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USDA AWARDS COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANTS

USDA has announced that some 190 research grants will be awarded under a \$14.4 million competitive grant program.

The grants, which provide for research in plant science and human nutrition, are being made through the Competitive Research Grants Office in the USDA's Science and Education Administration.

The competitive grants program was established by Congress last year to increase the understanding of food production and human nutrition through new basic research and to accelerate existing research.

The grants for research in the area of human nutrition were awarded in four sets.

The first group of human nutrition grants include: University of Minnesota, St. Paul, \$105,000 for protein and calorie requirement studies during human aging; South Dakota State University, Brookings, \$90,000 for selenium studies; Iowa State University, Ames, \$150,000 for vitamin A research; Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., \$200,000 for B vitamin studies; University of Georgia, Athens, \$80,000 for study of television's impact on children's food preferences and \$110,000 for the study of obesity; University of Missouri, Columbia, \$175,000

for dietary fiber research; Texas A&M University, College Station, \$100,000 for fatty acid metabolism research and \$55,000 to study food choice among the aged; and Ohio State University, Wooster, \$150,000 for selenium deficiency studies.

The second group includes grants to the University of California-Davis, \$95,000 to develop a better method for measuring one of the B vitamins; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, \$135,000 to study the vitamin A requirements in children; University of Illinois, \$100,000 to investigate fatty acids and disease immunity; University of Florida, \$190,000 to investigate the nutritional status of low-income people; Cornell University, \$100,000 to study the effect of environmental change on food choice; The Pennsylvania State University, \$75,000 to study the effect of nutrition knowledge on food choice; University of Colorado Medical Center, Denver, \$65,000 for a study of trace elements in low-income preschool children; University of Montana, Missoula, \$60,000 to study the effect of TV commercials on the eating habits of children; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, \$250,000 to study amino acids in relation to human dietary requirements.

On September 20, the Secretary announced the third group of awards. Awards made for research in the area of human nutrition include:

The University of Illinois, \$125,000 for studies of preschool children's food preference development, and \$85,000 to research the

potential digestibility and nutritive value of dietary fiber; Health Center, University of Texas, Houston, \$135,000 to study selenium requirements in human diets; University of California-Los Angeles, \$160,000 for zinc, vitamin A, copper, and nucleic acid studies of pregnant women and their offspring; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, \$155,000 to study the role of zinc in women during and after pregnancy, and \$50,000 to study the risk factors associated with obesity among infants; University of Kentucky, Lexington, \$150,000 for research on a plant compound called phytate and various trace elements as related to the human diet.

Additional awards were made to Iowa State University, Ames, \$95,000 for studies on the effects of dietary fat and cholesterol, and \$160,000 for a study of food selection patterns; University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, \$130,000 for research into the role of choline and methionine in the human diet; Cornell University, \$130,000 for riboflavin studies; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tn., \$150,000 for research of carnitine to see if it is essential for human nutrition; Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y., \$49,000 for human iron requirement studies; Auburn University, Auburn, Ala., \$130,000 to investigate what influences zinc absorption in infants; Fort Wayne State Hospital and Training Center, \$110,000 for research with vitamin B; and Harvard University, \$140,000 for research on folic acid

requirements during pregnancy.

In the final set there were three grants for human nutrition research. Marketing Science Institute, Cambridge, Mass., cooperative with the Community Nutrition Institute, Washington, D.C., \$175,000 for investigation of factors influencing people's choice of foods; Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., \$136,000 to determine the protein requirements of premature infants and convalescing children; and Webb Associates, Inc., Yellow Springs, Ohio, \$250,000 for studies of overweight development in Americans.

Grants Program for 1979

The competitive grant program has been extended for fiscal year 1979. Basic research grants will be considered in selected areas of plant biology, and in certain areas of human nutrition. The human nutrition grants will be awarded for studies that possess exceptional opportunities for fundamental scientific discovery and for contributing, in the long run, to applied research and development vitally needed on important food and nutrition problems. Again this year the nutrition focus will be on human requirements for nutrients and behavioral factors affecting food preferences and buying habits. Proposals are due on January 12, 1979 for the behavioral factors studies and on February 16, 1979 for those dealing with nutrient requirements. Send proposals to: Research Competitive Grants Office, USDA/SEA, Rosslyn Commonwealth Building, Room 103, 1300 Wilson Boulevard Arlington, Va. 22209

