financial Plan must match the SF-424A, Section B Budget Categories:
  - Personnel
  - Fringe Benefits
  - Travel
  - Equipment
  - Supplies
  - Contractual
  - Other
  - Totals
- Must align with the budget narrative in the Work Plan
- Upload as an Excel attachment in ezFedGrants

# Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

- If your State is required to comply with Executive Order 12372 (Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs), then include a waiver or approval response letter from your State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC)
- Check the [State SPOC List](#) for the most current list of required States and contact information

Under Executive Order (EO) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," States may design their own process for reviewing and commenting on proposed Federal

## \* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?

- a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on
- b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.



# Guidelines for Using ARP Funds



# Use of Funds: Allowable Costs

- ✓ Personnel
- ✓ Outreach material
- ✓ Equipment
  - Information technology systems
  - Useful life >1 year
  - Value over \$5,000
- ✓ Travel



Allowable costs must be reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project completion

# Use of Funds: Unallowable Costs

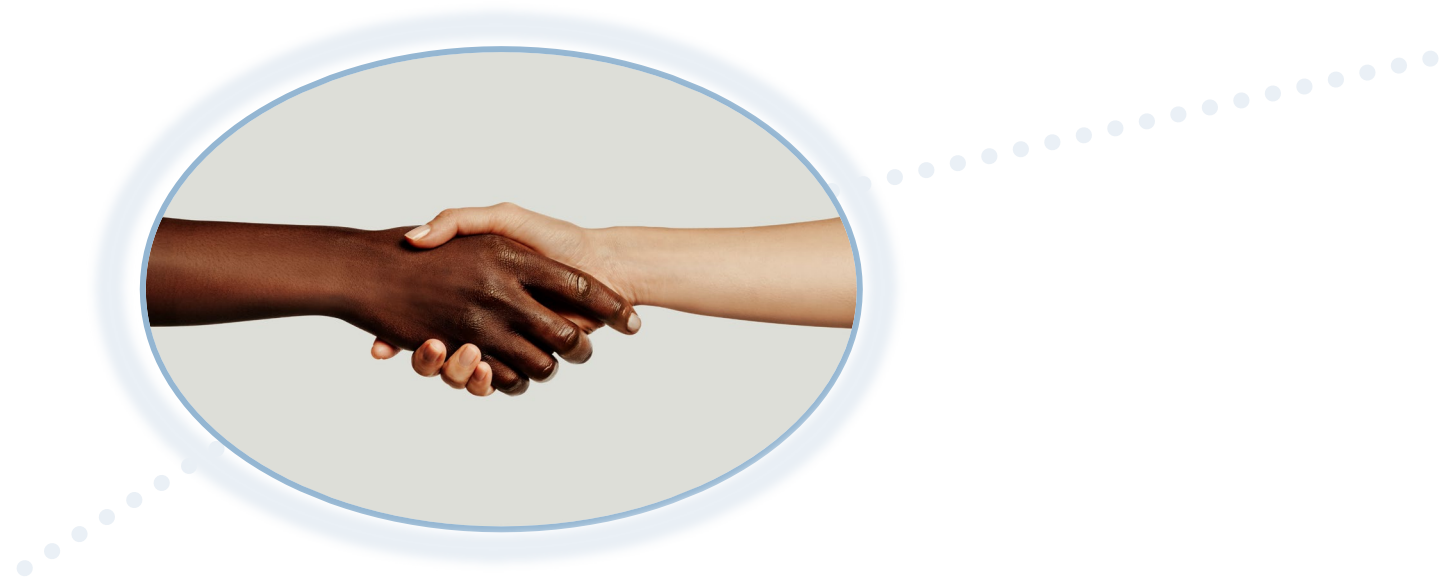
- x Costs incurred prior to effective date of the agreement
- x Construction of a new building/facility, or the acquisition/expansion of existing building/facility
- x Land acquisition
- x Promotional or thank-you materials, incentives to participate
- x Bonuses or commissions
- x Management fees and profit
- x Fundraising
- x Meeting, conference, symposia, or workshop honoraria, as payment other than for documented professional services.
- x Vehicle purchases or leases.

# Use of Funds: Unallowable Costs

- x Positions funded by other Federal cooperative agreements or grants
- x International travel for conferences, symposia, or trainings.
- x Projects/activities funded via APHIS cooperative agreements
- x Compensation for Federal employees
- x Travel for Federal Employees
- x Federal subawards

# Use of Funds: Cost Sharing/ Matching

- Cost share/match is not required for cooperative agreements
- If a recipient includes cost share in their budget proposal and it is accepted by APHIS, the commitment of funds becomes legally binding, must be reported on the SF-425, and is subject to audit



# Use of Funds: ARP Indirect Costs

## How to Calculate Indirect Costs

- Indirect costs are limited to no more than 10 percent of project's total direct costs or the application of an indirect cost rate agreement, whichever is less.
- State, local, and Tribal government entities are not capped at 10 percent.
- If claiming indirect costs and an Indirect Cost Rate has been negotiated, submit a copy of the current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA).
- Recipients who do not have a current NICRA may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs.
- Indirect costs must be disclosed for any sub-award.

# Use of Funds: Cost Effectiveness

## Project proposal costs must be:

- Reasonable
- Necessary for project objectives
- Leverage existing resources- personnel, vehicles, computers, where possible

Project team trip to a Huge Resort?  
Probably not...





# Proposal Review Process



# Review Process

- **Initial Screening**  
APHIS verifies initial eligibility criteria.
- **Reviewers Score, Discuss, and Rank Proposals**  
Teams of subject matter experts score, discuss, and rank proposals in each funding priority and then make final recommendations.
- **APHIS Approval**  
APHIS reviews the recommended proposals, finalizes decisions, and approves the final Spending Plan for USDA APHIS American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals.
- **Applicant Notification**  
APHIS notifies applicants, announces the final spending plan, and publishes list of funded projects.

# What are the Evaluation Criteria?

1. Addresses the priorities and requirements in the announcement
2. Feasibility of success
3. Impact and value of the project's deliverables and outcomes and implementation of equity
4. Cost effectiveness



# Tips for Applicants



# Best Practices

*Get started early!*

- Follow all instructions in the announcement
- Align your proposal to the priorities
- Ensure financial requests are reasonable and justifiable.
- Clearly define the need or problem the proposal addresses
- Total amount of funding in Work Plan, Financial Plan, SF424 and SF424A is the same



**Ask Questions!**



# Selecting the Appropriate Funding Priority



If you wish to submit proposals for more than one project, submit each proposal in a separate application package.

In the Work Plan, select one priority that your proposal most strongly supports.

- Address gaps in surveillance and investigation activities for SARS-CoV-2 in animals, including farmed animals, captive wildlife, free-ranging wildlife, and companion animals.
- Expand knowledge of species susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 to improve understanding of potential roles or routes of transmission.
- Develop surveillance tools and strategies for the rapid detection and characterization of new variants of SARS-CoV-2 to support an early warning system to prevent or limit future SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks.
- Identify effective interventions, and other measures to prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2 at the human-animal interface and/or impacts on the food supply.

# Work Plan Tips

- Work plan should contain all information requested in the work plan template
- Page limits:
  - Template: 20 pages max
  - No template: 10 pages max
- Proposal should directly and clearly support at least one funding priority
- Contact information is correct
- Work plans should be:
  - Well written and easy to follow
  - Have clear objectives
  - Define deliverables and outcomes for each objective
  - Have objectives that are measurable, attainable and realistic
  - Provide sufficient detail to convince reviewers you throughout the process and understand the needed resources



# Other Tips

- ezFedGrants
  - Attachment titles must be 8 characters or less
  - Avoid special characters in file names (e.g., \$, %, &, \*)
  - Ensure all track changes are accepted
  - Do not password protect attachments
- SF 424
  - Ensure congressional district is completed (box 16)
  - Indicate SPOC status in Box 19 if applicable
- Financial Plan
  - Total budget must be the same as reported in SF-424, SF-424A and work plan
  - Clearly Financial Plan items to Work plan objectives
  - Make sure indirect costs are correct
  - Include costs sharing if applicable
  - Use only whole dollar amounts where feasible
  - Submit the financial plan in Excel file format, not PDF

**Make sure your contact information is correct!**

**Questions?**



# Still have questions?

## Funding opportunity, required documents, ezFedGrants process

- [APHIS.ARP.Agreements@usda.gov](mailto:APHIS.ARP.Agreements@usda.gov)
- [Sarah.T.Allely@usda.gov](mailto:Sarah.T.Allely@usda.gov)
- [Abby.R.Stilwell@usda.gov](mailto:Abby.R.Stilwell@usda.gov)

## APHIS' American Rescue Plan Office

- [mrp-aphis-arp-pmo@usda.gov](mailto:mrp-aphis-arp-pmo@usda.gov)

### One Health - Funding Opportunities

One Health | SARS-CoV-2 in Animals | Building an Early Warning System | Keeping Animals and People Safe | Animal Health Officials and Veterinarians | Funding Opportunities

