Capacity & Competitive USDA NIFA Grants Management at Michigan State Univ.

How We Utilize Internal Partnerships to Manage our USDA NIFA Grant Funding
Topic Summary

- MSU College of Agriculture & Natural Resources (CANR), AgBioResearch (AES) & Extension (CES) Structure
- Capacity Grant Life Cycle at MSU
- Competitive Grant Life Cycle at MSU
- MSU AgBioResearch Overview (Ag Experiment Station)
- MSU Extension Overview (Cooperative Extension Service)
MSU Structure

While the Directors of AgBioResearch & MSU Extension both report to the Dean of CANR, they each have budget autonomy for USDA NIFA funds and funding from the State of MI.

- **NIFA Funds**: MSU designates the Directors of AgBioResearch and MSU Extension as the administrators to have overall control and authority over the allocation and use of the respective capacity grant awards within the institution.

- **State of MI Funds**: Both AgBioResearch and Extension have line items in the State of MI budget, separate from MSU as a whole, for which the respective Directors are responsible. This is different than many state systems, where all state funding is combined together.
Capacity Grant Life Cycle at MSU

- Capacity Grants are managed by MSU’s College of Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget & Finance Office (BFO)
  - BFO teams with OSP (pre-award) and CGA (post-award) to administer Capacity Grant funding. Very much a partnership!
  - OSP assists in the Grants.gov Capacity Grant RFA submission process, as MSU’s Authorized Representatives reside centrally in that office.
  - CGA assists in award setup & draws Capacity Grant funding independently based on expenditures. This draw activity is then communicated to BFO.
  - BFO manages Capacity Grant cost sharing/matching commitments using MSU’s central, UG compliant, after-the-fact effort reporting system that is certified twice per year. State funds used to pay faculty salary provide 100% of our match.
  - BFO prepares SF-425 financial reports using expenditure data extracted from MSU’s central accounting system (Kuali Financial System) and provides audit information when requested, in partnership with CGA
Competitive Grant Life Cycle at MSU

- Competitive NIFA funding is managed by MSU’s Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) and Contract & Grant Administration (CGA)
  - College/Unit research office staff work with OSP (pre-award) on the Grants.gov Competitive Grant RFA submission process
  - CGA handles Competitive Grant award setup and draws funds as appropriate
  - CGA handles any Competitive Grant cost share commitments
  - CGA submits all required financial reports and is the lead for all audits at the University.
MSU AgBioResearch Funding
FY20 Total: $122,644,080

- University General
  - $3,330,464 (3%)
- State Funding
  - $34,937,314 (28%)
- Federal Capacity
  - $7,301,691 (6%)
- Competitive Grants
  - $77,104,611 (63%)
MSU AgBioResearch Federal Capacity Funds
FY20 Total: $7,301,691

- Hatch: $5,517,905
- Hatch Multistate: $1,335,654
- McIntire-Stennis: $350,965
- Animal Health: $97,167
MSU AgBioResearch Funding Across MSU

Funding across 7 Colleges
  - College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
  - College of Natural Science
  - College of Veterinary Medicine
  - College of Engineering
  - College of Social Science
  - Communication Arts and Sciences
  - College of Arts and Letters

Support
  - 350 Faculty
  - Salary, Fringe and Operations
  - Focused Program Support
  - Travel
  - Research Projects
  - Infrastructure and Specialized Equipment Needs
AgBioResearch Funding Management

Director Level Decisions

- Funding Availability
- Collaborative
- Funding Partnerships
- Projects
- Impact

Spending Controls

- Autonomous
- Effort Certification
- Link projects to research expenditures
- Reporting
- Review of Indirect Cost Return
14 districts – 15 District Directors

246+ educators and specialists

195+ paraprofessionals

~109 professional support

158+ temporary, on-call and students
MSU Extension FY20 Funding = $90.8 million

**90% of funding is expended on salary and fringe benefits**
MSU Extension FY20 Federal Capacity Funds $11.7 m

- Smith-Lever (3b&c): 9,690,205, 83%
- Renewable Resources: 76,866, 1%
- EFNEP: 1,926,674, 16%
MSU Extension Funding Across MSU

- **Funding in 3 Colleges**
  - College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
  - College Social Science
  - College of Veterinary Medicine

- **4 Extension Institutes**
  - Ag and Agribusiness Institute
  - Children and Youth Institute
    - 4H
  - Greening Michigan Institute
  - Health and Nutrition Institute
    - EFNEP
    - SNAP-ED

- **County Funding is distributed among the 4 Extension Institutes**
  - Provides access to the Extension network of Educators, faculty and specialist as well as Statewide programs
MSU Extension Funding Annual Process

- Academic Units
  - State funding
    - Salary & Operating
    - Projects and fixed term positions annual reviews for funding

- Extension Institute
  - State, Federal Capacity, County
    - Annual budget request process