USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS Watershed Infrastructure Agreements

Grants & Agreements Division
May 18, 2022

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Topics Covered

- Introduction – Programs and Award Type
- Pre-Award
  - Application Documents
  - System for Award Management and Unique Entity Identifier
  - Executive Order 12372
  - Procurement, Federal Acts, & Agreement Clauses
- Agreement Timeline
- Post-Award
  - ezFedGrants Access
  - Payments and Reports
  - Agreement Changes
  - Agreement Close-out and Audit Requirements
- Links
- Questions and Answers

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Programs and Award Type

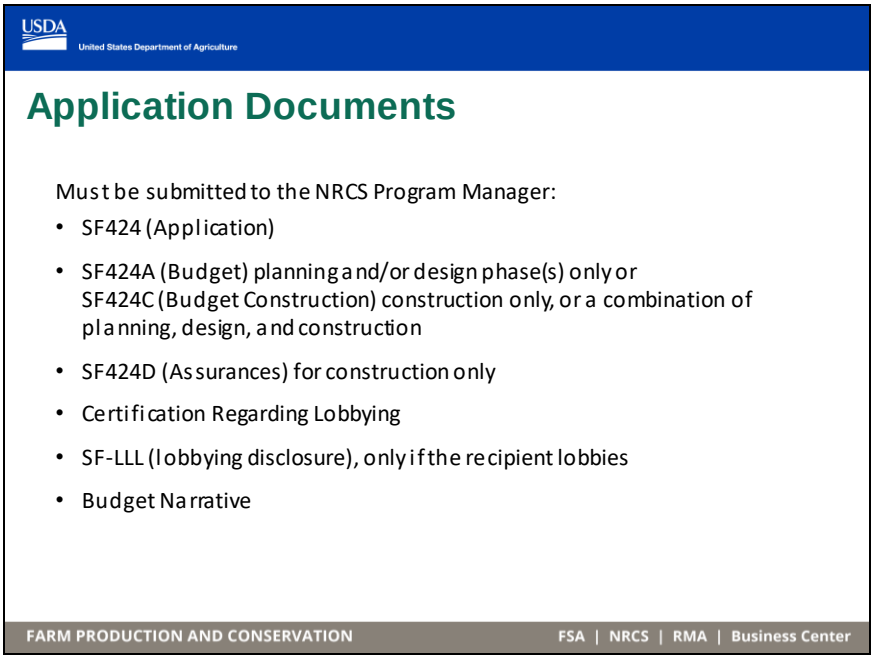
Watershed Operations and Watershed Rehabilitation (PL-566)

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

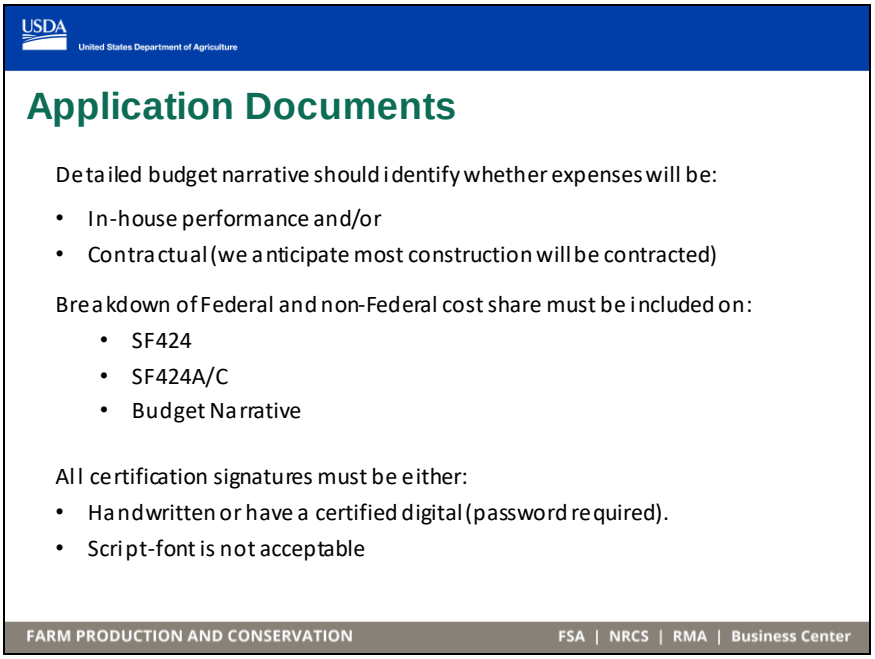
CFDA 10.904 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention

CFDA 10.916 Watershed Rehabilitation Program

Award type —Cooperative Agreement



Must have an active SAM registration to receive an award
Form are available from Sponsor Resources page
Review SF424 and SF424A instructions on Sponsor Resources page
SF-LLL is not required if the recipient does not lobby. Recipients don't need to send it in saying that they don't lobby.



- Budget narrative should not contain any tables, charts, etc.
- Funding amounts should be consistent across all documents.

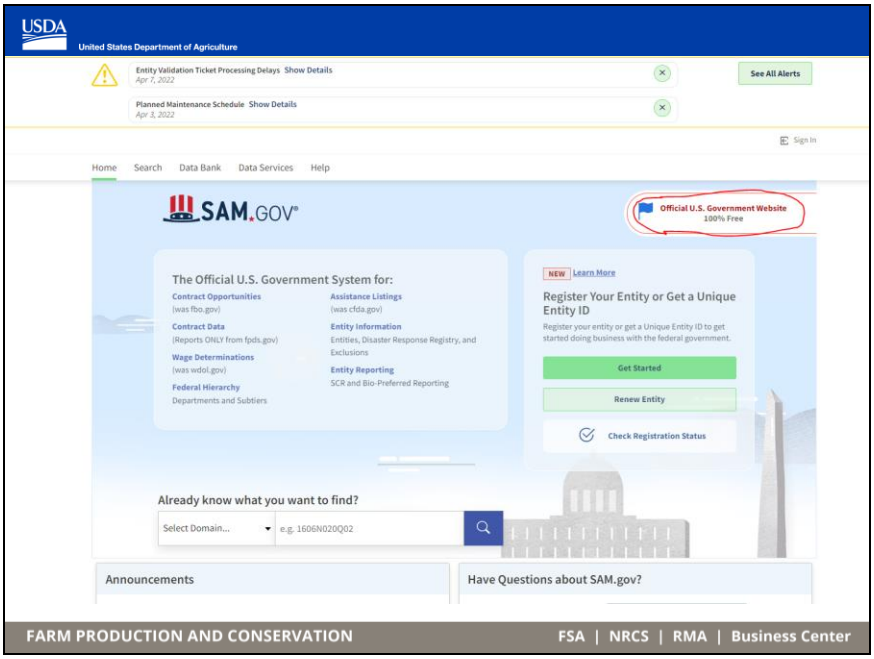
System for Award Management (SAM) and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

System for Award Management (SAM) and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

The System for Award Management (SAM) is an official U.S. Government website application that collects, validates, stores, and disseminates non-Federal entity information so that non-Federal entities can register to conduct business with the Federal Government and participate in competitions for contracts, grants, and electronic payment processes.

Each entity receives a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) that must be used to apply for all Federal awards.



There is no cost to obtain a UEI or a SAM registration

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

System for Award Management (SAM) and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) replaces the DUNS and is a 12-character alphanumeric value.

- You must have an active SAM registration before you sign your agreement with NRCS and maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during your agreement.
- If you have an active SAM registration, the system has automatically assigned your organization an UEI.
- To find your UEI, log into SAM.gov and visit your entity information in your Workspace, or use the entity information page to search for your entity.

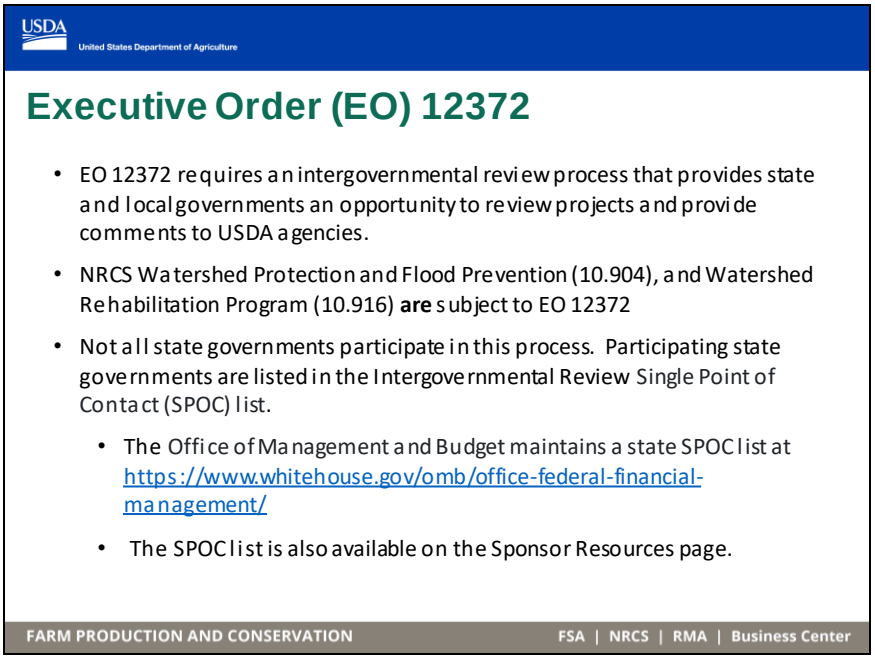
USDA United States Department of Agriculture

System for Award Management (SAM) and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

- If you don't have an UEI, choose "Get Started" on the SAM.gov home page.
- Expect major delays, registration is currently taking longer than normal.
- The Federal Service Desk is available for registration assistance and can be contacted via the Help tab on the SAM website.
- NRCS staff cannot support applicants regarding SAM/UEI issues.

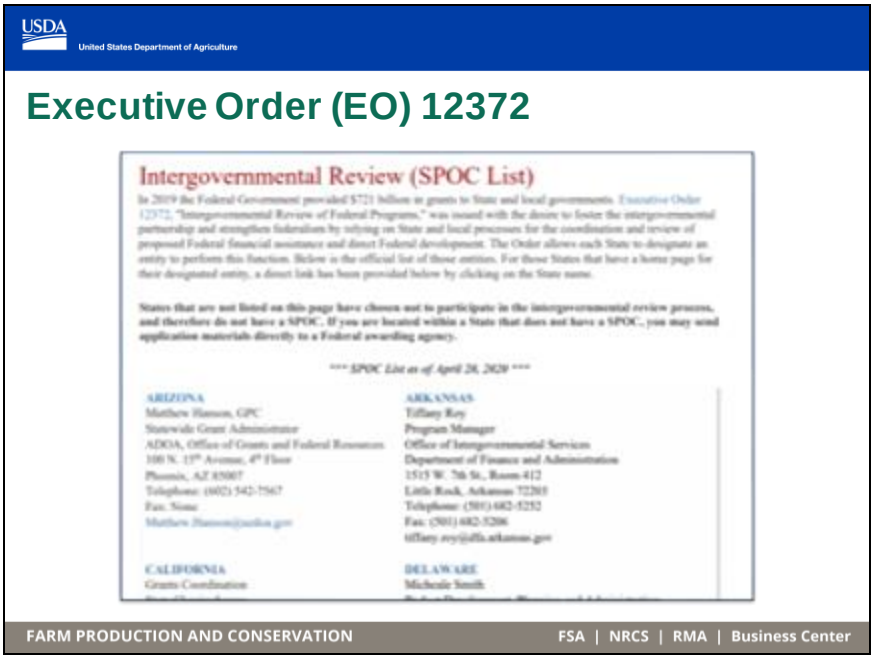
https://www.SAM.gov

Executive Order
12372

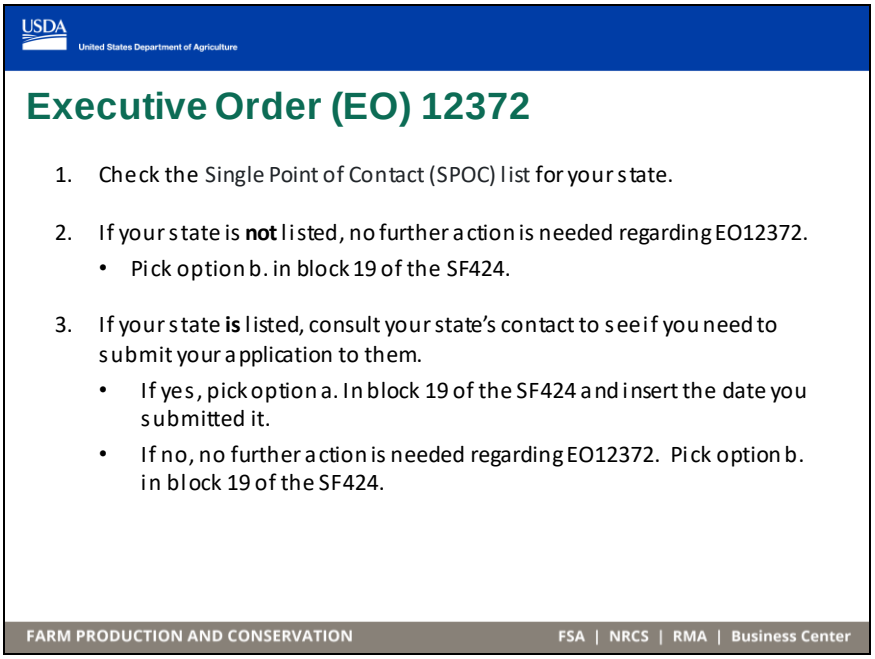


Intergovernmental review of Federal programs. NRCS watershed programs are subject to EO 12372. The State may/may not elect to review projects under this program.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) maintains a list of States (and their entities/points of contact) that have chosen to review and coordinate proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development; check the OMB website to determine if the Sponsor needs to submit it for review.



The most current version dated April 20, 2020).



Box 19, Executive Order 12372: Intergovernmental review of Federal programs. The Watershed Rehabilitation Program is subject to EO 12372. The State may/may not elect to review projects under this program.

Procurement,
Federal Acts, &
Agreement Clauses

Recipient Contracts

Contract(s) for services and construction must be in accordance the Federal regulation 2 CFR § 200.317 through 200.327, applicable state requirements, and the Recipient's procurement regulations, as appropriate. In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.327, contracts must contain the applicable provisions described in Appendix II to Part 200.
Refer to the eCFR: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200?toc=1

Davis-Bacon Act does **not** apply under this Federal program legislation.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Buy America Act and Clause

Unique contract requirements apply under these IIJA funding awards, one of which is the Buy America Act.

This agreement contains funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The Act applies "Buy America" preference to Federal financial assistance awards for infrastructure, even if it is funded by both Federal and non-Federal funds under the award. Subawards must conform to the terms and conditions of the Federal award from which they flow. A Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project.

The Buy America clause must be included in contracts for design and construction. NOTE: Include notice in the solicitation and point it out at any pre-bid conference. Responsive bids must include any requests for waivers to the Buy America requirements.

Buy America Act and Clause

Recipients of an award of Federal financial assistance from a program for infrastructure are hereby notified that none of the funds provided under this award may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

(1) all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States–this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States;

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Buy America Act and Clause

Recipients of an award of Federal financial assistance from a program for infrastructure are hereby notified that none of the funds provided under this award may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

(2) all manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation; and

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Buy America Act and Clause

Recipients of an award of Federal financial assistance from a program for infrastructure are hereby notified that none of the funds provided under this award may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

(3) all construction materials are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. (Excludes cement and cementitious materials, aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel, or aggregate binding agents or additives.)

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Buy America Act and Clause

The Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project.

As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project.

Nor does a Buy America preference apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Buy America Act and Clause

There will be a waiver process for the Buy America requirements.

OMB is still working out the waiver process but some of the reasons that may be considered:

1. Impracticable or inconsistent with public interest
2. Nonavailability
3. Unreasonable cost

The final waiver process will require coordination between the Sponsor and NRCS.

Waiver request must be posted for public comment – more details to come.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Land Rights and Permits Clause

Secure all necessary land rights and permits for completion of the work of improvement prior to moving into construction.

The Sponsor must secure at its own expense all Federal, State, and local permits and licenses necessary for completion of the work described in budget narrative as well as any necessary natural resource rights and provide copies of all permits and licenses obtained to NRCS.

Timeline

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Anticipated Award Timeline – Round 1

May 2022
- NRCS prepares final guidance and templates
- Sponsors request UEI and register in SAM.gov

June 2022
- Sponsors prepare and submit application documents to NRCS

July 2022
- NRCS submits all agreement request packages to USDA FPAC BC GAD

- All awards must be fully executed by July 15, 2022

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Anticipated Award Timeline – Round 2

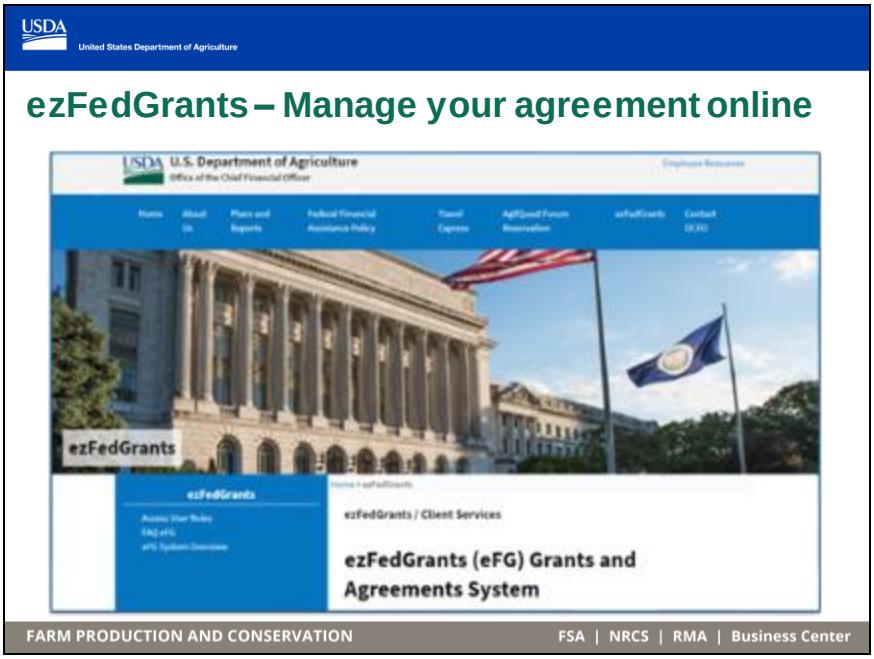
July/August 2022
- NRCS prepares final guidance and templates
- Sponsors request UEI and register in SAM.gov

September 2022
- Sponsors prepare and submit application documents to NRCS

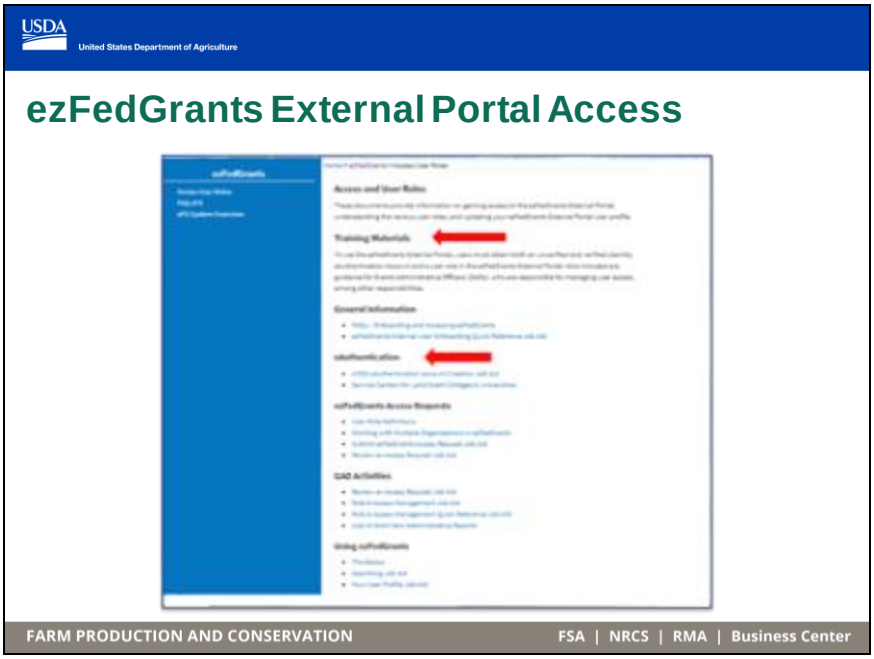
October 2022
- NRCS submits all agreement request packages to USDA FPAC BC GAD

- All awards must be fully executed by November 15, 2022

ezFedGrants
Access



It's USDA's OMB Circular A-123 system of record for processing Federal financial assistance transactions.



If the recipient isn't sure which role they need, use the Access and User Roles Job Library.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

ezFedGrants Access

The External Portal is available through the **Launch ezFedGrants** button on the USDA Financial Service Shared Services ezFedGrants web site:

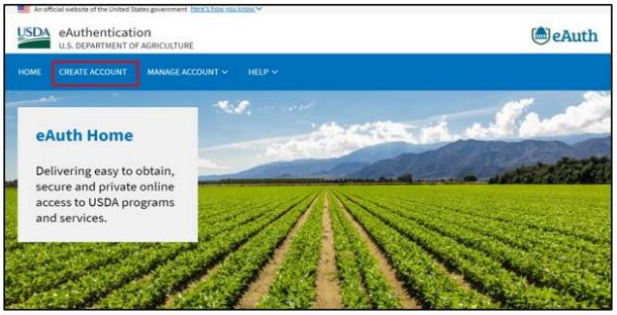
https://www.ocfo.usda.gov/ezFedGrants

The site includes Frequently Asked Questions, training resources, and job aids for performing specific tasks.

- Some features are currently under construction
- Most-commonly requested job aids are available on NRCS Sponsor Resources (Operations and Rehab) Website

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

eAuthentification Account Creation

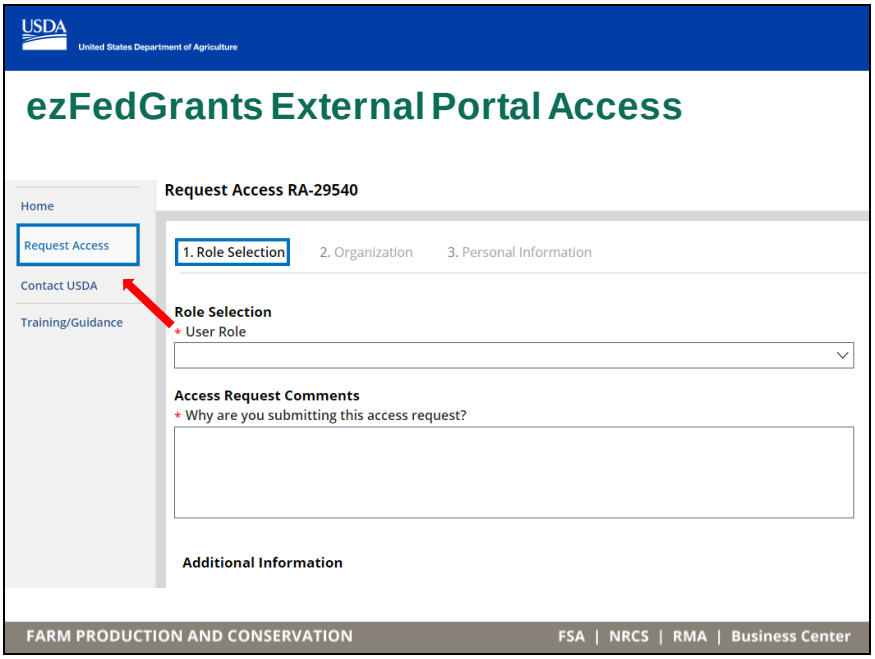


To allow electronic access and submission of reports and claims, at least **two** users must register for an account and verify their identity

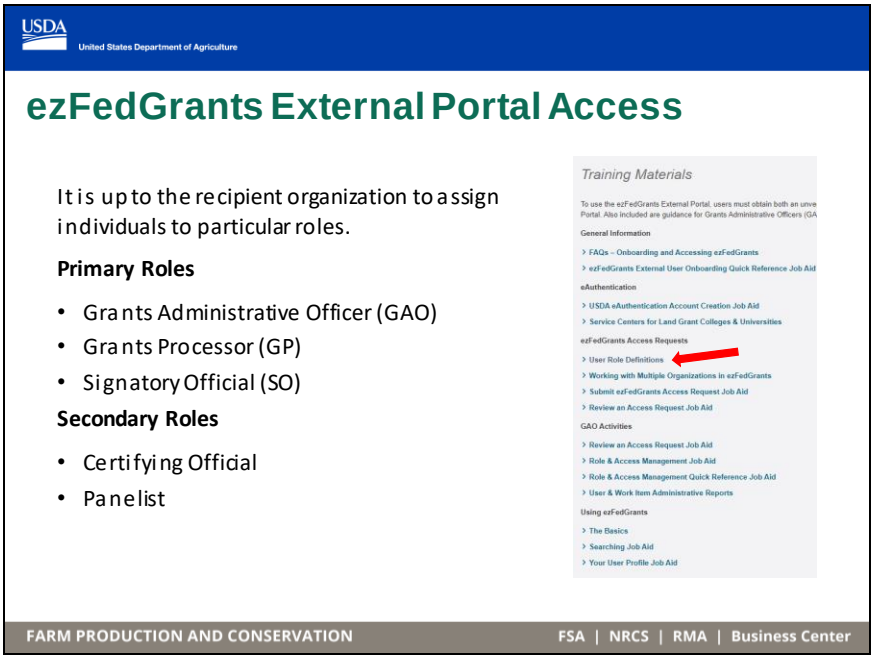
https://www.eauth.usda.gov

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

You are authenticating your identity and certifying by your electronic signature



The recipient must fill in the role being requested and why they are requesting it. See next slide to find definitions for roles



Click on User Role Definition. The recipient decides who should have specific roles. Contact the ezFedGrants help desk for questions. Neither the program manger nor the grants management specialist can provide assistance at this stage.

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

ezFedGrants Training & Help

Events by Date Calendar

- **Date: 02-08-2022, 03-08-2022, 04-12-2022, 05-10-2022, 06-14-2022 - ezFedGrants Recipient Training - 12:00 pm Eastern to 2:00 pm Eastern**

  USDA OCFO will be hosting a training session on the ezFedGrants grants management system. These sessions are intended for recipient users who are new to ezFedGrants, or who are looking for a refresher on the basics of using the system.
  Topics include: ezFedGrants User Roles and Accessing ezFedGrants.
  Web Access: Teams Meeting
  NOTE: Beginning March 1, 2022, ezFedGrants Training for recipients will be held using this link on Zoom

- **Date: 02-09-2022, 03-09-2022, 04-13-2022, 05-11-2022, 06-15-2022 - ezFedGrants Recipient Training - 12:00 pm Eastern to 3:00 pm Eastern**

  USDA OCFO will be hosting a training session on the ezFedGrants grants management system. These sessions are intended for recipient users who are new to ezFedGrants, or who are looking for a refresher on the basics of using the system.
  Topics include: Application Management, Submitting Claims and Reports, and Repayment Requests
  Web Access: Teams Meeting
  NOTE: Beginning March 1, 2022, ezFedGrants Training for recipients will be held using this link on Zoom

Date: 02-24-2022, 03-31-2022, 04-28-2022, 05-26-2022, 06-30-2022 - ezFedGrants FAQ Session - 12:00 pm Eastern to 1:00 pm Eastern

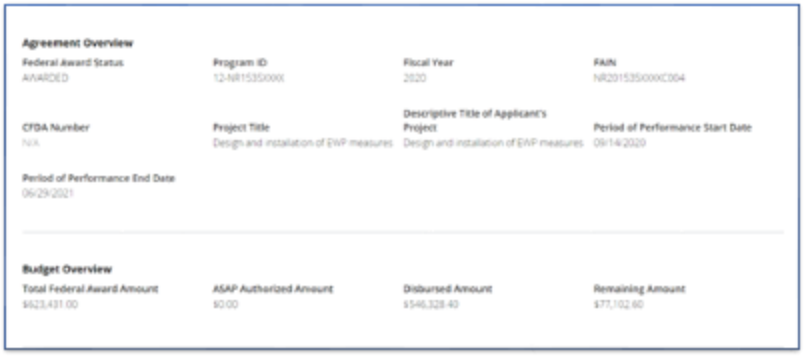
USDA OCFO will be hosting an FAQ Session to go over solutions to common ezFedGrants related questions. These sessions are intended for agency and recipient users who are familiar with ezFedGrants. The session includes a Q&A session at the end.
Web Access: Teams Meeting
*NOTE: Beginning March 1, 2022, ezFedGrants Training for recipients will be held using this link on Zoom

For EzFedGrants assistance, please contact ezFedGrants-cfo@usda.gov

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION | FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

ezFedGrants – 24/7 Access



Agreement Overview

Federal Award Status	Program ID	Fiscal Year	FAIN
AWARDED	12-NR1535XXXX	2020	NR201535XXXC004

CFDA Number	Project Title	Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project	Period of Performance Start Date
N/A	Design and installation of EWP measures	Design and installation of EWP measures	09/14/2020

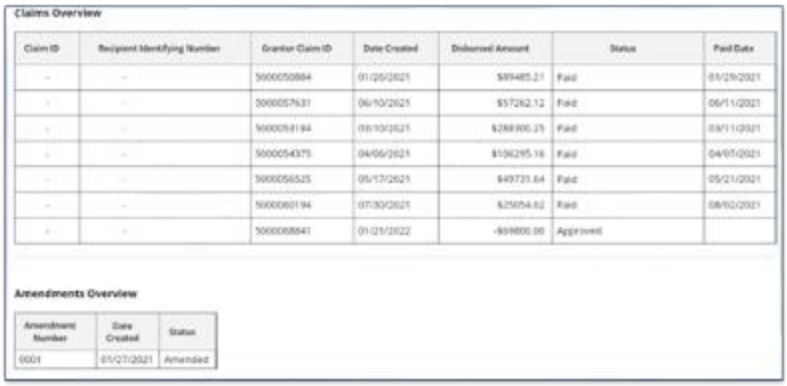
Period of Performance End Date
06/29/2021

Budget Overview

Total Federal Award Amount	ASAP Authorized Amount	Disbursed Amount	Remaining Amount
$623,431.00	$0.00	$546,328.40	$77,102.60

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

ezFedGrants – 24/7 Access



Claims Overview

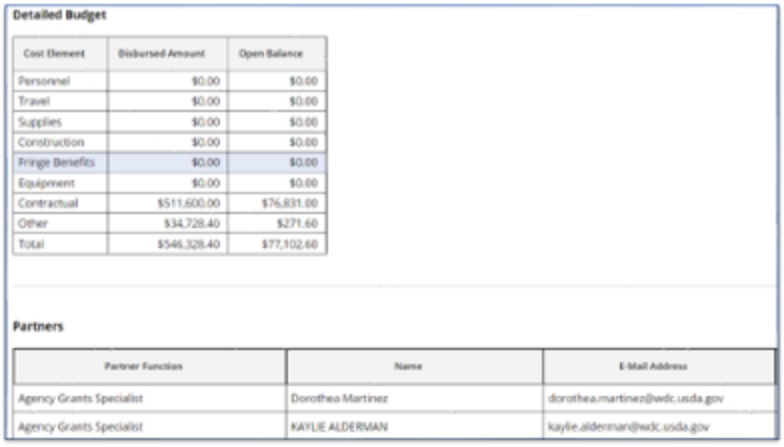
Claim ID	Recipient Identifying Number	Grantor Claim ID	Date Created	Disbursed Amount	Status	Paid Date
-	-	5000050884	01/20/2021	$89485.21	Paid	01/29/2021
-	-	5000057631	06/10/2021	$57262.12	Paid	06/11/2021
-	-	5000058194	03/10/2021	$288300.25	Paid	03/11/2021
-	-	5000054375	04/06/2021	$1062195.16	Paid	04/07/2021
-	-	5000056525	05/17/2021	$49731.64	Paid	05/21/2021
-	-	5000060194	07/30/2021	$25054.82	Paid	08/02/2021
-	-	5000068841	01/21/2022	-$59800.00	Approved	

Amendments Overview

Amendment Number	Date Created	Status
0001	01/27/2021	Amended

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

ezFedGrants – 24/7 Access



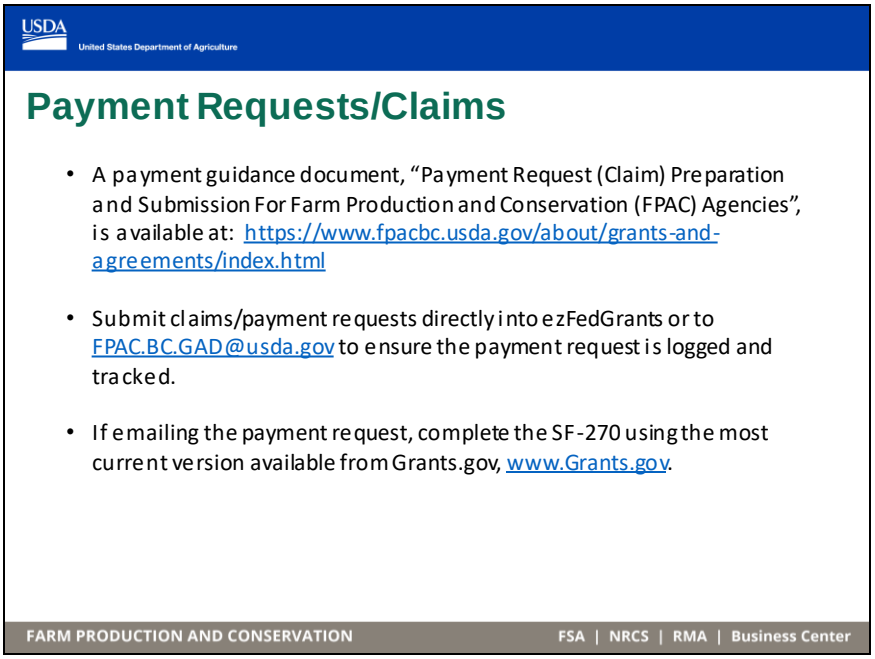
Detailed Budget

Cost Element	Disbursed Amount	Open Balance
Personnel	$0.00	$0.00
Travel	$0.00	$0.00
Supplies	$0.00	$0.00
Construction	$0.00	$0.00
Fringe Benefits	$0.00	$0.00
Equipment	$0.00	$0.00
Contractual	$511,600.00	$76,831.00
Other	$34,728.40	$271.60
Total	$546,328.40	$77,102.60

Partners

Partner Function	Name	E-Mail Address
Agency Grants Specialist	Dorothea Martinez	dorothea.martinez@wdc.usda.gov
Agency Grants Specialist	KAYLIE ALDERMAN	kaylie.alderman@wdc.usda.gov

Payment
Requests



"Claims" is the ezFedGrants term for a payment request.
At the FPAC grants and agreements site click "award payments" for payment guidance document.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

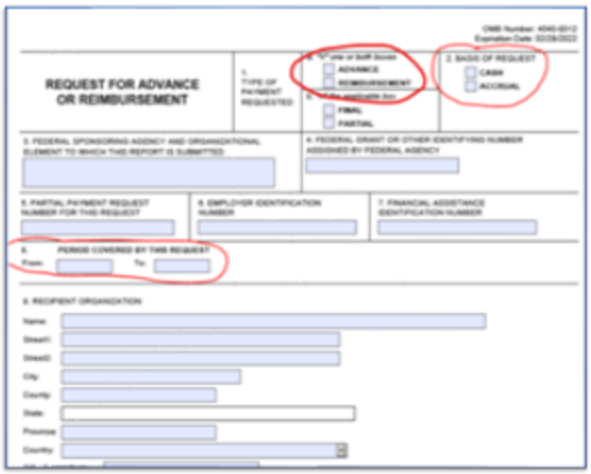
Payment Requests/Claims

- For step-by-step guidance on ezFedGrants claim submission, see the Job Aid, "ezFedGrants External Portal Claim Creation and Submission" found on the Sponsor Resources page under ezFedGrants resources.
- If submitting directly into ezFedGrants DO NOT upload a SF-270. Completing the data fields in ezFedGrants generates the document.
- If an ezFedGrants payment/claim is returned to you for corrections, edit the existing claim – do not create a new one.

"

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

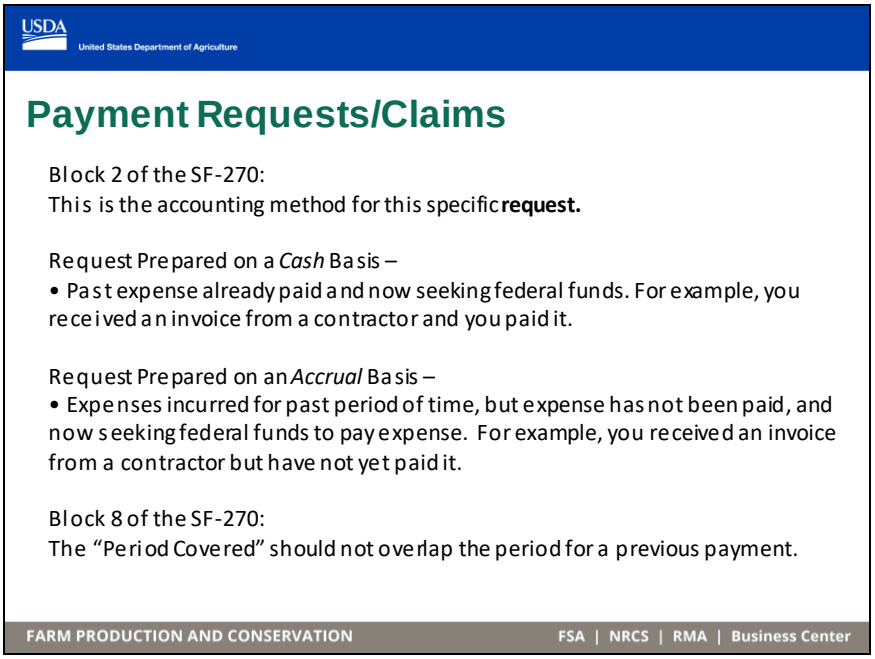
Payment Requests/Claims



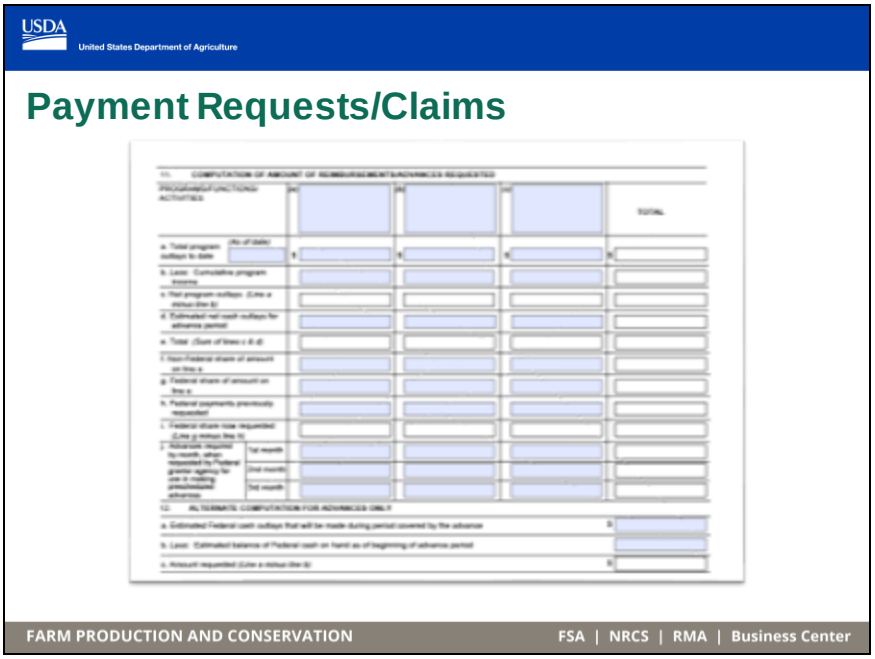
REQUEST FOR ADVANCE OR REIMBURSEMENT

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Most payments will be on a reimbursable basis block 1a



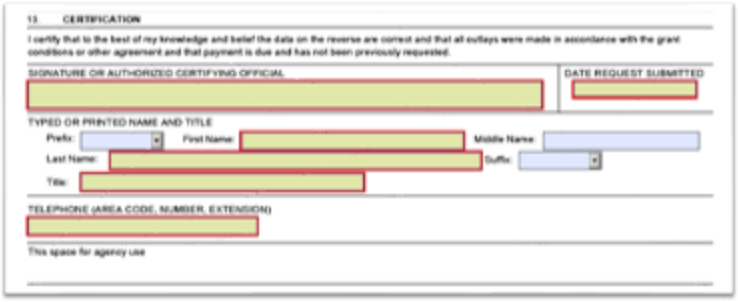
Block 8 – need explanation if this does occur. For example, there was an expense that was submitted late; you now have the bill/invoice.



For NRCS watershed programs cost share is only likely for those in the construction phase.

The cumulative cost share provided by the recipient or a third party must be identified on each SF-270. Cost-share rate does not have to be consistent throughout agreement period but must be completely satisfied by the end of the period.

Payment Requests/Claims



13. CERTIFICATION

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the data on the reverse are correct and that all outlays were made in accordance with the grant conditions or other agreement and that payment is due and has not been previously requested.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL

DATE REQUEST SUBMITTED

TYPED OR PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

Prefix: First Name: Middle Name:

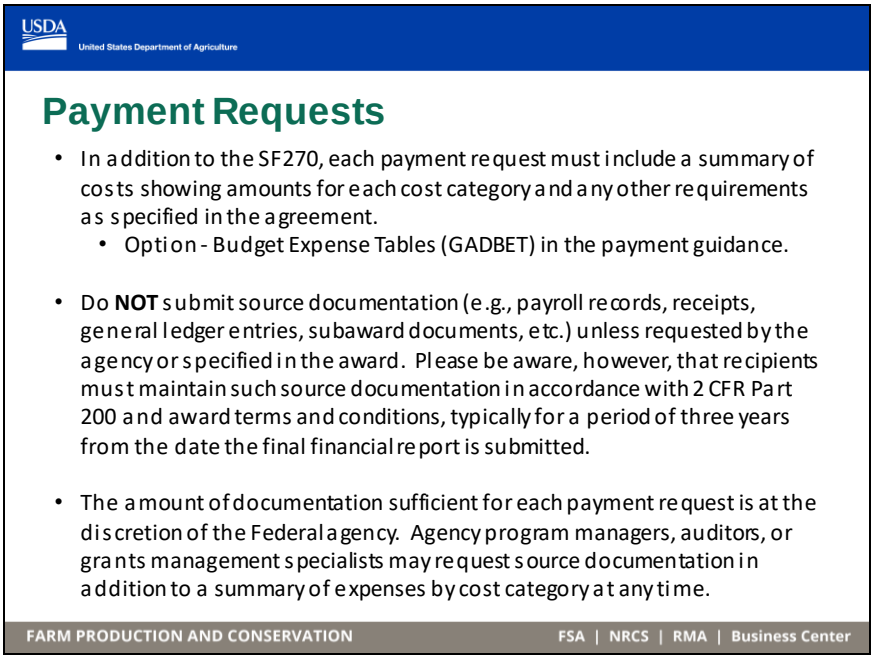
Last Name: Suffix:

Title:

TELEPHONE (AREA CODE, NUMBER, EXTENSION)

This space for agency use

If payment requests are emailed to the agency, certification signatures must be handwritten or certified digital (password required). For payments submitted directly to ezFedGrants, the recipient signs it electronically in the system.



However, the GADBET is not well suited for NRCS watershed agreements.

Reporting

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Performance and Financial Reports

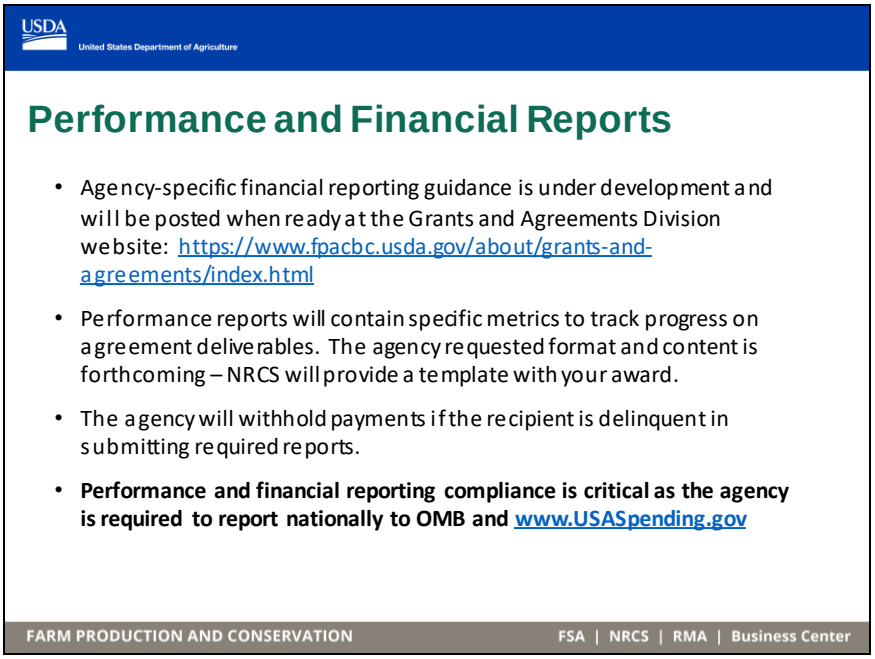
- Performance and financial reports are required every six months after the agreement start date and are due 30 days after the reporting period.

  For example, an agreement with a start date of 07/15/2022 would be subject to the following schedule:
  - Report covering 07/15/2022 – 01/15/2023, due on 02/15/2023
  - Report covering 01/16/2023 – 07/14/2023, due on 08/14/2023

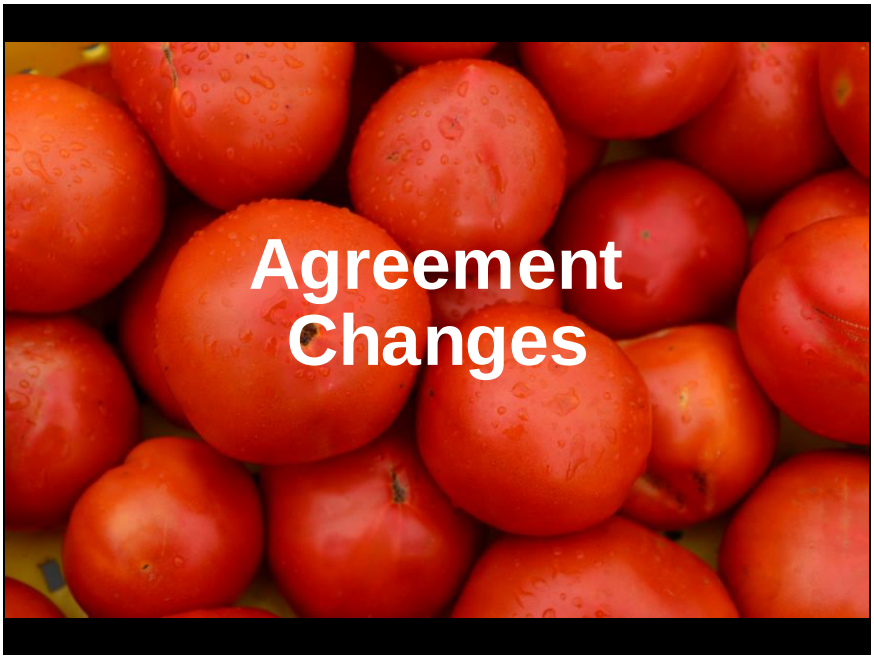
USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Performance and Financial Reports

- Submit reports directly into ezFedGrants or to FPAC.BC.GAD@usda.gov.
- Refer to the Job Aid, "How to Submit Financial or Performance Reports in ezFedGrants" on the Sponsor Resources page under ezFedGrants resources.
- ezFedGrants creates email reminders for performance and financial report due dates.
- ezFedGrants technical glitches occasionally generate report reminders when they are not actually due and may not generate reports when they are due. Work with your assigned Grants Specialist if this happens.
- If an ezFedGrants report is returned to you for corrections, edit the existing report. Do not create a new one.
- If emailing the financial report, complete the SF-425, Federal Financial Report, using the most current version available from www.Grants.gov.



New revisions to 2 CFR 200 specify that agencies must report non-compliant recipients to the FAPIIS system.


Agreement
Changes

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Agreement Amendments

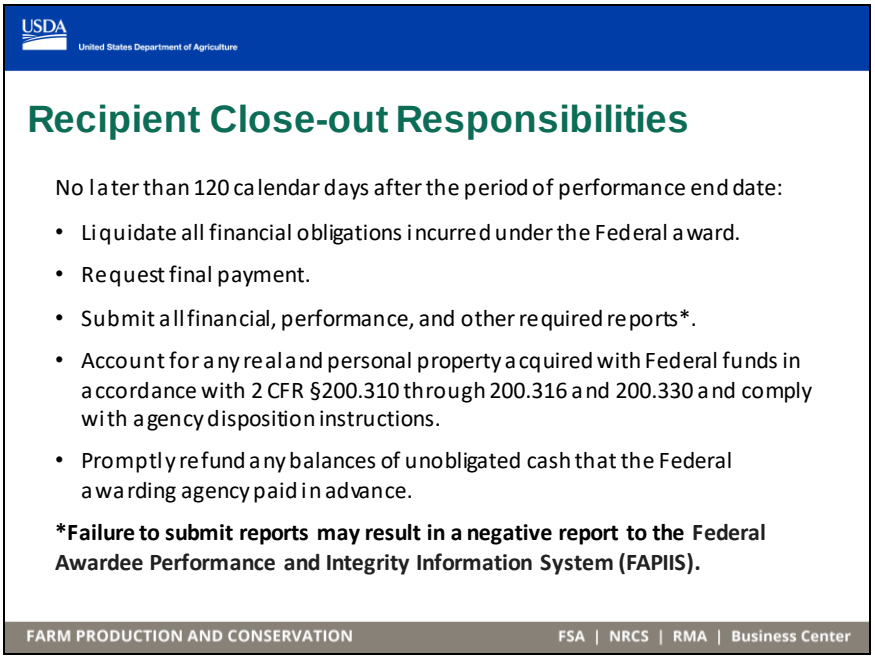
Some agreement changes require amendments signed by both parties:

- Requests for additional funding.
- Major changes to the agreement Statement of Work.
- Changes to agreement period of performance.

There are other changes that may only require agency prior approval. Refer to the agreement's General Terms and Conditions link in the signed agreement package and available on the Grants and Agreements Division website: https://www.fpacbc.usda.gov/about/grants-and-agreements/index.html

Work with your NRCS program manager to initiate amendments or requests for prior approval.

Close-out



New revisions to 2 CFR 200 specify that agencies must report non-compliant recipients to the FAPIIS system.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Audit Requirements

Single Audit

- The recipient is responsible for complying with audit requirements in accordance with 2 CFR 200, Subpart F. A recipient entity that expends $750,000 or more during the recipient's fiscal year in Federal awards must have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year.
- Refer to 2CFR 200, Subpart F for audit requirements

*Failure to comply with 2 CFR 200 may result in a negative report to the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS).

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Links

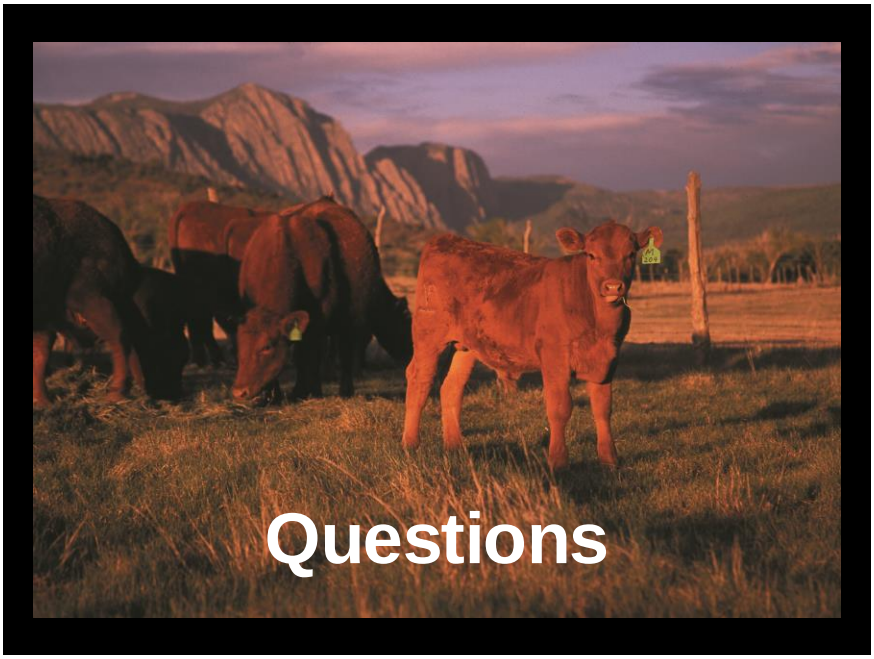
NRCS Sponsor Resources (Operations and Rehab) Website:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/landscape/?cid=nrcseprd1918029

SAM.Gov: https://www.sam.gov/

Grants.gov: https://www.grants.gov/

ezFedGrants: https://nfc.usda.gov/FSS/ClientServices/ezFedGrants/
ezFedGrants Help Desk email: ezFedGrants@cfo.usda.gov

FPAC Business Center Grants and Agreements Division
Email: FPAC.BC.GAD@usda.gov
https://www.fpacbc.usda.gov/about/grants-and-agreements/index.html


Questions