

FEDERAL GRANT & LOAN PROGRAMS

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FEDERAL GRANT/LOAN PROGRAMS – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

- Now
 - USDA-AMS (Agricultural Marketing Service)
 - USDA-RD (Rural Development)
- Later today
 - USDA-FSA (Farm Service Agency)
 - USDA-NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service)
- Primary website USDA grant/loan programs:
<https://www.usda.gov/topics/farming/grants-and-loans>



AMS PROGRAMS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) works to improve domestic and international opportunities for U.S. growers and producers. AMS works with a variety of organizations to support to rural America and the Nation's agricultural sector. AMS grant programs include the:

- [Acer Access and Development Program](#)
- [Dairy Business Innovation Initiative](#)
- [Farmers Market](#) and [Local Food Promotion Program](#) (implemented as FMPP and LFPP)
- [Farm and Food Worker Relief Grant Program](#)
- [Farm Labor Stabilization and Protection Pilot Program](#)
- [Federal State Marketing Improvement Program](#)
- [Indigenous Animals Grant Program](#) 
- [Local Agriculture Market Program](#)
- [Local Meat Capacity Grant](#)
- [Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant Program](#)
- [Micro Grants for Food Security Program](#)
- [Organic Market Development Grant](#)
- [Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program](#)
- [Regional Food System Partnerships](#)
- [Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program](#)
- [Seafood Processors Pandemic Response and Safety Block Grant Program](#)
- [Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program](#)
- [Specialty Crop Block Grant Program](#) (implemented as SCBGP and SCMP)
- [Tribal Seafood Processors Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program](#)



AMS PROGRAMS – AVAILABLE TO PRODUCERS OR PRODUCER GROUPS

- AMS program website: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants>
 - Farmers market promotion program
 - Local food promotion program
 - Organic market development grant
 - Local meat capacity grant
 - Regional food systems partnerships
 - Specialty crop block grant program (administered by UDAF)



THE FARMERS MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM (FMPP)

- Funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products.
- Grants can be used for developing, coordinating, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, online sales or other direct producer-to-consumer (including direct producer-to-retail, direct producer-to-restaurant and direct producer-to-institutional marketing) market opportunities.
- Funding
 - Capacity Building (CB) projects, \$50,000 to \$250,000 for 36 months
 - Community Development Training and Technical Assistance (CTA) projects, \$100,000 to \$500,000 for 36 months
 - Turnkey Marketing and Promotion projects, \$50,000 to \$100,000 for 24 months
- Match
 - 25% of federal funds requested in cash or in-kind contributions



THE LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION PROGRAM (LFPP)

- Funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer to consumer marketing to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products.
- Grants can be used for the planning stages of establishing or expanding a local and regional food business enterprise or to improve or expand a food business that supports locally and regionally produced agricultural products and food system infrastructure by performing feasibility studies, market research, training and technical assistance for the business enterprise and/or for producers working with the business enterprise.
- Funding
 - Planning projects, \$25,000 to \$250,000 for 24 months
 - Implementation and Farm to Institution projects, \$100,000 to \$750,000 for 36 months
 - Turnkey Marketing and Promotion projects, \$50,000 to \$100,000 for 24 months
- Match
 - 25% of federal funds requested in cash or in-kind contributions



ORGANIC MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANT (OMDG) PROGRAM

- The OMDG program will invest in new and expanded organic markets through funding for expanded processing capacity, market development activities, and targeted equipment purchases. These investments in certified organic infrastructure are designed to increase consumption of domestically produced organic products.
- USDA will prioritize funding to pinpointed markets for rotational grains, livestock feed, dairy, fiber, and key organic ingredients.
- Organic production, handling, and labeling standards are defined in the USDA Organic Regulations.
- Funding
 - Processing Capacity Expansion Projects and Market Development and Promotion Projects, \$100,000 and \$3,000,000, 36 months
 - Simplified Equipment-Only Projects, \$10,000 and \$100,000, 24 months
- Match
 - 50% of federal funds requested in cash or in-kind contributions



LOCAL MEAT CAPACITY GRANT (MCAP)

- The Local Meat Capacity grant program is targeted to support meat and poultry processors and rendering facilities with smaller-scale projects. The goal of this program is to increase processing availability and variety for local and regional livestock producers. Smaller-scale projects eligible for this program include equipment purchases and installation, facility and equipment upgrades, minor alterations and renovation, and capacity expansion.
- Funding
 - Processing Expansion Projects, \$100,000 to \$5million, 36 months
 - Simplified Equipment Only Projects, \$10,000 to \$250,000, 24 months
- Match
 - 50% of federal funds requested in cash or in-kind contributions



REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS

- The Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP) program supports partnerships that connect public and private resources to plan and develop local or regional food systems. The program focuses on strengthening the viability and resilience of regional food economies through collaboration and coordination.
- RFSP supports public-private partnerships that plan and develop relationships between local and regional producers, processors, intermediaries, and institutional markets or institutional food service operations through local and regional producers and local and regional food systems.
- Funding
 - Planning projects, \$100,000 to \$250,000 for 24 months.
 - Implementation and Farm to Institution projects, \$250,000 to \$1,000,000 for 36 months
- Match
 - 25% of federal funds requested, cash only contribution



SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (SCBGP)

- The purpose of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.
- Specialty crops are defined as “fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).”
- The program for Utah is administered by the Utah Department of Ag and Food (UDAF)
 - Applications open till April 5, 2024
 - For more info contact: Allison Ross, Grants Specialist, aross@utah.gov
 - Website: <https://ag.utah.gov/specialty-crop-block-grant-program/>



RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD) PROGRAMS – AVAILABLE TO PRODUCERS OR PRODUCER GROUPS

- RD program website: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs?page=0>
 - Meat and poultry processing expansion program
 - Value-added producer grant program
 - Food supply chain guaranteed loan program
 - Rural Energy for America Program - Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT - UTAH

- Amy Sorensen (435) 557-5117
 - Business & Cooperative Programs Director
- Karl Larsen (435) 283-8004 Ext #109
 - Community Programs Director
- Larinda Jorgensen (801) 524-4264
 - Housing Programs Director



MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING EXPANSION PROGRAM

- The Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP) provides grants to help eligible processors expand their processing capacity, which create new, better and more processing options for meat and poultry producers. Program designed to encourage competition and sustainable growth in the U.S. meat processing sector, and to help improve supply chain resiliency.
- Grant funds can be used for expenses during the period of performance of the grant award to expand processing capacity by supporting activities such as:
 - Building, modernizing, or expanding existing – processing facilities, including mobile slaughter units
 - Developing, installing, or modernizing equipment and technology
 - Ensuring compliance with packaging and labeling requirements
 - Upholding occupational and other safety requirements
 - Modifying facilities or equipment to protect food safety
 - Offsetting cost associated with becoming an inspected facility
 - Staffing or operational costs specifically tied to the proposed project
 - Supporting workforce recruitment, training, and retention
 - Posting USDA's standard infrastructure investment signage during construction of the project
- Funding
 - Projects including construction (and equipment associated with the project), \$250,000 to \$10 million
 - Projects that only require equipment purchases, \$5 million to \$10 million.



VALUE ADDED PRODUCER GRANT (VAPG) PROGRAM

- The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers enter value-added activities to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income.
- Value-added activities include:
 - A change in the physical state or form of the product (such as milling wheat into flour, or processing strawberries into jam or cattle into meat cuts).
 - The production of a product in a manner that enhances its value (such as grass-fed, organic, or hormone-free).
 - The physical segregation of a product in a manner that results in the enhancement of the products' value (such as an identity preserved marketing system, examples include weed-free, non-GMO, etc.).
- Funding
 - Planning Activities, up to \$75,000
 - Feasibility studies, business plans
 - Working Capital, up to \$250,000
 - Processing costs, marketing and advertising, some inventory and salary expenses
- Match
 - 50% of total project costs



FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM

- The Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program provides financial support to qualified lenders whose loan applicants want to start or expand middle of the food supply chain activities such as aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesale, or distribution of food.
- The program's goal is to increase capacity and help create a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain.
- Funds can be used for:
 - Business conversion, enlargement, repair, modernization, or development
 - The purchase and development of land, buildings, and associated infrastructure for commercial or industrial purposes
 - Building or equipping facilities for lease to public or private enterprises engaged in commercial or industrial operations
 - The purchase and installation of machinery and equipment, including manufacturing and Information Technology (IT) systems
 - Working capital



RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM - RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS & ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT GUARANTEED LOANS & GRANTS

- The program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing.
 - Energy Efficiency Improvements (EEI)
 - Replacing equipment with high efficiency equipment, lighting, insulation, doors windows, vfd's
 - Renewable Energy Systems (RES)
 - Implementing renewable energy systems = solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower, biomass
- Funding
 - Loan guarantees on loans up to 75 percent of total eligible project costs
 - Grants for up to 50 percent of total eligible project costs
 - Combined grant and loan guarantee funding up to 75% of total eligible project costs



OTHER AGENCY PROGRAMS OF NOTE

- Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)
 - The program provides organic producers and handlers with financial assistance to reduce the cost of organic certification.
 - The program reimburses producers and handlers for 75% of certification costs, up to a maximum of \$750 per certification scope—crops, livestock, wild crops, handling, and State Organic Program fees.
 - Administered through the Farm Service Agency (FSA)
 - Contact your local FSA office
 - Program webpage: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occsp/index>



RESOURCES

- USDA AMS: <https://www.ams.usda.gov>
- USDA NRCS: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov>
- USDA FSA: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov>
- USDA RD: <https://www.rd.usda.gov>
- New/beginning farmers: <https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers>



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