

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2118

To establish the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, to provide funding for the support of fundamental agricultural research of the highest quality, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 2, 2007

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. AKIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To establish the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, to provide funding for the support of fundamental agricultural research of the highest quality, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Institute of
5 Food and Agriculture Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to establish a national in-
3 stitute—

4 (1) to ensure that the technological superiority
5 of agriculture in the United States effectively serves
6 the people of the United States in the coming dec-
7 ades; and

8 (2) to support and promote fundamental agri-
9 cultural research and science of the highest caliber
10 to achieve the goals of—

11 (A) increasing the international competi-
12 tiveness of agriculture in the United States;

13 (B) developing foods that improve human
14 health and combat obesity;

15 (C) creating new and more useful products
16 from plants and animals;

17 (D) improving food safety and food secu-
18 rity by protecting plants and animals in the
19 United States from insects, diseases, and the
20 threat of bioterrorism;

21 (E) enhancing agricultural sustainability;

22 (F) improving natural resources;

23 (G) strengthening the economies of rural
24 communities in the United States;

25 (H) decreasing dependence of the United
26 States on foreign sources of petroleum by devel-

1 oping biobased fuels and products, enhancing
2 production technologies at biofuels plants and
3 biorefineries, reducing energy consumption at
4 such plants and increasing the use and value of
5 the co-products of biofuels production;

6 (I) strengthening national security by im-
7 proving the agricultural productivity of farmers
8 in developing countries to combat hunger and
9 the political instability that hunger produces;

10 (J) assisting in modernizing and revital-
11 izing agricultural research in the United States
12 at institutions of higher education, independent,
13 nonprofit research institutions, and consortia of
14 those institutions, through capital investment;

15 (K) achieving such other goals, and meet-
16 ing such other needs, as the Secretary or the
17 Institute determines to be appropriate; and

18 (L) ensuring the ability of United States
19 producers to successfully combat sanitary and
20 phytosanitary nontrade barriers.

21 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the
24 Standing Council of Advisors established in section
25 4.

1 (2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
2 means the Department of Agriculture.

3 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
4 the Director of the Institute.

5 (4) FUNDAMENTAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
6 AND SCIENCE.—The term “fundamental agricultural
7 research and science” means research and science
8 that, as determined by the Secretary—

9 (A) advances the frontiers of knowledge so
10 as to lead to practical results or to further sci-
11 entific discovery; and

12 (B) has an effect on agriculture, food,
13 human health, or another purpose of this Act
14 as described in section 2(b).

15 (5) INSTITUTE.—The term “Institute” means
16 the National Institute of Food and Agriculture es-
17 tablished by section 4.

18 (6) MULTIDISCIPLINARY GRANT.—The term
19 “multidisciplinary grant” means a grant provided to
20 2 or more collaborating investigators to carry out co-
21 ordinated, multidisciplinary research programs in-
22 volving multiple disciplines that have been approved
23 by the Institute.

24 (7) PROJECT GRANT.—The term “project
25 grant” means a grant provided to 1 or more prin-

1 cipal investigators to conduct research that has been
2 approved by the Institute.

3 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 (9) STATE.—The term “State” means—

6 (A) each of the several States of the
7 United States;

8 (B) the District of Columbia;

9 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

10 (D) Guam;

11 (E) American Samoa;

12 (F) the Commonwealth of the Northern
13 Mariana Islands;

14 (G) the Federated States of Micronesia;

15 (H) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

16 (I) the Republic of Palau; and

17 (J) the United States Virgin Islands.

18 (10) UNITED STATES.—The term “United
19 States”, when used in a geographical sense, means
20 all of the States.

21 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT; COMPOSITION.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
23 the Department an agency to be known as the “National
24 Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

1 (b) COMPOSITION.—The Institute shall be composed
2 of the Council (including committees and offices estab-
3 lished under section 5) and the Director.

4 (c) STANDING COUNCIL OF ADVISORS.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a
6 Standing Council of Advisors.

7 (2) COMPOSITION.—The Council shall be com-
8 posed of 25 members, including—

9 (A) the Director; and

10 (B) 18 members appointed by the Sec-
11 retary, with the concurrence of the Director, 3
12 members appointed by the Committee on Agri-
13 culture of the House of Representatives, and 3
14 members appointed by the Committee on Agri-
15 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate,
16 of whom—

17 (i) 12 members shall be highly-quali-
18 fied scientists who, 6 as determined and
19 appointed by the Secretary, 3 as deter-
20 mined and appointed by the Committee on
21 Agriculture of the House of Representa-
22 tives, and 3 as determined and appointed
23 by the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
24 tion, and Forestry of the Senate—

1 (I) are not employees of the Fed-
2 eral Government;

3 (II) have expertise in the fields of
4 agricultural research, science, or re-
5 lated appropriate fields;

6 (III) are appropriate for member-
7 ship on the Council solely on the basis
8 of established records of distinguished
9 service; and

10 (IV) collectively represent the
11 views of agricultural research and sci-
12 entific leaders in all regions of the
13 United States; and

14 (ii) 12 members shall be distinguished
15 members of the public, as determined by
16 the Secretary, including—

17 (I) representatives of agricultural
18 organizations and industry; and

19 (II) individuals with expertise in
20 natural resources, sustainable agri-
21 culture, energy, and human health
22 and disease.

23 (3) TERM.—The members of the Council shall
24 serve staggered, 4-year terms, as determined by the
25 Secretary and Congress.

1 (4) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet at the
2 call of the Director and the Secretary, but not less
3 often than annually.

4 (5) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—
5 The Council shall elect to 1-year terms a Chair-
6 person and Vice Chairperson from among the mem-
7 bers of the Council. One shall be elected from among
8 the members described in paragraph (2)(B)(i) and
9 one shall be elected from among the members de-
10 scribed in paragraph (2)(B)(ii).

11 (6) DUTIES.—The Council shall—

12 (A) assist the Director in—

13 (i) establishing research priorities of
14 the Institute; and

15 (ii) reviewing, judging, and maintain-
16 ing the relevance of the programs of the
17 Institute;

18 (B) review all proposals approved by the
19 scientific committees established under section
20 5(a)(1) to ensure, to the maximum extent prac-
21 ticable, that the purposes of this Act are being
22 met; and

23 (C) through the meetings described in
24 paragraph (4), provide an interface between sci-
25 entists and stakeholders to ensure, to the max-

1 imum extent practicable, that the Institute is
2 coordinating national goals with realistic sci-
3 entific opportunities.

4 (d) DIRECTOR.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Institute shall be head-
6 ed by a Director, who shall be an individual who
7 is—

8 (A) a distinguished agricultural researcher
9 and scientist; and

10 (B) appointed by the President (after tak-
11 ing into consideration recommendations pro-
12 vided by the Council), by and with the advice
13 and consent of the Senate.

14 (2) TERM.—The Director shall serve for a sin-
15 gle, 6-year term.

16 (3) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall re-
17 ceive basic pay at the rate provided for level II of
18 the Executive Schedule under section 5513 of title
19 5, United States Code.

20 (4) SUPERVISION.—The Director shall report
21 directly to the Secretary.

22 (5) AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DI-
23 RECTOR.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise
2 specifically provided in this Act, the Director
3 shall—

4 (i) exercise all of the authority pro-
5 vided to the Institute by this Act (includ-
6 ing any powers and functions delegated to
7 the Director by the Council);

8 (ii) in consultation with the Council,
9 formulate programs in accordance with
10 policies adopted by the Institute;

11 (iii) establish committees and offices
12 within the Institute in accordance with sec-
13 tion 5;

14 (iv) establish procedures for the peer
15 review of research funded by the Institute;

16 (v) establish procedures for the provi-
17 sion and administration of grants by the
18 Institute in accordance with this Act;

19 (vi) assess the personnel needs of ag-
20 ricultural research in the areas supported
21 by the Institute, and, if determined to be
22 appropriate by the Director or the Sec-
23 retary, for other areas of food and agricul-
24 tural research; and

1 (vii) cooperate with the Council to
2 plan programs that will help meet agricul-
3 tural personnel needs in the future, includ-
4 ing portable fellowship and training pro-
5 grams in fundamental agricultural re-
6 search and science.

7 (B) FINALITY OF ACTIONS.—An action
8 taken by the Director in accordance with this
9 Act (or in accordance with the terms of a dele-
10 gation of authority from the Council) shall be
11 final and binding upon the Institute.

12 (C) DELEGATION AND REDELEGATION OF
13 FUNCTIONS.—

14 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
15 in clauses (ii) and (iii), the Director may,
16 from time to time and as the Director con-
17 siders to be appropriate, authorize the per-
18 formance by any other officer, agency, or
19 employee of the Institute of any of the
20 functions of the Director under this Act,
21 including functions delegated to the Direc-
22 tor by the Council.

23 (ii) POLICYMAKING FUNCTIONS.—The
24 Director may not redelegate policymaking

1 functions delegated to the Director by the
2 Council.

3 (iii) CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND
4 OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.—The Director
5 may enter into contracts and other ar-
6 rangements, and provide grants, in accord-
7 ance with this Act—

8 (I) only with the prior approval
9 of the Council or under authority del-
10 egated by the Council; and

11 (II) subject to such conditions as
12 the Council may specify.

13 (iv) REPORTING.—The Director shall
14 promptly report each contract or other ar-
15 rangement entered into, each grant award-
16 ed, and each other action of the Director
17 taken, under clause (iii) to the Committee
18 on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of
19 the Senate and the Committee on Agri-
20 culture of the House of Representatives.

21 (6) STATUS ON COUNCIL.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall be
23 an ex officio member of the Council.

24 (B) COMPENSATION AND TENURE.—Ex-
25 cept with respect to compensation and tenure,

1 the service of the Director on the Council shall
2 be coordinated with the service of other mem-
3 bers of the Council.

4 (C) VOTING; ELECTION.—The Director
5 shall be—

6 (i) a voting member of the Council;
7 and

8 (ii) eligible for election by the Council
9 as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the
10 Council.

11 (7) STAFF.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to this para-
13 graph, the Director shall recruit and hire such
14 senior staff and other personnel as are nec-
15 essary to assist the Director in carrying out
16 this Act.

17 (B) SENIOR STAFF.—Each individual hired
18 as senior staff of the Director shall—

19 (i) be a highly accomplished agricul-
20 tural researcher and scientist, as deter-
21 mined by the Director;

22 (ii) be recruited from the active agri-
23 cultural research and science community;
24 and

1 (iii) be appointed and serve on the
2 basis of 4-year, rotating appointments.

3 (C) TEMPORARY STAFF.—Staff hired by
4 the Director under this paragraph may include
5 agricultural researchers and scientists and other
6 technical and professional personnel hired for
7 limited terms, or on temporary bases, including
8 individuals on leave of absence from academic,
9 industrial, research, or science institutions to
10 work for the Institute.

11 (D) COMPENSATION.—

12 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
13 in clause (ii), subject to such policies as
14 the Council shall periodically prescribe, the
15 Director may fix the compensation of staff
16 hired under this paragraph without regard
17 to the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-
18 chapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United
19 States Code, relating to classification of
20 positions and General Schedule pay rates.

21 (ii) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The
22 rate of pay for an individual hired under
23 this paragraph shall not exceed the rate
24 payable for level V of the Executive Sched-

1 ule under section 5316 of title 5, United
2 States Code.

3 (8) REPORTING AND CONSULTATION.—The Di-
4 rector shall—

5 (A) periodically report to the Secretary
6 with respect to activities carried out by the In-
7 stitute; and

8 (B) consult regularly with the Secretary to
9 ensure, to the maximum extent practicable,
10 that—

11 (i) research of the Institute is relevant
12 to agriculture in the United States and
13 otherwise serves the national interest; and

14 (ii) the research of the Institute sup-
15 plements and enhances, and does not re-
16 place, research conducted or funded by—

17 (I) other agencies of the Depart-
18 ment;

19 (II) the National Science Foun-
20 dation; or

21 (III) the National Institutes of
22 Health.

23 **SEC. 5. COMMITTEES AND OFFICES OF INSTITUTE.**

24 (a) STANDING SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may establish
2 such number of standing scientific committees with-
3 in the Institute as the Director determines to be ap-
4 propriate.

5 (2) COMPOSITION.—A standing scientific com-
6 mittee established under paragraph (1) shall consist
7 of such members of the Council appointed under sec-
8 tion 4(d)(2)(B)(i) as the Director may select.

9 (3) TERM.—Members of a standing scientific
10 committee established under paragraph (1) shall
11 serve for staggered, 4-year terms, as determined by
12 the Director.

13 (4) REVIEW OF PROPOSALS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—A standing scientific
15 committee shall apply rigorous merit review to
16 research proposals received by the Institute to
17 ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that
18 research funded by the Institute is scientifically
19 of high quality.

20 (B) DETERMINATION OF SCIENTIFIC
21 MERIT.—A research proposal received by the
22 Institute and reviewed by a standing scientific
23 committee under subparagraph (A) shall be—

1 (i) assigned a score based on the sci-
2 entific merit of the proposal, as determined
3 by the standing scientific committee; and

4 (ii) if approved by the standing sci-
5 entific committee, forwarded, along with
6 the score, to the Council for final review.

7 (C) DECLINATION OF PROPOSALS.—If the
8 Council determines that a research proposal
9 forwarded under this paragraph does not meet
10 standards of scientific review established by a
11 standing scientific committee or any similar
12 standard established by the Director, the Coun-
13 cil shall decline to recommend the research pro-
14 posal for funding by the Institute.

15 (5) AD HOC REVIEW MEMBERS.—The Director
16 may supplement a standing scientific committee
17 under this subsection with 1 or more ad hoc review-
18 ers in a case in which a research proposal received
19 by the Institute requires specialized knowledge not
20 represented on that or any other standing scientific
21 committee.

22 (b) OFFICES.—

23 (1) OFFICE OF ADVANCED SCIENCE AND APPLI-
24 CATION.—

1 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall
2 establish within the Institute an Office of Ad-
3 vanced Science and Application (referred to in
4 this paragraph as the “Office”).

5 (B) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

6 (i) closely monitor national needs and
7 advances in fundamental agricultural re-
8 search and science with the goal of identi-
9 fying pressing problems for which solutions
10 are realistically achievable through funda-
11 mental agricultural research and science;

12 (ii) coordinate creative talent from di-
13 verse disciplines to bridge potential gaps
14 between fundamental agricultural research
15 and science and high-priority, practical
16 needs; and

17 (iii) recommend to the Director ways
18 in which existing fundamental agricultural
19 research and science may be applied to the
20 most urgent problems addressed by the In-
21 stitute.

22 (C) STAFF.—

23 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall
24 employ a small, focused staff of rotating

1 experts in agricultural research and
2 science.

3 (ii) TALENT POOL; TERM.—Primary
4 staff of the Office—

5 (I) shall be appointed from the
6 ranks of active agricultural research-
7 ers and scientists; and

8 (II) shall serve terms of not to
9 exceed 3 years.

10 (D) INTENSIVE STUDY GROUPS.—The Of-
11 fice shall—

12 (i) focus primarily on the most urgent
13 problems addressed by the Institute; and

14 (ii) assemble such intensive study
15 groups as are necessary to address those
16 problems.

17 (E) REPORTS.—The Office shall submit to
18 the Director and the Council periodic reports
19 that—

20 (i) describe the activities being carried
21 out by the Office; and

22 (ii) recommend new research priorities
23 for the Office, as appropriate.

24 (2) OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT AND
25 LIAISON.—

1 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall
2 establish within the Institute an Office of Sci-
3 entific Assessment and Liaison (referred to in
4 this paragraph as the “Office”).

5 (B) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

6 (i) monitor the effectiveness of the sci-
7 entific expenditures by the Institute;

8 (ii) oversee the coordination of re-
9 search efforts of the Institute with those of
10 other programs;

11 (iii) assess the effectiveness of pro-
12 grams of the Institute by evaluating—

13 (I) the quality of the science
14 funded by the Institute, using such
15 tools as are readily available; and

16 (II) the contributions of the In-
17 stitute to the national research effort,
18 including ways in which the Institute
19 collaborates and cooperates with the
20 Department and with other Federal
21 agencies; and

22 (iv) encourage cooperative approaches
23 among various research agencies within the
24 Federal Government.

25 (3) OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL.—

1 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall
2 establish within the Institute an Office of Sci-
3 entific Personnel (referred to in this paragraph
4 as the “Office”).

5 (B) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

6 (i) cooperate with scientific and agri-
7 cultural experts to assess—

8 (I) the number of scientists in
9 agriculture and related fields in the
10 United States; and

11 (II) how many additional sci-
12 entists in agriculture and related
13 fields are needed to meet the purposes
14 of this Act; and

15 (ii) generate and maintain data that
16 may assist the Director and the Council in
17 planning appropriate Institute fellowship
18 and training programs.

19 (4) ADDITIONAL OFFICES.—The Director may
20 establish such additional offices within the Institute
21 as the Director or the Council determines to be nec-
22 essary to carry out the duties of the Institute under
23 this Act.

1 **SEC. 6. DUTIES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Institute shall provide com-
3 petitive, peer-reviewed grants in accordance with section
4 8(b) to support and promote the highest quality of funda-
5 mental agricultural research and science, including grants
6 to fund research proposals submitted by—

7 (1) individual scientists;

8 (2) research consortiums composed of a single
9 institution or multiple institutions; and

10 (3) other individuals and entities from the pri-
11 vate and public sectors, including researchers of the
12 Department and other Federal agencies.

13 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than Decem-
14 ber 31, 2008, and biennially thereafter, the Institute shall
15 submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Agriculture,
16 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, and the Committee
17 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a com-
18 prehensive report that describes the research funded and
19 other activities carried out by the Institute during the pe-
20 riod covered by the report.

21 **SEC. 7. POWERS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Institute shall have such au-
23 thority as is necessary to carry out this Act, including the
24 authority—

1 (1) to promulgate such regulations as the Insti-
2 tute considers to be necessary for governance of op-
3 erations, organization, and personnel;

4 (2) to make such expenditures as are necessary
5 to carry out this Act;

6 (3) to enter into contracts or other arrange-
7 ments, or modifications of contracts or other ar-
8 rangements—

9 (A) to provide for the conduct, by organi-
10 zations or individuals in the United States (in-
11 cluding other agencies of the Department, Fed-
12 eral agencies, and agencies of foreign coun-
13 tries), of such fundamental agricultural re-
14 search and science, or related activities as the
15 Institute considers to be necessary to carry out
16 this Act; and

17 (B) at the request of the Secretary, for the
18 conduct of such specific fundamental agricul-
19 tural research and science as is in the national
20 interest or is otherwise of critical importance,
21 as determined by the Secretary, with the con-
22 currence of the Institute;

23 (4) to make advance, progress, and other pay-
24 ments relating to research and scientific activities

1 without regard to subsections (a) and (b) of section
2 3324 of title 31, United States Code;

3 (5) to acquire by purchase, lease, loan, gift, or
4 condemnation, and to hold and dispose of by grant,
5 sale, lease, or loan, real and personal property of all
6 kinds necessary for, or resulting from, the exercise
7 of authority under this Act;

8 (6) to receive and use donated funds, if the
9 funds are donated without restriction other than
10 that the funds be used in furtherance of 1 or more
11 of the purposes of the Institute;

12 (7) to publish or arrange for the publication of
13 research and scientific information to further the
14 full dissemination of information of scientific value
15 consistent with the national interest, without regard
16 to section 501 of title 44, United States Code;

17 (8)(A) to accept and use the services of vol-
18 untary and uncompensated personnel; and

19 (B) to provide such transportation and subsist-
20 ence as are authorized by section 5703 of title 5,
21 United States Code, for individuals serving without
22 compensation;

23 (9) to prescribe, with the approval of the Comp-
24 troller General of the United States, the extent to
25 which vouchers for funds expended under contracts

1 for scientific or engineering research shall be subject
2 to itemization or substantiation prior to payment,
3 without regard to the limitations of other laws relat-
4 ing to the expenditure and accounting of public
5 funds;

6 (10) to arrange with and reimburse the Sec-
7 retary, and the heads of other Federal agencies, for
8 the performance of any activity that the Institute is
9 authorized to conduct; and

10 (11) to enter into contracts, at the request of
11 the Secretary, for the carrying out of such specific
12 agricultural research as is in the national interest or
13 otherwise of critical importance, as determined by
14 the Secretary, with the consent of the Institute.

15 (b) TRANSFER OF RESEARCH FUNDS OF OTHER DE-
16 PARTMENTS OR AGENCIES.—If the Committee on Agri-
17 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, the Com-
18 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives,
19 and any other Committees of jurisdiction are notified not
20 less than 30 days in advance of any transfer, funds avail-
21 able to the Secretary, or any other department or agency
22 of the Federal Government, for agricultural or scientific
23 research shall be—

24 (1) available for transfer, with the approval of
25 the Secretary or the head of the other appropriate

1 department or agency involved, in whole or in part,
 2 to the Institute for use in providing grants in ac-
 3 cordance with the purposes for which the funds were
 4 made available; and

5 (2) if so transferred, expendable by the Insti-
 6 tute for those purposes.

7 (c) RESTRICTION ON ACTIVITIES.—The Institute—

8 (1) shall be a grant-making entity only; and

9 (2) shall not—

10 (A) conduct fundamental agricultural re-
 11 search or research relating to fundamental
 12 science; or

13 (B) operate any laboratory or pilot facility.

14 **SEC. 8. BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS.**

15 (a) BUDGETARY MANAGEMENT GOALS.—The Direc-
 16 tor, in coordination with the Secretary, shall manage the
 17 budget of the Institute to achieve the goals of—

18 (1) providing sufficient funds over a period of
 19 time to achieve the purposes of this Act;

20 (2) fostering outstanding scientific talent, and
 21 directing that talent toward work on issues relating
 22 to agriculture; and

23 (3) adequately reimbursing grant-receiving in-
 24 stitutions for costs to encourage the pursuit of fun-
 25 damental agricultural research and science.

1 (b) BUDGETARY GUIDELINES FOR GRANTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—To achieve the goals de-
3 scribed in subsection (a), the Institute shall, to the
4 maximum extent practicable, ensure that grants
5 awarded for each fiscal year comply with the guide-
6 lines described in paragraphs (2) and (3).

7 (2) PROJECT GRANTS.—With respect to project
8 grants, to the maximum extent practicable—

9 (A) the Institute shall award approxi-
10 mately 1,000 new project grants annually;

11 (B) the average project grant amount, in-
12 cluding overhead, shall be approximately
13 \$225,000 for each fiscal year, as adjusted in ac-
14 cordance with the Consumer Price Index for all-
15 urban consumers, United States city average,
16 as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics;

17 (C) a project grant shall be provided for a
18 maximum period of 5 years, with an average
19 award duration of 3.5 years;

20 (D) the Institute shall require the recipi-
21 ents of a project grant to submit appropriate
22 reports on research carried out using funds
23 from the project grant; and

1 (E) the Institute shall provide such num-
2 ber of training project grants as the Director or
3 the Institute determines to be appropriate.

4 (3) MULTIDISCIPLINARY GRANTS.—With re-
5 spect to multidisciplinary grants, to the maximum
6 extent practicable—

7 (A) for each of fiscal years 2008 through
8 2011, the Institute shall provide 10 multidisci-
9 plinary grants;

10 (B) for fiscal year 2012 and subsequent
11 fiscal years, the Institute shall provide multi-
12 disciplinary grants to fund not fewer than 40
13 research consortiums, on the conditions that—

14 (i) sufficient funds are available; and

15 (ii) a sufficient number of qualified
16 research proposals are received;

17 (C) the research consortiums provided mul-
18 tidisciplinary grants may be composed of a sin-
19 gle institution or multiple institutions;

20 (D) the average multidisciplinary grant
21 amount, including overhead, shall be approxi-
22 mately \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year, as ad-
23 justed in accordance with the Consumer Price
24 Index for all-urban consumers, United States

1 city average, as published by the Bureau of
2 Labor Statistics;

3 (E) a multidisciplinary grant shall be pro-
4 vided for a maximum period of 5 years;

5 (F) in the aggregate, multidisciplinary
6 grants provided under this paragraph for a fis-
7 cal year shall represent approximately 15 per-
8 cent of the total grants provided by the Insti-
9 tute for the fiscal year, on the condition that a
10 sufficient number of qualified research pro-
11 posals are received for the fiscal year; and

12 (G) merit review of the research proposal
13 relating to the multidisciplinary grant is con-
14 ducted to ensure, to the maximum extent prac-
15 ticable, that only quality research proposals are
16 funded.

17 (c) INDIRECT COSTS.—As part of a project grant or
18 multidisciplinary grant provided under this Act, the Insti-
19 tute shall pay indirect costs of conducting research, in-
20 cluding the costs of overhead, to the recipient of the grant
21 at a rate that is not less than any standard negotiated
22 rate applicable to similar grants made by the National In-
23 stitutes of Health or the National Science Foundation, as
24 of the date of enactment of this Act, as determined by
25 the Secretary.

1 **SEC. 9. FUNDING.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The following funds, facilities,
3 and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation are
4 authorized to be used to carry out this Act:

5 (1) For fiscal year 2008, \$245,000,000 for
6 project grants, of which not more than \$20,000,000
7 shall be made available for administrative expenses
8 incurred by the Institute.

9 (2) For fiscal year 2009, \$515,000,000, of
10 which—

11 (A) not less than \$450,000,000 shall be
12 made available for project grants;

13 (B) not less than \$30,000,000 shall be
14 made available for multidisciplinary grants; and

15 (C) not more than \$35,000,000 shall be
16 available for administrative expenses incurred
17 by the Institute.

18 (3) For fiscal year 2010, \$780,000,000, of
19 which—

20 (A) not less than \$675,000,000 shall be
21 made available for project grants;

22 (B) not less than \$60,000,000 shall be
23 made available for multidisciplinary grants; and

24 (C) not more than \$45,000,000 shall be
25 made available for administrative expenses in-
26 curred by the Institute.

1 (4) For fiscal year 2010, \$935,000,000, of
2 which—

3 (A) not less than \$800,000,000 shall be
4 made available for project grants;

5 (B) not less than \$90,000,000 shall be
6 made available for multidisciplinary grants; and

7 (C) not more than \$45,000,000 shall be
8 made available for administrative expenses in-
9 curred by the Institute.

10 (5) For fiscal year 2011 and each fiscal year
11 thereafter, \$966,000,000, of which—

12 (A) not less than \$800,000,000 shall be
13 made available for project grants;

14 (B) not less than \$120,000,000 shall be
15 made available for multidisciplinary grants; and

16 (C) not more than \$46,000,000 shall be
17 made available for administrative expenses in-
18 curred by the Institute.

19 (b) LIMITATION.—For fiscal year 2011 and each sub-
20 sequent fiscal year, administrative expenses paid by the
21 Institute shall not exceed 5 percent of the total expendi-
22 tures of the Institute for the fiscal year.

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