



United States Department of Agriculture



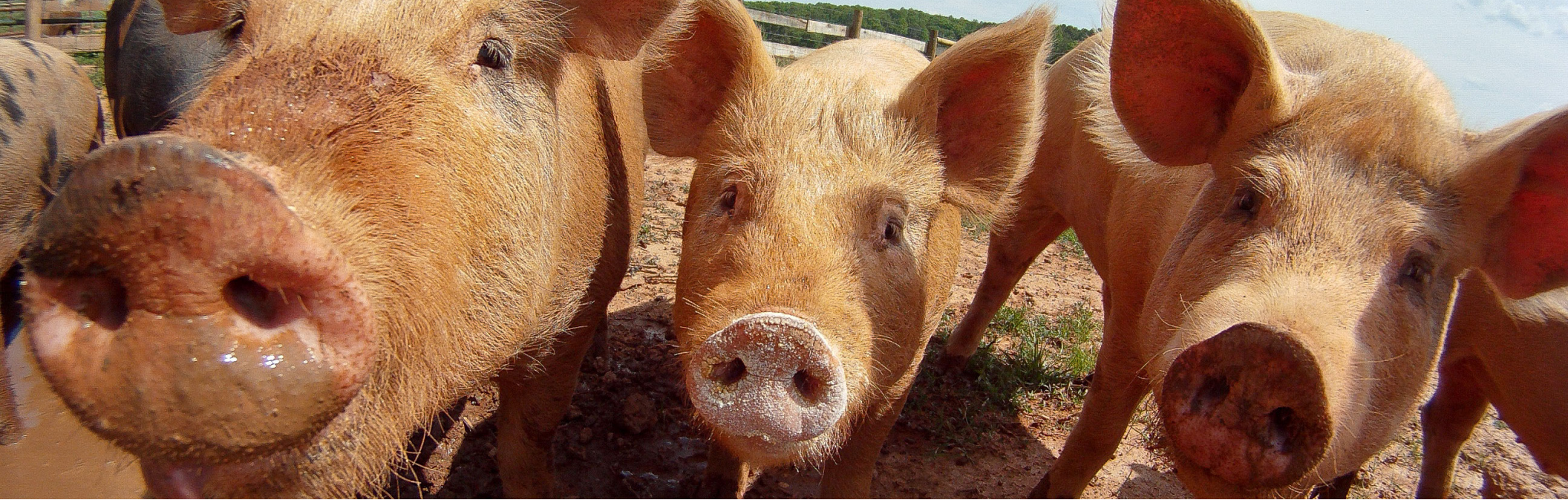
USDA Local and Regional Food Systems Resource Guide

USDA resources to support local and regional food systems



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INTRODUCTION

Local and Regional Foods are a small but vitally important part of agriculture sales in the United States (U.S.). According to the 2020 Local Food Marketing Practices Survey, the value of food sold through direct marketing practices, a marketing channel with only one or two steps between the producer and the consumer, was 9 billion dollars.¹ This figure reflects sales from more than 147,000 U.S. farms.² Given their direct relationship with their customers, local food farms were among the first to pivot in the pandemic. Local producers helped fill product shortages and address food insecurity, and an increasing number of consumers added local food outlets to their shopping routines.^{3,4}

At USDA, we recognize that the food systems of the future need to be fair, competitive, distributed, and resilient. This vision requires federal, tribal, state, territorial, and local resources all contributing to this goal. Funding resources and programs span the Department's 29 agencies and offices. Many of these programs can be "stacked" or sequenced to support local and regional farms and food businesses and their communities. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Local and Regional Food Systems Resource Guide (LRFS Resource Guide) is intended to help stakeholders navigate USDA resources to strengthen local and regional food systems.

We hope you take advantage of the LRFS Resource Guide to continue fostering, expanding, and strengthening local and regional food systems across the nation!



WHAT ARE LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOODS?

In broad terms, “local and regional foods” are foods produced and sold within a certain distance or geographic boundary to consumers. At USDA, there is no singular definition of local and regional foods. The USDA uses various definitions of local and regional foods that adhere to this general description. For example, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) often uses a definition for local and regional foods where the distance between product origin and point of sale is at most 400 miles, or both the final market and the product origin are within the same State, US territory, or Tribal land.⁵ This definition offers a shared understanding of the term with reasonable boundaries that ensure the products have some impact on the local or regional economy. Grant or award recipients often choose a final local and regional food definition for their project within those parameters. The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) defers to School Food Authorities (SFAs), or the entity responsible for administering the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program within a school district, to define local foods.⁶ This flexibility allows communities to define local and regional foods based on their unique needs.

Outside USDA, communities often define local and regional foods definitions by distance, geography, and direct-to-consumer marketing, but the concept can also champion specific ideas or values. Many definitions go beyond miles, supporting locally-identified economic, agricultural, or social gains. Other communities may determine definitions and sourcing goals based on product availability, budget, and the values the purchaser desires to advance with their food dollars.



WHAT ARE LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS?

“Food Systems” are complex networks that include all the steps from production to consumption, along with food loss and waste reduction and recovery.⁷ Local and regional food systems refer to food systems where production, aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, consumption, and food recovery and recycling happen in the locality or region where the final product is marketed to consumers. The idea is that consumers receive information at the point of purchase about a food’s origin and that the community benefits from the system and its product.⁸

Farms, food businesses, and markets in local and regional food systems often span urban, peri-urban (where urban transitions to rural), suburban, and rural communities. Approximately 78 percent of local food farms sell all their local food products within 100 miles of their farm.⁹ Metropolitan communities, with their larger concentrated populations, often serve as an important outlet for rural producers. More than half of local food farms are in metropolitan counties, where rural farm communities frequently reside near city borders.¹⁰ With the rise of urban agriculture in the U.S., cities are home to community and school gardens and commercial production too.

Local and regional food markets often overlap with direct-to-consumer markets, where producers sell experiences, such as farm tours, or products directly to consumers through farmers’ markets, roadside stands, agritourism destinations, or Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs. These markets often overlap but only sometimes. For example, Alaskan fishers may sell products directly to consumers in the Midwest or East Coast through purchasing cooperatives or by mail. Local and regional food and direct-to-consumer markets offer producers an opportunity to receive a larger share of profits while increasing the quality of food available to consumers.





WHY LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS?

As a result of the COVID-19 public health pandemic and recent supply chain disruptions, many Americans gained a better understanding of the importance of local and regional food systems. Local producers and food businesses quickly pivoted to meet nearly overnight shifts in markets.¹¹ Local and regional food markets offered an important safety net to both producers and consumers.¹² The need for a more resilient food system also became clear. Similarly, the pandemic highlighted the importance of tribal efforts to restore traditional foodways and support food system infrastructure.

For years, producers have recognized the importance of direct-to-consumer markets. Farm stands, farmers' markets, food hubs, and other local and regional food markets are often more accessible to farmers, with fewer barriers to entry, than mainstream markets. For many producers and food businesses, the accessibility and flexibility of local and regional markets provide a critical first outlet and an opportunity to grow their businesses over time. Local and regional food sales also promise producers a greater share of the food dollar, a measure of the annual expenditure that is spent domestically for the food people eat, which has markedly decreased in mainstream market channels over the past 50 years.^{13,14} By shoring more of the food supply chain in local and regional food systems, producers retain more of the profit and dollars attributed to food turn over more within a community before being spent elsewhere.

Local and regional foods also build community engagement around food, farming, sustainability, and nutrition. More than half of the nation's schools serve local foods or educate students about where their lunches are sourced.¹⁵ Districts participating in farm to school report increased food quality, better student knowledge about local and healthful foods, and higher consumption of school meals.¹⁶ During the COVID-19 pandemic, more than a third of U.S. consumers tried a new market channel targeted by local food farms, such as farmers' markets or food cooperatives. Many have continued to shop these markets.¹⁷ Local and regional food systems serve as community economic engines and help create a more resilient food system better able to withstand supply shocks. Local and regional foods also boost community interest and support for food and agriculture, an invaluable resource that promotes thriving farms and food businesses.



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE USDA LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS RESOURCE GUIDE?

Approached holistically, local and regional food systems attract investments, build wealth, and promote sustainability. USDA wants to see communities leverage these benefits. Planning for the development of local and regional food systems is a critical first step. A wide range of USDA resources are available to help, but it can be daunting to know where to begin.

Together, USDAAMS and USDA Rural Development (RD) partnered with other USDA Agencies and offices to offer the USDA Local and Regional Food Systems Resource Guide (LRFS Resource Guide), a tool to help navigate USDA resources and services in support of local and regional food systems. You can use the LRFS Resource Guide to identify financial resources that can be “stacked” or sequenced to support an individual project, business, or broader community plan. The LRFS Resource Guide can also serve as a tool to identify collaborative opportunities with partners and programs.

Unlike previous guides, the LRFS Resource Guide highlights permanent funding, alongside one-time programming. The intent is to increase USDA staff and stakeholders’ awareness of and access to permanently available programs supporting local and regional food systems and one-time programming, helping communities actively develop and fulfill their plans and visions for their local and regional food systems. In some cases, the LRFS Resource Guide includes one-time programs already awarded to acknowledge investments that are in the process of being made throughout the country, promote connections and linkages, and support communities in leveraging and building off existing projects.



HOW DO I USE THE USDA LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS RESOURCE GUIDE?

The USDA Local and Regional Food Systems Resource Guide (LRFS Resource Guide) makes high-level information available on USDA programs in the local and regional food supply chain. The LRFS Resource Guide organizes programs and services by steps in the supply chain: land conservation, production, processing, aggregation-distribution, markets-consumers, and food loss and waste reduction and recycling. It also includes a section on research, education, and technical assistance programming. Brief, easy-to-read summaries are provided for each program. The summaries offer information on program purpose, eligibility, on-going application (i.e., permanent program) or one-time or multi-cycle application period (i.e., non-permanent program), cost share or match, and other frequently sought details. The “Common Allowances” column lets you know if a program may support activities commonly asked about by stakeholders, including workforce training or technical assistance, value chain coordination, equipment, or infrastructure. The LRFS Resource Guide also provides program websites for those who want to learn more about a specific program. Some pass-through or subaward programs may be listed as closed for applications to USDA, where funding may still be offered through third-party subaward programs



LET'S GET STARTED: LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS RESOURCE GUIDE

Use the LRFS Resource Guide as a starting point to identify USDA resources available to support your farm, food business, or community. We stand ready to be your collaborative partner in Local and Regional Foods Systems.

LRFS Resource Guide Key Focus Areas

- Land Conservation
- Production
- Processing
- Aggregation/Distribution
- Markets/Consumers
- Food Loss and Waste Reduction and Recovery
- Research, Education, and Technical Assistance Programs

USDA Local and Regional Food Systems Resource Guide

(Pages 13-63 contain tables organized by focus area with descriptions and URLs for each program listed in the table below.)

Focus Area	Programs
Land Conservation	• Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (NRCS) • Agricultural Management Assistance Program (NRCS) • Conservation Innovation Grants (NRCS) • Conservation Stewardship Program (NRCS) • Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS) • Regional Conservation Partnership Program (NRCS) • Solid Waste Management Grants (RD) • Wetland Mitigation Banking Program (NRCS)
Production	• Advancing Markets for Producers Initiative (NRCS) • Beginning Farmer Down Payment Program (FSA) • Conservation Innovation Grants (NRCS) • Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (NRCS) • Farm Loans (FSA) • Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSA) • Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crop Program (FSA) • Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program (FSA) • Micro Farm Program (RMA) • Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance and Other Disaster Assistance Programs (FSA) • Organic Certification Cost Share Program (FSA) • Rural Energy for America Program (RD) • Transitional and Organic Grower Assistance Program (RMA) • Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (RMA) • Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Competitive Grants Program (OUAIP)

Focus Area	Programs
Processing	• Agricultural Innovation Center (RD) • Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: Meat and Poultry Processing – Agriculture Workforce Training Program (NIFA) • Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans (RD) • Community Facilities Loans and Grants (RD) • Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (AMS) • Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (AMS) • Food Supply Chain Loan Guaranteed Program (RD) • Indigenous Animals Harvesting and Meat Processing Grant Program (RD & AMS) • Local Meat Capacity Grants (AMS) • Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (RD) • Meat and Poultry Processing Intermediary Lending Program – Round 2 (RD) • National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant (FNS) • Organic Market Development Grants (AMS) • Regional Food System Partnerships (AMS) • Rural Business Development Grants (RD) • Rural Energy for America Program (RD) • Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Competitive Grants Program (OUAIP) • Value Added Producer Grants (RD)
Aggregation/Distribution	• Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans (RD) • Community Facilities Loans and Grants (RD) • Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSA) • Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (AMS) • Food Supply Chain Loan Guaranteed Program (RD) • Local Food Promotion Program (AMS) • Organic Market Development Grants (AMS) • Regional Food System Partnerships (AMS) • Rural Business Development Grants (RD) • Rural Energy for America Program (RD) • Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (AMS) • The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Reach and Resiliency Grants – Round 2 Funding (FNS) • Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Competitive Grants Program (OUAIP)

Focus Area	Programs
Markets/Consumers	• Advancing Markets for Producers Initiative (NRCS) • Community Food Projects Competitive Grants (NIFA) • Farmers Market Promotion Program (AMS) • Farm to School Grant Program (FNS) • Farm to School State Agency Formula Grants (FNS) • Food and Agriculture Service-Learning Program (NIFA) • Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (NIFA) • Healthy Food Financing Initiative (RD) • Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative (FNS) • Organic Market Development Grants (AMS) • Regional Food System Partnerships (AMS) • Rural Business Development Grants (RD) • Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FNS) • Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FNS) • Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (AMS) • Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) (FNS) • Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Electronic Healthy Incentives Pilot (FNS) • Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Competitive Grants Program (OUAIP)
Food Loss and Waste Reduction and Recycling	• Community Food Projects Competitive Grants (NIFA) • Composting and Food Waste Reduction Cooperative Agreements (OUAIP) • Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSA) • Food and Agriculture Service-Learning Program (NIFA) • Rural Business Development Grants (RD) • Rural Energy for America Program (RD) • Solid Waste Management Grants (RD) • The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) - Farm to Food Bank Program (FNS)

Focus Area	Programs
Research, Education, and Technical Assistance Programs	• Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (NIFA) • Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinators (FSA) • Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (NIFA) • Conservation Technical Assistance (NRCS) • Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (AMS) • Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans (NIFA) • Equity in Conservation Agreements (NRCS) • Extension Risk Management Education Program (NIFA) • Farm to School State Agency Formula Grants (FNS) • Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (AMS) • Food Safety Outreach Program (NIFA) • Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity - Technical Assistance (AMS) • Organic Agricultural Research and Extension Initiative (NIFA) • Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (OPPE) • Regional Food Business Centers (AMS) • Rural Business Development Grants (RD) • Rural Cooperative Development Grants (RD) • Small Business Innovation Research (NIFA) • Socially Disadvantaged Group Grant (RD) • Soil Carbon Monitoring Training and Outreach Agreements (NRCS) • Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (AMS) • Specialty Crop Research Initiative (NIFA) • Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (NIFA) • Transition to Organic Partnership Program (AMS)

*Note that programs listed are not all-inclusive, please contact your local USDA Offices to see if there are other programs (including PILOTS) that may provide additional assistance.

Additional program information is available at USDA: [Agencies | USDA](#) and <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/agencies>.

For information on other USDAAMS local and regional food systems funding, research, and technical assistance, please visit <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional>.

For information on other USDA RD programs and funding opportunities, including our Pandemic Resources, please visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/>. For USDA rural area eligibility criteria please use Rural Development's Eligibility Tool (available at this link: <https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov>) to help determine if your project is in an eligible rural area and you are otherwise eligible to apply.

Investment Focus: LAND CONSERVATION

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (NRCS)	The agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) protects the agricultural viability and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting nonagricultural uses which negatively affect agricultural uses and conservation values, protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring or conserving eligible grazing land, and protecting and restoring and enhancing wetlands on eligible land. ACEP has two components: Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) and Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE). More information available at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/acep/	- Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) - State and local governments - Nongovernmental organizations that have farmland or grassland protection programs - Owners of privately held land and beneficiaries of Indian trust land	- Technical and Financial Assistance – On-going Application Period - Up to 75% of the fair market value of a land easement for ALE - Up to 100% for WRE - Cash share or match required.	Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance
Agricultural Management Assistance Program (NRCS)	The Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program helps agricultural producers manage financial risk through diversification, marketing or natural resource conservation practices. States align natural resource priorities with producers need for a particular may construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures; plant trees for windbreaks or to improve water quality; and mitigate risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices, including soil erosion control, seasonal extension – high tunnel or transition to organic farming. Contracts are for one to 10 years after completion of the last practice. More information available at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/ama/	Producers AMA is available to producers in the 16 states where participation in the Federal Crop Insurance Program is historically low: Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.	- Technical and Financial Assistance – On-going Application Period - Up to \$50,000 per fiscal year - Cash share or match required.	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Equipment (limited)

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Conservation Innovation Grants (NRCS)	The Conservation Innovation Grant is a competitive program that supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands. Through creative problem solving and innovation, CIG partners work to address our nation's water quality, air quality, soil health and wildlife habitat challenges, all while improving agricultural operations. More information available at: https://cig.sc.egov.usda.gov/	EQIP-eligible Producers, which includes the following: • Individuals • Legal entities • Joint operations, • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • All entities must have control of the land. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, and other farm or ranch lands.	• Grant – Annual/Recurring Application Period • Awards vary. • Cost share or match required.	• Workforce Training / Technical Assistance • Equipment • Infrastructure
Conservation Stewardship Program (NRCS)	The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers technical and financial assistance to help agricultural and forest producers take their conservation efforts to the next level. The program is designed to compensate agricultural and forest producers who agree to increase their level of conservation by adopting additional conservation activities and maintaining their baseline level of conservation. More information available at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/csp-conservation-stewardship-program	• Individuals, legal entities, joint operations or Indian Tribes that own or rent and currently manage land for agricultural or forest production.	• Cooperative Agreement – On-going Application Period • \$4,000 minimum	• Workforce Training / Technical Assistance
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS)	The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers technical and financial assistance for working lands, including field crops, specialty crops, organic, confined livestock and grazing, and non-industrial private forest land. NRCS and producers work together through five to 10-year contracts to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. EQIP is a competitively awarded based on resource concerns to be addressed and other factors. There is no minimum acreage requirement. More information available at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives	• Individuals • Legal entities • Joint operations, • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) All entities must have control of the land. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, and other farm or ranch lands.	• Technical and Financial Assistance – On-going Application Period • Awards vary. • Cost share required.	• Workforce Training / Technical Assistance • Equipment • Infrastructure

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (NRCS)	The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. RCPP projects fall under two different categories: RCPP Classic and RCPP Grants. RCPP Classic projects are implemented using NRCS contracts and easements with producers, landowners, and communities, in collaboration with project partners. More information available at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program	• Agricultural or silvicultural producer associations or other groups of producers • Farmer cooperatives • States • Local governments • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • Institutions of higher education • Water districts, irrigation districts, acequia, rural water districts or association, or other organization with specific water delivery authority to producers on agricultural land • Municipal water or wastewater treatment entity • Organization or entity with an established history of working cooperatively with producers on agricultural land as determined by the Secretary to address local conservation priorities and critical watershed-scale soil erosion, water quality, or other natural resource concerns • Other eligible entities as identified by NRCS	• Contribution Agreement. • Awards vary. • Cost share or match required.	• Infrastructure

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Solid Waste Management Grants (RD)	This program reduces or eliminates pollution of water resources by providing 12-month funding for organizations that provide technical assistance or training to improve the planning and management of solid waste sites. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/solid-waste-management-grants	- Public bodies - Nonprofit organizations - Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) - Academic Institutions	- Grant – Annual Application Period/Recurring Funding Opportunity \$400,000 to \$1,000,000	Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance
Wetland Mitigation Banking Program (NRCS)	The Wetland Mitigation Banking Program (WMBP) is a competitive grants program that supports the development and establishment of wetland mitigation banks to make credits available for agricultural producers who cannot mitigate impacts on-site. More information available: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wetland-mitigation-banking-program	- City or township governments - County governments - State-recognized Tribes - Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) - American Indian/Alaska Native tribal organizations (other than Indian Tribes (Federally recognized)) - Nonprofit organizations - For-profit organizations - Private and public institutions of higher education - Small business - Special district government - State government	- Grant – Annual Application Period - Ongoing/recurring program \$400,000 to \$1,000,000 - Cost share or match required.	Equipment



Investment Focus: **PRODUCTION**

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Advancing Markets for Producers Initiative (NRCS)	The Advancing Markets for Producers Initiative, formerly known as Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities, is intended to expand markets for commodities grown using climate smart practices and provide direct, meaningful benefits to participating producers.	- County, city or township governments - Special district governments - State governments - Small businesses - For-profit organizations other than small businesses - Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) and tribal organizations - Nonprofits (other than institutions of higher education) - Public, State-controlled, and Private institutions of higher education	- Grant – One-time Application (CLOSED) \$250,000 to \$100,000,000	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Value Chain Coordination - Equipment
Beginning Farmer Down Payment Program (FSA)	This program helps beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers purchase a family farm or ranch by providing joint financing with a commercial lender. This program allows FSA to provide more farmers and ranchers access to capital and can be a financing tool to help transition farms between generations. More information available at: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/beginning-farmers-and-ranchers-loans	- An individual or entity who: - Has not operated a farm for more than 10 years - Substantially participates in the operation - For farm ownership loans, the applicant cannot own a farm greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the country, at the time of application	- Loan – On-going Application Period - Loan amount limited to 45 percent of the least of: - Purchase price of the farm - Appraised value of the farm, or \$667,000 (\$300,150 maximum). - Cost share or match required.	Purchase of a family farm

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Conservation Innovation Grants (NRCS)	The Conservation Innovation Grant is a competitive program that supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands. Through creative problem solving and innovation, CIG partners work to address our nation's water quality, air quality, soil health and wildlife habitat challenges, all while improving agricultural operations. More information available at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/	EQIP-eligible Producers, which includes the following: • Individuals • Legal entities • Joint operations, • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • All entities must have control of the land. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, and other farm or ranch lands.	• Grant – Annual/recurring Application Period • Awards vary. • Cost share or match required.	• Workforce Training / Technical Assistance • Equipment • Infrastructure
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS)	The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers technical and financial assistance for working lands, including field crops, specialty crops, organic, confined livestock and grazing, and non-industrial private forest land. NRCS and producers work together through five to 10-year contracts to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. There is no minimum acreage requirement. More information available at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/	• Individuals • Legal entities • Joint operations, • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • All entities must have control of the land. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, and other farm or ranch lands.	• Technical and Financial Assistance – On-going Enrollment/Application Period • Awards vary. • Cost share or match required.	• Workforce Training / Technical Assistance • Equipment • Infrastructure

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Farm Loans (FSA)	Farm Ownership loans help you purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch, construct a new or improve an existing farm or ranch building, pay closing costs, and pay for soil and water conservation and protection. Operating loans help you purchase livestock and equipment and pay for minor real estate repairs and annual operating expenses. Microloans are direct farm ownership and operating loans with a shortened streamlined application process and reduced paperwork designed to meet the needs of smaller, non-traditional, and niche-type operations. Emergency loans help you if you suffered a qualifying loss caused by natural disasters that damaged your farm or ranch. More information available at: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/index	• Landowner • Landlord • Leaseholder • Tenant • Sharecropper Eligible borrowers must be able to show repayment ability and meet other requirements to qualify for a loan.	• Loan – On-going Enrollment/Application Period • Up to \$500,000	• Workforce Training / Technical Assistance • Equipment • Infrastructure
Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSA)	The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing so producers can build or upgrade facilities to store commodities. More information available at: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/facility-loans/farm-storage/	• Landowner • Landlord • Leaseholder • Tenant • Sharecropper Eligible borrowers must be able to show repayment ability and meet other requirements to qualify for a loan.	• Loan – On-going Enrollment/Application Period • Up to \$500,000	• Equipment • Infrastructure

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crop Program (FSA)	The Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crop (FSCSC) Program provides financial assistance for specialty crop operations that incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification in calendar years in 2022 or 2023. This program helps offset costs to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements. More information available at: https://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/food-safety	• Specialty crop operation • Small business or very small business Operations and businesses must have obtained or renewed a 2023 food safety certification issued during the 2023 calendar year and paid eligible expenses.	• Cost Share Reimbursement – Multi-period sign-ups continue through January 31, 2024.	• Workforce Training / Technical Assistance
Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program (FSA)	The Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access (Increasing Land Access) Program helps underserved producers by increasing land, capital, and market access. The Increasing Land Access Program is intended to address this problem by increasing access to farm ownership opportunities, increasing access, and improving results for those with heirs' property or fractionated land, increasing access to markets and capital that affect the ability to access land, and increasing land ownership, land succession, and agricultural business planning. The agreements may be for up to five years and may be local, state, regional, or national in scope. More information available: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/increasing-land-access/index	• State, Territorial, and municipal governments • Indian Tribes, including their instrumentalities, organizations, and Native financial institutions • Public and state-controlled and nonprofit institutions of higher education • Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status	• Grant and Cooperative Agreement – One-time Application Period (CLOSED) • \$250,000 to \$40,000,000	• Workforce Training / Technical Assistance

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Micro Farm Program (RMA)	The Micro Farm program provides a risk management safety net for all commodities on a single farm under one insurance policy. This insurance plan is tailored for any farm with up to \$350,000 in approved revenue, including farms with specialty or organic commodities (both crops and livestock), or those marketing to local, regional, farm-identity preserved, specialty, or direct markets. More information available: https://www.rma.usda.gov/en/Fact-Sheets/National-Fact-Sheets/Micro-Farm-Program	Policy holders must share in the risk of producing an eligible crop and is entitled to an ownership share of the crop as a: • Landowner • Tenant • Sharecropper	Policy holders must: • Be eligible to receive Federal benefits; • Be a U.S. citizen or resident; • File either a Schedule F tax form or other farm tax form that can be converted to a Substitute Schedule F for a specified number of years • Have no more than \$350,000 of approved revenue (or \$400,000 if you had Micro Farm the previous year) • Have no more than 50 percent of total revenue from commodities purchased for resale	• Insurance – On-going enrollment through authorized crop or livestock insurance agents
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance and Other Disaster Assistance Programs (FSA)	Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. More information available at: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/noninsured-crop-disaster-assistance/index	Policy holders must share in the risk of producing an eligible crop and is entitled to an ownership share of the crop as a: • Landowner • Tenant • Sharecropper	• Disaster Assistance – On-going Application Period	

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Organic Certification Cost Share Program (FSA)	The Organic Certification Cost Share Program provides organic producers and handlers with financial assistance to reduce the cost of organic certification. The program reimburses producers and handlers for a portion of their paid certification costs. Reimbursement is available per certification scope—crops, livestock, wild crops, handling, and State Organic Program fees. More information available at: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occsp	• Certified organic producers and handlers who have paid certification fees during the 2021 and subsequent program year.	• Cost Share Reimbursement – Multi-period sign-up. • In 2024, FSA increased the cost share to 75 percent or \$750 per category, the maximum amount allowed by statute.	
Rural Energy for America Program (RD)	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. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency-improvement-guaranteed-loans	• Agricultural producers • Small businesses	• Loan Guarantee and Grant – Multi- Application Period through fiscal year 2024. • The loan guarantee percentage is published annually in a Federal Register notice. • Loan guarantees on loans up to 75 percent of total eligible project costs. • Grants for up to 40 percent of total eligible project costs. • Combined grant and loan guarantee funding up to 75% of total eligible project costs. • Cost share or match required.	• Equipment

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Transitional and Organic Grower Assistance Program (RMA)	The Transitional and Organic Grower Assistance (TOGA) Program provides premium assistance to agricultural producers who have crop insurance coverage on crops in transition to organic or certified organic grain and feed crops for the 2023 reinsurance year. More information available at: https://www.farmers.gov/organic-transition-initiative/toga	Eligible producers will automatically receive the premium assistance on the premium billing statements for the 2023 reinsurance year, which covers applicable policies with sales closing dates from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.	Insurance – One-time premium subsidy (CLOSED).	
Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (RMA)	Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) provides a risk management safety net for all commodities on the farm under one insurance policy and is available in all counties nationwide. This insurance plan is tailored for any farm with up to \$17 million in insured revenue, including farms with specialty or organic commodities (both crops and livestock), or those marketing to local, regional, farm-identity preserved, specialty, or direct markets. More information available at: https://www.rma.usda.gov/en/Policy-and-Procedure/Insurance-Plans/Whole-Farm-Revenue-Protection	Policy holders must: - Be eligible to receive Federal benefits. - Be a U.S. citizen or resident. - File either a Schedule F tax form or other farm tax form that can be converted to a Substitute Schedule F for a specified number of years. - Have no more than \$17 million in insured revenue. - Have no more than 50 percent of total revenue from commodities purchased for resale. - Have 'buy-up' coverage levels on any Federal crop insurance plans you choose in addition to the WFRP insurance plan. - Have two or more commodities if a commodity you are raising has revenue protection or actual revenue history insurance available. - Have two or more commodities if there are potatoes on the farm.	Insurance – Talk to local crop insurance agent about enrollment.	

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Competitive Grants Program (OUAIP)	Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants Program initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access; education; business and start-up costs for new farmers; and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production. More information available at: https://www.usda.gov/topics/urban/grants	- Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) - State-recognized Tribes should select “Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)” - Nonprofits (other than institutions of higher education) - A unit of local government (city, township, county, school district, Soil and Water Conservation Districts) - Schools (Kindergarten through Grade 12)	- Grant – Annual Application Period \$50,000 to \$350,000	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Value Chain Coordination - Equipment - Infrastructure



Investment Focus: **PROCESSING**

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Agricultural Innovation Center (RD)	The Agricultural Innovation Center Program makes grants to agriculture innovation centers to provide technical assistance. The assistance is provided to agricultural producers to help them develop and market value-added agricultural products. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/agriculture-innovation-center-program	• Local Governments • State Governments • Indian Tribes (Federally Recognized) • Institutions of higher education • Nonprofit organizations • Commercial Organizations	• Grant – Annual Application Period- • Up to \$1,000,000 • Cost share or match required.	• Workforce Training / Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: Meat and Poultry Processing – Agriculture (NIFA)	The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Meat and Poultry Processing - Agricultural Workforce Training Program (MPP-AWT) seeks to support the development, expansion, and standardization of meat and poultry processing training programs at community, junior, and technical colleges. More information available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/agriculture-food-research-initiative-afri/afri-education-workforce-development	• State Agricultural Experiment Station • Colleges and universities • University research foundations • Other research institutions and organizations • Federal agencies • National laboratories • Private organizations or corporations • Individuals who are U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents • Group consisting of two or more entities listed above	• Grant – One-time Application Period • Up to \$650,000	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Equipment (limited)

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans (RD)	The Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loans program provides loan guarantees to commercial lenders for loans to eligible rural businesses. Each year, at least five percent of B&I funds are set aside for local food-related projects. Under this set aside, the B&I program provides loan guarantees for entities that process, distribute, aggregate, store and/or market locally or regionally-produced agricultural food products to support community development and farm and ranch income. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/business-industry-loan-guarantees	• Federal and State-chartered banks • For-profit or non-profit organizations • Cooperatives • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • Public bodies • Individuals engaged or proposing to engage in a business • Savings and loans • Farm Credit Banks with direct lending authority • Credit unions	• Loan – On-going	• Equipment • Infrastructure
Community Facilities Loans and Grants (RD)	This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program	• Public bodies • Community-based non-profit organization • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized)	• Grant, Loan, and Combination Grant and Loan– On-going Application Period • Cost share or match required.	• Equipment • Infrastructure

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (AMS)	The Dairy Business Innovation (DBI) Initiatives support dairy businesses in the development, production, marketing and distribution of dairy products and regional milk production. DBI Initiatives provide direct technical assistance and grants of up to \$500,000 to dairy businesses, including niche dairy products, such as specialty cheese, or dairy products derived from the milk of a dairy animal, including cow, sheep and goat milk, and dairy promotion and research boards. More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/dbi	• DBI grants are primarily awarded annually to current Initiatives unless funds are specifically provided to identify new Initiatives via a competitive process. • In the event of competitive funding availability, these types of entities are eligible to apply as an Initiative host: • State agencies of agriculture or other state entities • Cooperative extension service • Institutions of higher education • Nonprofit organizations • Beneficiaries include dairy farms and businesses with limited access to other assistance, employee-owned dairy businesses, cooperatives, and dairy businesses that seek to create value-added products.	• Direct Technical Assistance and Grants – Annual Application Period • There is no minimum or maximum DBI sub-award. Funds are equally distributed among the current initiatives based on annual appropriations.	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination • Equipment (limited)

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (AMS)	The Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) program will award non-competitive cooperative agreements to each U.S. state and territory to develop and administer state coordinated initiatives to build resilience across the middle of the State's food supply chain for food crops. States and territories will make competitive Infrastructure Grants to eligible entities to support expanded capacity for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, or distribution of locally and regionally produced food products. More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/rfsi	State agencies, commissions, or departments responsible for agriculture	- Cooperative Agreement – One-time Application Period through State Agencies \$2,000,000 minimum per State; \$100,000 to \$3,000,000 for sub-awardees - Cost share or match required for sub-awardees only.	- Value Chain Coordination - Equipment - Infrastructure
Food Supply Chain Loan Guaranteed Program (RD)	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. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/food-supply-chain-guaranteed-loans	- For-profit or nonprofit businesses - Cooperatives - Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) - Public bodies - Food supply chain entrepreneurs - Lenders, including banks, credit unions, CDFIs, loan funds, and others	- Loan –One-time funding (CLOSED) - Up to \$40,000,000 for qualified lenders	- Equipment - Infrastructure
Indigenous Animals Harvesting and Meat Processing Grant Program (RD & AMS)	The Indigenous Animals Harvesting and Meat Processing Grant Program (Indigenous Animals Grants or IAG) supports projects that construct, renovate, or improve facilities, purchase and install equipment, address food insecurity or commercial market gaps, and otherwise support tribal food value-added infrastructure for animal protein processing including through indigenous informed design principles. More information available at: https://www.usda.gov/iag	Indian Tribes (Federally recognized)	Grant – One-time Application Period (CLOSED)	- Equipment - Infrastructure

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Local Meat Capacity Grants (AMS)	The Local Meat Capacity Grants (Local MCap) supports meat and poultry processors with smaller-scale projects, with a goal to increase processing availability and variety for local livestock producers. Local MCap can support equipment purchases and installation, facility and equipment upgrades, minor alterations and renovation, and capacity expansion projects. More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/localmcap	• Individuals • For-profit or nonprofit businesses • Local governments • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • State agencies	• Grant – One-time Application Period (CLOSED) • \$10,000 to \$5,000,000 • Cost share or match required (for Processing Expansion Projects only).	• Equipment • Infrastructure (limited)
Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (RD)	The Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP) provides grants to help eligible processors expand their capacity. USDA RD designed the MPPEP to encourage competition and sustainable growth in the U.S. meat processing sector, and to help improve supply chain resiliency. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/meat-and-poultry-processing-expansion-program	• Sole proprietor businesses or other entities that engage – or want to engage – in meat and poultry processing.	• Grant – CLOSED. • The maximum award amount is \$25 million, or 20 percent of total project costs, whichever is less. There is no minimum award amount.	• Equipment • Infrastructure
Meat and Poultry Processing Intermediary Lending Program–Round 2 (RD)	The objective of the Meat and Poultry Processing Intermediary Lending Program (MPILP) is to strengthen the financing capacity for independent meat processors, and to create a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/meat-and-poultry-intermediary-lending-program	• Private nonprofit corporations • Public agencies • Tribes • Cooperatives that finance – or plan to finance – the start-up, expansion, or operation of meat and poultry processing	• Grant – Multiple-cycle Application Period (CLOSED). • \$500,000 to \$15,000,000	• Equipment • Infrastructure

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant (FNS)	The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities makes funding available to NSLP-operating State agencies to competitively award grants to eligible School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in NSLP. The State awarded subgrants support SFAs in equipment purchases, with a value of greater than \$1,000, needed to serve healthier meals and improve food safety, and help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the School Breakfast Program. Equipment improvements encourage scratch cooking in schools and supports purchase of local foods. More information available at: https://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/prior-year-nslp-equipment-assistance-grants	State agencies Program beneficiaries include School Food Authorities (SFAs).	- Grant – Annual Application Period - Allotment varies by state.	Equipment
Organic Market Development Grants (AMS)	The Organic Market Development Grants (OMDG) aid in the expansion of new and additional market opportunities for U.S. organic market commodities. OMDG support projects that increase domestic organic supply chain capacity for producers, handlers, suppliers, and processors; facilitate market development for domestically produced organic food products; and remove barriers to entry to organic certification. Project activities may take place over a 24- to 36-month period. More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/omdg	- Certified or transitioning organic food producers or handlers - Non-profit entities - Tribal government - State and local governments	- Grant Program – One-time Application Period (CLOSED) \$100,000 to \$3,000,000 - Cost share or match required (for Market Development and Promotion and Processing Capacity Expansion Projects only).	- Value Chain Coordination - Equipment - Infrastructure (limited)

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Regional Food System Partnerships (AMS)	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. More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/rfsp	- Partnerships made up of one or eligible entity and partner eligible to apply Eligible entities: - Producers, farmer or rancher cooperatives - Producer networks or associations - Majority-controlled producer-based business venture - Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks and associations - Food councils - Local governments - Nonprofit and public benefit corporations - Economic development corporations - Regional farmers' market authorities - Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) Eligible partners: - State agencies or regional authorities - Philanthropic corporations - Private corporations - Institutions of higher education - Commercial, federal, or Farm Credit System Lending Institutions	- Grant – Annual Application Period \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 - Cost share or match required.	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Value Chain Coordination - Equipment (limited)

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Rural Business Development Grants (RD)	Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) are a competitive grant to support targeted technical assistance, training, and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas that have fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in gross revenues. RBDG funds must be used for projects that benefit rural areas or towns outside the urbanized periphery of any city with a population of 50,000 or more. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-business-development-grants	Rural public entities including, but not limited to: • Towns • Communities • State agencies. • Authorities • Nonprofit organizations • Institutions of higher education • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • Rural cooperatives (if organized as a private nonprofit corporation)	• Grant – Annual Application Period • No award maximum	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Equipment • Infrastructure
Rural Energy for America Program (RD)	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. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency-improvement-guaranteed-loans	• Agricultural producers • Small businesses	• Loan Guarantee and Grant – Annual Application Period • The loan guarantee percentage is published annually in a Federal Register notice. • Loan guarantees on loans up to 75 percent of total eligible project costs. • Grants for up to 40 percent of total eligible project costs. • Combined grant and loan guarantee funding up to 75% of total eligible project costs. • Cost share or match required.	• Equipment

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Competitive Grants Program (OUAIP)	Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants Program initiates or expands the efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access; education; business and start-up costs for new farmers; and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production. More information available at: https://www.usda.gov/topics/urban/grants	- Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) - State-recognized Tribes should select “Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)” - Nonprofits (other than institutions of higher education) - A unit of local government (city, township, county, school district, Soil and Water Conservation Districts) - Schools (Kindergarten through Grade 12)	- Grant – Annual Application Period \$50,000 to \$350,000	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Value Chain Coordination - Equipment - Infrastructure
Value-Added Producer Grant Program (RD)	The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers identify and start value-added activities related to processing and marketing new products. Program goals include generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and increasing producer income. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/agriculture-innovation-center-program	- Independent producers - Agricultural producer groups - Farmer and rancher cooperatives - Majority-controlled, producer-based business ventures	- Grant – On-going Application Period - Up to \$250,000 - Cost share or match required	



Investment Focus: DISTRIBUTION

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans (RD)	The Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loans program provides loan guarantees to commercial lenders for loans to eligible rural businesses. Each year, at least five percent of B&I funds are set aside for local food-related projects. Under this set aside, the B&I program provides loan guarantees for entities that process, distribute, aggregate, store and/or market locally or regionally-produced agricultural food products to support community development and farm and ranch income. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/business-industry-loan-guarantees	• Federal and State-chartered banks • For-profit or non-profit organizations • Cooperatives • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • Public bodies • Individuals engaged or proposing to engage in a business • Savings and loans • Farm Credit Banks with direct lending authority • Credit unions	• Loan – On-going	• Equipment • Infrastructure
Community Facilities Loans and Grants (RD)	This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program	• Public bodies • Community-based non-profit organization • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized)	• Grant, Loan, and Combination Grant and Loan– On-going Application Period • Cost share or match required	• Equipment • Infrastructure

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSA)	The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing so producers can build or upgrade facilities to store commodities. More information available at: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/facility-loans/farm-storage/	• Landowner • Landlord • Leaseholder • Tenant • Sharecropper. Eligible borrowers must be able to show repayment ability and meet other requirements to qualify for a loan.	• Loan • Up to \$500,000	• Equipment • Infrastructure
Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (AMS)	The Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) program will award non-competitive cooperative agreements to each U.S. state and territory to develop and administer state coordinated initiatives to build resilience across the middle of the State's food supply chain for food crops. States and territories will make competitive Infrastructure Grants to eligible entities to support expanded capacity for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, or distribution of locally and regionally produced food products. More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/rfsi	• State agencies, commissions, or departments responsible for agriculture	• Cooperative Agreement – One-time Application Period through State Agencies. • \$2,000,000 minimum per State; \$100,000 to \$3,000,000 for sub-awardees • Cost share or match required for sub-awardees only.	• Value Chain Coordination • Equipment • Infrastructure
Food Supply Chain Loan Guaranteed Program (RD)	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. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/food-supply-chain-guaranteed-loans	• For-profit or nonprofit businesses • Cooperatives • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • Public bodies • Food supply chain entrepreneurs • Lenders, including banks, credit unions, CDFIs, loan funds, and others	• Loan – Annual Application Period (CLOSED) • Up to \$40,000,000 for qualified lenders	• Equipment • Infrastructure

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Local Food Promotion Program (AMS)	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, such as food hubs, distributors, and other local food aggregators, to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. More information available: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp	• Agricultural businesses and cooperatives • Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks and associations • Food councils • Economic development corporations • Local governments • Nonprofit and public benefit corporations • Producer networks or associations • Regional farmers' market authorities • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized)	• Grant – Annual Application Period • \$25,000 to \$500,000 • Cost share or match required.	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination • Equipment (limited)
Organic Market Development Grants (AMS)	The Organic Market Development Grants (OMDG) aid in the expansion of new and additional market opportunities for U.S. organic market commodities. OMDG support projects that increase domestic organic supply chain capacity for producers, handlers, suppliers, and processors; facilitate market development for domestically produced organic food products; and remove barriers to entry to organic certification for smaller producers and historically underserved entities. Project activities may take place over a 24- to 36-month period. More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/omdg	• Certified or transitioning organic food producers or handlers • Non-profit entities • Tribal government • State and local governments	• Grant Program – One-time Application Period (CLOSED) • \$100,000 to \$3,000,000 • Cost share or match required (for Market Development and Promotion and Processing Capacity Expansion Projects only).	• Value Chain Coordination • Equipment • Infrastructure (limited)

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Regional Food System Partnerships (AMS)	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. More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/rfsp	- Partnerships made up of one or eligible entity and partner eligible to apply Eligible entities: - Producers, farmer or rancher cooperatives - Producer networks or associations - Majority-controlled producer-based business venture - Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks and associations - Food councils - Local governments - Nonprofit and public benefit corporations - Economic development corporations - Regional farmers' market authorities - Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) Eligible partners: - State agencies or regional authorities - Philanthropic corporations - Private corporations - Institutions of higher education - Commercial, federal, or Farm Credit System Lending Institutions	- Grant – Annual Application Period \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 - Cost share or match required.	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Value Chain Coordination - Equipment (limited)

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Rural Business Development Grants (RD)	Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) are a competitive grant designed to support targeted technical assistance, training, and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas that have fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in gross revenues. RBDG funds must be used for projects that benefit rural areas or towns outside the urbanized periphery of any city with a population of 50,000 or more. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-business-development-grants	Rural public entities including, but not limited to: • Towns • Communities • State agencies. • Authorities • Nonprofit organizations • Institutions of higher education • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • Rural cooperatives (if organized as a private nonprofit corporation)	• Grant – Annual Application Period • No award maximum.	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Equipment • Infrastructure
Rural Energy for America Program (RD)	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. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency-improvement-guaranteed-loans	• Agricultural producers • Small businesses	• Loan Guarantee and Grant – Annual Application Period • The loan guarantee percentage is published annually in a Federal Register notice. • Loan guarantees on loans up to 75 percent of total eligible project costs. • Grants for up to 40 percent of total eligible project costs. • Combined grant and loan guarantee funding up to 75% of total eligible project costs. • Cost share or match required.	• Equipment

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (AMS)	The purpose of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. States develop and oversee projects that leverage efforts to market and promote specialty crops, assist producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops, expand availability and access to specialty crops, and address local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture). More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp	State departments of agriculture	- Grant – Annual Application Period - Allotment varies by state.	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Value Chain Coordination - Equipment
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Reach and Resiliency Grants – Round 2 Funding (FNS)	The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Reach and Resiliency grants are intended to expand TEFAP's reach into remote, rural, Tribal, and/or low-income areas that are underserved by the program. Grant funding will provide TEFAP State agencies with an opportunity to re-envision how they can work with currently participating organizations and/or new partner organizations, to reach underserved populations in their State/Territory. The program will operate through Fiscal Year 2025. More information available at: https://www.fns.usda.gov/tefap/reach-resiliency-grant	State agencies that administer TEFAP Other organizations are eligible for subgrants under State agency award.	- Grant – Multi-cycle Application Period (CLOSED) - Allotment varies by state.	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Equipment - Infrastructure

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Competitive Grants Program (OUAIP)	Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants Program initiates or expands the efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access; education; business and start-up costs for new farmers; and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production. More information available at: https://www.usda.gov/topics/urban/grants	• Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • State-recognized Tribes should select “Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)” • Nonprofits (other than institutions of higher education) • A unit of local government (city, township, county, school district, Soil and Water Conservation Districts) • Schools (Kindergarten through Grade 12)	• Grant – Annual Application Period • \$50,000 to \$350,000	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination • Equipment • Infrastructure



Investment Focus: **MARKETS – CONSUMERS**

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Advancing Markets for Producers Initiative (NRCS)	The Advancing Markets for Producers Initiative, formerly known as Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities, is intended to expand markets for commodities grown using climate smart practices and provide direct, meaningful benefits to participating producers.	• County, city or township governments • Special district governments • State governments • Small businesses • For-profit organizations other than small businesses • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) and tribal organizations • Nonprofits (other than institutions of higher education) • Public, State-controlled, and Private institutions of higher education	• Grant – One-time Application (CLOSED) • \$250,000 to \$100,000,000	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination • Equipment

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Community Food Projects Competitive Grants (NIFA)	Community Food Projects (CFP) are designed to increase food security in communities by bringing the whole food system together to assess strengths, establish linkages, and create systems that improve the self-reliance of community members over their food needs. Preferred projects develop linkages between two or more sectors of the food system, support the development of entrepreneurial projects, develop innovative linkages between the for-profit and nonprofit food sectors, encourage long-term planning activities and multisystem, and build long-term capacity of communities to address the food and agricultural problems of communities, such as food policy councils and food planning associations. CFP gleaning projects get surplus food to feed the hungry, and develop linkages between food producers, providers, and food recovery organizations. More information available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/community-food-projects-competitive-grants-program	- Public food program service provider - Tribal organizations - Private nonprofit entities - Gleaners All eligible entities must have experience in community food work, development of new markets, job training and business development activities in low-income communities for food-related activities, and efforts such as food distribution, improving access to services, or coordinating services to reduce community food security.	- Grant – Annual Application Period Grant Types: (1) Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) Projects. \$1,000,000 over 4 years - Competed every 4 years. No Match required. (2) Planning Projects (PP) Maximum award is \$35,000 over 12-36 months - Cost share or match required. (3) Community Food Projects (CFP). - Maximum award is \$400,000 over 48 months - Cost share or match required.	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Value Chain Coordination - Equipment

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Farmers Market Promotion Program (AMS)	The Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) funds projects that develop, coordinate, and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets (e.g., farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture (CSA) programs, agritourism, online sales) to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. Projects may include outreach, training, and technical assistance to direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities. More information available: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp	• Agricultural businesses and cooperatives • Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks and associations • Food councils • Economic development corporations • Local governments • Nonprofit and public benefit corporations • Producer networks or associations • Regional farmers' market authorities • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized)	• Grant – Annual Application Period • \$50,000 to \$500,000 • Cost share or match required.	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination • Equipment (limited)
Farm to School Grant Program (FNS)	The Farm to School Grant Program is designed to increase the availability of local foods in schools, grants can launch new farm to school programs or expand existing efforts. Funds support a wide range of activities, including training, planning, creating new menu items to serve local foods, establishing supply chains, hosting taste tests, purchasing equipment, planting school gardens, and organizing field trips to agricultural operations. More information available at: https://www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/farm-school-grant-program	• Schools and districts • Indian Tribal Organizations • Agricultural producers or groups of agricultural producers • Nonprofit entities • State and local agencies	• Grant – Annual Application Period • \$50,000 to \$500,000 • Cost share or match required.	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination • Equipment
Farm to School State Agency Formula Grants (FNS)	The Farm to School State Agency Formula Grant will support State agency efforts to coordinate and provide technical assistance to build and increase the capacity of participating institutions to procure and use local foods in program meals as well as provide agricultural education opportunities for participating children. The program will operate through Fiscal Year 2026. More information available at: https://www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/farm-school-state-formula-grant	• State agencies operating the National School Lunch Program	• Grant – One-time Application Period (CLOSED) • \$600,000 minimum to \$1,100,000 average	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Food and Agriculture Service-Learning Program (NIFA)	The purpose of the Food and Agriculture Service-Learning Program (FASLP) is to increase the knowledge of agricultural science and improve the nutritional health of children. The program's goal is to increase the capacity for food, garden, and nutrition education within host organizations or entities, such as school cafeterias and classrooms, while fostering higher levels of community engagement between farms and school systems by bringing together stakeholders from distinct parts of the food system. The initiative is part of a broader effort to not only increase access to school meals for low-income children, but also to dramatically improve their quality. Grant projects may include efforts to reduce food loss and waste throughout the local farm to school food system. More information available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/food-agriculture-service-learning-program	• State agricultural experiment stations • Colleges and universities • University research foundations • Other research institutions and organizations • Federal agencies • National laboratories • Private organizations, non-profit organizations, foundations, or corporations • Individuals or • Any group consisting of two or more entities described herein	• Grant – Annual Application Period • \$0 to \$225,000	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination • Equipment
Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (NIFA)	The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) portfolio of competitive grant programs provide funding opportunities to conduct and evaluate projects providing incentives to income-eligible consumers to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables and prescriptions for fresh fruits and vegetables. GusNIP includes three competitive grant programs: Nutrition Incentive Program, Produce Prescription Program, Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers Cooperative Agreements. More information available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/gus-schumacher-nutrition-incentive-program	• Non-profit organizations • Governmental agencies, such as local, State, Territory, Tribal, or Federal agencies • Please see the GusNIP Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers RFA for eligible entities.	• Grant – Annual Application Period for the GusNIP Nutrition Incentive Program and GusNIP Produce Prescription Program • The GusNIP Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers are competed every 4 years. • Maximum award size varies by program. Details are available in the RFA. • Matching or cost share required for the GusNIP Nutrition Incentive Program.	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination • Equipment (limited)

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Healthy Food Financing Initiative (RD)	The purpose of the Healthy Food Financing Initiative is to improve access to healthy foods in underserved areas, to create and preserve quality jobs, and to revitalize low-income communities. HFFI provides capacity building and financial resources to eligible healthy food retail projects to overcome the higher costs and initial barriers to entry in underserved areas. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/initiatives/healthy-food-financing-initiative	• For-profit, nonprofit, and cooperatively owned businesses • Institutions of higher education • State and local governments • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized)	• Grant – Annual Application Period • \$20,000 to \$200,000	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Equipment • Infrastructure
Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative (FNS)	USDA FNS has established the Healthy Meals Incentives (HMI) Initiative to improve the nutritional quality of school meals through food systems transformation, school food authority (SFA) recognition and technical assistance, the generation and sharing of innovative ideas and tested practices, and grants. More information available: https://www.fns.usda.gov/schoolmeals/hmi	• Nongovernmental organizations (organization not belonging to or associated with any government)	• Cooperative Agreement – One-time Application Period (CLOSED)	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination • Equipment
Organic Market Development Grants (AMS)	The Organic Market Development Grants (OMDG) aid in the expansion of new and additional market opportunities for U.S. organic market commodities. OMDG support projects that increase domestic organic supply chain capacity for producers, handlers, suppliers, and processors; facilitate market development for domestically produced organic food products; and remove barriers to entry to organic certification for smaller producers and historically underserved entities. Project activities may take place over a 24- to 36-month period. More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/omdg	• Certified or transitioning organic food producers or handlers • Non-profit entities • Tribal government • State and local governments	• Grant Program – One-time Application Period (CLOSED). • \$100,000 to \$3,000,000 • Cost share or match required (for Market Development and Promotion and Processing Capacity Expansion Projects only).	• Value Chain Coordination • Equipment • Infrastructure (limited)

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Regional Food System Partnerships (AMS)	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. More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/rfsp	- Partnerships made up of one or eligible entity and partner eligible to apply Eligible entities: - Producers, farmer or rancher cooperatives - Producer networks or associations - Majority-controlled producer-based business venture - Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks and associations - Food councils - Local governments - Nonprofit and public benefit corporations - Economic development corporations - Regional farmers' market authorities - Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) Eligible partners: - State agencies or regional authorities - Philanthropic corporations - Private corporations - Institutions of higher education - Commercial, federal, or Farm Credit System Lending Institutions	- Grant – Annual Application Period \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 - Cost share or match required.	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Value Chain Coordination - Equipment (limited)

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Rural Business Development Grants (RD)	Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) are a competitive grant to support targeted technical assistance, training, and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas that have fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in gross revenues. RBDG funds must be used for projects that benefit rural areas or towns outside the urbanized periphery of any city with a population of 50,000 or more. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-business-development-grants	Rural public entities including, but not limited to: • Towns • Communities • State agencies. • Authorities • Nonprofit organizations • Institutions of higher education • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • Rural cooperatives (if organized as a private nonprofit corporation)	• Grant – Annual Application Period • No award maximum.	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Equipment • Infrastructure
Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FNS)	The purposes of the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) are to provide fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey through farmers' markets, roadside stands and CSA programs to low-income seniors; and increase the consumption of agricultural commodities by expanding, developing, or aiding in the development and expansion of domestic farmers' markets, roadside stands, and CSA programs. More information available at: https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfmnp/senior-farmers-market-nutrition-program	• State agencies, including Indian Tribal Organizations and U.S. Territories	• Grant – Annual Application Period • Allotment varies by state.	
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FNS)	The purpose of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (WIC FMNP) is to provide fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs to WIC participants through farmers' markets and roadside stands, and to expand the awareness, use of, and sales at, farmers' markets and roadside stands. More information available at: https://www.fns.usda.gov/fmnp/wic-farmers-market-nutrition-program	• State agencies, including Indian Tribal Organizations and U.S. Territories	• Grant – Annual Application Period • Allotment varies by state. • Cost share or match required.	

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (AMS)	The purpose of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. States develop and oversee projects that leverage efforts to market and promote specialty crops, assist producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops, expand availability and access to specialty crops, and address local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture). More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp	State departments of agriculture	- Grant – Annual Application Period - Allotment varies by state.	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Value Chain Coordination - Equipment
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Nutrition Education (FNS)	The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Nutrition Education (SNAP-Ed) program supports evidence-based nutrition education and obesity prevention interventions and projects for persons eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through complementary direct education, multi-level interventions, and community and public health approaches to improve nutrition. More information available at: https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/	State agencies	- Grant – Annual Application Period - Allotment varies by state.	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Value Chain Coordination - Equipment
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Electronic Healthy Incentives Pilot (FNS)	The USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Electronic Healthy Incentives Pilot, or eHIP, will support SNAP technology improvements to modernize the delivery of incentive programs through SNAP's electronic benefit transfer (EBT) technology. Reliable, affordable, user-friendly technology is important to enabling producers and food businesses to accept SNAP benefits from customers. The Pilot will operate through December 31, 2027. More information available at: https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/hip	State agencies	- Cooperative Agreement– One-time Application (CLOSED) \$25,000,0000 - Up to 3 grantees	Infrastructure

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Competitive Grants Program (OUAIP)	Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants Program initiates or expands the efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access; education; business and start-up costs for new farmers; and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production. More information available at: https://www.usda.gov/topics/urban/grants	- Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) - State-recognized Tribes should select “Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)” - Nonprofits (other than institutions of higher education) - A unit of local government (city, township, county, school district, Soil and Water Conservation Districts) - Schools (Kindergarten through Grade 12)	- Grant – Annual Application Period \$50,000 to \$350,000	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Value Chain Coordination - Equipment - Infrastructure



Investment Focus: FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION AND RECOVERY

The programs in this section have substantial food loss and waste components but food loss and waste is integrated into many other USDA programs and activities, either directly or indirectly. For a comprehensive list of food loss and waste resources available from the USDA, visit the USDA Food Loss and Waste web site: <https://www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste>.

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Community Food Projects Competitive Grants (NIFA)	Community Food Projects (CFP) are designed to increase food security in communities by bringing the whole food system together to assess strengths, establish linkages, and create systems that improve the self-reliance of community members over their food needs. Preferred projects develop linkages between two or more sectors of the food system, support the development of entrepreneurial projects, develop innovative linkages between the for-profit and nonprofit food sectors, encourage long-term planning activities and multisystem, and build long-term capacity of communities to address the food and agricultural problems of communities, such as food policy councils and food planning associations. CFP gleaning projects get surplus food to feed the hungry, and develop linkages between food producers, providers, and food recovery organizations. More information available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/community-food-projects-competitive-grants-program	- Public food program service provider - Tribal organizations - Private nonprofit entities - Gleaners - All eligible entities must have experience in community food work, development of new markets, job training and business development activities in low-income communities for food-related activities, and efforts such as food distribution, improving access to services, or coordinating services to reduce community food security.	- Grant – Annual Application Period Grant Types: (1) Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) Projects. \$1,000,000 over 4 years - Competed every 4 years. No Match required. (2) Planning Projects (PP) Maximum award is \$35,000 over 12-36 months - Cost share or match required. (3) Community Food Projects (CFP). - Maximum award is \$400,000 over 48 months - Cost share or match required.	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Value Chain Coordination - Equipment

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Composting and Food Waste Reduction Cooperative Agreements (OUAIP)	Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) Cooperative Agreements assist local and municipal governments with two-year projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans. Implementation activities will increase access to compost for agricultural producers, improve soil quality and encourages innovative, scalable waste management plans that reduce and divert food waste from landfills. More information available at: https://www.usda.gov/topics/urban/coop-agreements	• City or township governments • County governments; Independent School Districts • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • Tribal organizations • State-recognized Tribes	• Cooperative Agreement – Annual Application Period • \$55,000 to \$400,000 • Cost share or match required.	• Equipment • Infrastructure
Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSA)	The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing so producers can build or upgrade facilities to store commodities. More information available at: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/facility-loans/farm-storage/	• Landowner • Landlord • Leaseholder • Tenant • Sharecropper. (Eligible borrowers must be able to show repayment ability and meet other requirements to qualify for a loan.)	• Loan • Up to \$500,000	• Equipment • Infrastructure

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Food and Agriculture Service-Learning Program (NIFA)	The purpose of the Food and Agriculture Service-Learning Program (FASLP) is to increase the knowledge of agricultural science and improve the nutritional health of children. The program's goal is to increase the capacity for food, garden, and nutrition education within host organizations or entities, such as school cafeterias and classrooms, while fostering higher levels of community engagement between farms and school systems by bringing together stakeholders from distinct parts of the food system. The initiative is part of a broader effort to not only increase access to school meals for low-income children, but also to dramatically improve their quality. Grant projects may include efforts to reduce food loss and waste throughout the local farm to school food system. More information available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/food-agriculture-service-learning-program	• State agricultural experiment stations • Colleges and universities • University research foundations • Other research institutions and organizations • Federal agencies • National laboratories • Private organizations, non-profit organizations, foundations, or corporations • Individuals or • Any group consisting of two or more entities described herein	• Grant – Annual Application Period • \$0 to \$225,000	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination • Equipment
Rural Business Development Grants (RD)	Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) are a competitive grant to support targeted technical assistance, training, and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas that have fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in gross revenues. RBDG funds must be used for projects that benefit rural areas or towns outside the urbanized periphery of any city with a population of 50,000 or more. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-business-development-grants	Rural public entities including, but not limited to: • Towns • Communities • State agencies. • Authorities • Nonprofit organizations • Institutions of higher education • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • Rural cooperatives (if organized as a private nonprofit corporation)	• Grant – Annual Application Period • No award maximum.	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Equipment • Infrastructure

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Rural Energy for America Program (RD)	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. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency-improvement-guaranteed-loans	• Agricultural producers • Small businesses	• Loan Guarantee and Grant – Annual Application Period • The loan guarantee percentage is published annually in a Federal Register notice. • Loan guarantees on loans up to 75 percent of total eligible project costs. • Grants for up to 40 percent of total eligible project costs. • Combined grant and loan guarantee funding up to 75% of total eligible project costs. • Cost share or match required.	• Equipment
Solid Waste Management Grants (RD)	This program reduces or eliminates pollution of water resources by providing 12-month funding for organizations that provide technical assistance or training to improve the planning and management of solid waste sites. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/solid-waste-management-grants	• Public bodies • Nonprofit organizations • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • Academic Institutions	• Grant – Annual Application Period • \$400,000 to \$1,000,000	• Workforce Training / Technical Assistance



Investment Focus: RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (NIFA)	The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) research, education, and extension grants improve rural economies, increase food production, stimulate the bioeconomy, mitigate impacts of climate variability, address water availability issues, ensure food safety and security, enhance human nutrition, and train the agricultural workforce. More information available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/agriculture-food-research-initiative-afri	• State agricultural experiment stations • Colleges and universities • University research foundations • Other research institutions and organizations • Federal agencies • National laboratories • Private organizations or corporations • Individuals • Group consisting of two or more of the entities mentioned above	• Grant – Annual Application Period • \$50,000 to \$1,500,000 • Cost share or match required.	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Equipment (limited)
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinators (FSA)	From farm loans to crop insurance, and conservation programs to disaster assistance, USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinators in each state can help beginning farmers get started or grow their farming operation through a variety of programs and services. More information available at: https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers/coordinators	• Farmers • Ranchers Beginning farmers are individuals or entities, who have not operated a farm for more than 10 years and substantially participate in the operation.	• Technical Assistance – Ongoing • N/A	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (NIFA)	The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program provides grants to organizations for education, mentoring, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers or ranchers. More information available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/beginning-farmer-rancher-development-program-bfrdp	• Collaborative state, tribal, local, or regionally-based network or partnership of public or private entities, which may include: • State Cooperative Extension Services • Federal, state or tribal agencies • Community-based and nongovernmental organizations • College or university (including an institution awarding an associate's degree) or foundation maintained by a college or university • Any other appropriate partner, as determined by the Secretary	• Grant – Annual Application Period • Up to \$750,000 • Cost share or match required. With proof provided, match can be waived for organizations serving underserved populations.	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Equipment (limited)
Conservation Technical Assistance (NRCS)	The Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) provide farmers, ranchers and forestland owners with knowledge and tools to conserve, maintain and restore the natural resources on their lands and improve the health of their operations for the future. More information available at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/conservation-technical-assistance	• Producers	• Direct Technical Assistance- On-going Application Period	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (AMS)	The Dairy Business Innovation (DBI) Initiatives support dairy businesses in the development, production, marketing and distribution of dairy products and regional milk production. DBI Initiatives provide direct technical assistance and grants of up to \$500,000 to dairy businesses, including niche dairy products, such as specialty cheese, or dairy products derived from the milk of a dairy animal, including cow, sheep and goat milk, and dairy promotion and research boards. More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/dbi	• DBI grants are primarily awarded annually to current Initiatives unless funds are specifically provided to identify new Initiatives via a competitive process. • In the event of competitive funding availability, these types of entities are eligible to apply as an Initiative host: • State agencies of agriculture or other state entities • Cooperative extension service • Institutions of higher education • Nonprofit organizations • Beneficiaries include dairy farms and businesses with limited access to other assistance, employee-owned dairy businesses, cooperatives, and dairy businesses that seek to create value-added products.	• Direct Technical Assistance and Grants – Annual Application Period • There is no minimum or maximum DBI award. Funds are equally distributed among the current initiatives based on annual appropriations	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination • Equipment (limited)
Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans (NIFA)	The Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans Program provides grants to non-profits to increase the number of military veterans gaining knowledge and skills through comprehensive, hands-on, and immersive model farm and ranch programs offered regionally leading to successful careers in the food and agricultural sector. The program encourages the development of training opportunities specifically designed for military veterans. More information available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/enhancing-agricultural-opportunities-military-veterans-competitive	• Nonprofit Corporations	• Grant – Annual Application Period • \$150,000 to \$750,000	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Equipment (limited)

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Equity in Conservation Agreements (NRCS)	The Equity in Conservation Agreements fund two-year projects to expand delivery of conservation assistance to producers who are new to farming, are low-income, identify as one or more marginalized race or ethnicity, and/or are military veterans. More information available at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/partner-with-us/outreach-and-partnerships/equity-conservation-agreements	• Individuals • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • Tribal organizations • Nonprofits • Nonprofit private institutions of higher education • Conservation districts • Public/state-controlled institutions of higher education	• Cooperative Agreement – Annual Application Period • \$100,000 to \$2,000,000	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance
Extension Risk Management Education Program (NIFA)	The Extension Risk Management Education (ERME) Program's objective is to educate agricultural producers on the full range of risk management strategies. ERME is delivered through four regional centers that provide leadership and competitive annual grants within their regions. More information available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/environmental-resource-economics-programs/extension-risk-management-education-program	ERME Competitive Grants: • Farm organizations • Land-grant universities • Cooperative Extension Services • Lenders • Consultants • Other colleges and universities • Other public or private risk management service providers	• Competitive Grant – Annual Application Period • Up to \$50,000	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance
Farm to School State Agency Formula Grants (FNS)	The Farm to School State Agency Formula Grant supports State agency efforts to coordinate and provide technical assistance to build and increase the capacity of participating institutions to procure and use local foods in program meals as well as provide agricultural education opportunities for participating children. The program will operate through Fiscal Year 2026. More information available at: https://www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/farm-school-state-formula-grant	• State agencies operating the National School Lunch Program	• Grant – One-time Application (CLOSED) • \$600,000 minimum to \$1,100,000 average	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (AMS)	The Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) offers grants to assist in new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products, and research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the marketing system. Applications must address one or more project types: agricultural product distribution, cooperative development, economic research to clarify marketing barriers and opportunities, and agricultural product development. More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fsmip	• State departments of agriculture • State agricultural experiment stations • Other appropriate State agencies (i.e., State universities, State colleges, or State governmental entities)	• Grant – Annual Application Period • \$50,000 to \$250,000 • Cost share or match required.	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination
Food Safety Outreach Program (NIFA)	The Food Safety Outreach Competitive Grant Program provides funding for food safety training and education for small and mid-sized producers and processors affected by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The grant funds Community Outreach Projects, Collaborative Education and Training Projects, and Technical Assistance – Grant Writing Skills Projects. More information available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/food-safety/food-safety-outreach-program	• Cooperative Extension Service • Nongovernment organizations and/or community-based organizations • Federal, State, local, or tribal agencies • Institution of higher education • Group of two or more entities mentioned above	• Grant – Annual Application Period • Up to \$550,000	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Equipment (limited)
Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity - Technical Assistance (AMS)	USDA's Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity-Technical Assistance Program (MPPTA) ensures that participants in USDA's Meat and Poultry Supply Chain initiatives have access full-range technical assistance to support their project development and success. These supply chain initiatives support the growth of domestic processing capacity and the ability of independent facilities to serve more customers in more markets. More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/mppta	• Meat and poultry producers • Meat and poultry processors	• Technical Assistance – Ongoing • N/A	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Organic Agricultural Research and Extension Initiative (NIFA)	The Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) seeks to solve critical organic agriculture issues, priorities, or problems through the integration of research, education, and extension activities. The purpose of this program is to fund projects that will enhance the ability of producers and processors who have already adopted organic standards to grow and market high quality organic agricultural products and to help mitigate the impacts of climate variability, build resilience of the organic farming system, and protect water and other resources. More information available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/organic-agriculture-research-extension-initiative	• State agricultural experiment stations • Colleges and universities • University research foundations • Other research institutions and organizations • Federal agencies • National laboratories • Private organizations or corporations • Individuals who are United States citizens or nationals • Group consisting of two or more of the entities above	• Grant – Annual Application Period • \$50,000 to \$3,000,000 • Cost share or match required.	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination (limited)
Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (OPPE)	Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (also known as the Section 2501 Program), is dedicated to addressing the needs of minority farmers. The program was expanded in the 2014 Farm Bill to also serve military veterans. The 2501 Program helps nonprofits and institutions provide critical resources, outreach, and technical assistance to these historically underserved producers. More information available at: https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/underserved-veteran-farmers-ranchers-foresters	• Community-based organizations • Networks and coalitions • Land Grant Institutions (1890, 1994, 1862) • Indian Tribal Community Colleges • Alaska Native Community Colleges • Hispanic Serving Institutions • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) and tribal organizations; and • Other Institutions of Higher Education	• Grant – Annual Application Period • Up to \$750,000	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Regional Food Business Centers (AMS)	The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administers the Regional Food Business Centers in cooperation with 12 lead organizations throughout the U.S. The Regional Food Business Centers work to expand and strengthen regional food systems networks and partnerships; increase food and farm business and finance acumen as well as market awareness and access; increase the number of new food and farm businesses and viability of existing businesses; and increase the revenue of food and farm businesses served. The Regional Food Business Centers achieve these goals through national coverage coordination, technical assistance and capacity-building for small and mid-sized producers, processors, and distributors to create new and rejuvenate current linkages throughout the supply chain. The 12 Regional Food Business Centers target their work to historically underinvested communities in their region. On July 15, 2025, USDA announced the termination of the Regional Food Business Centers program. Centers with existing Business Builder subawards may continue to manage those existing commitments through May 2026. More information available at: www.ams.usda.gov/regionalfoodcenters	• Producer networks or associations • Food councils • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • State agencies or regional food authorities • Institutions of higher education • Nonprofit corporations • Economic development corporations	• Cooperative Agreement – • One-time Application (CLOSED) • \$15,000,000 - \$50,000,000	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Value Chain Coordination • Equipment (limited)
Rural Business Development Grants (RD)	Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) are a competitive grant to support targeted technical assistance, training, and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas that have fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in gross revenues. RBDG funds must be used for projects that benefit rural areas or towns outside the urbanized periphery of any city with a population of 50,000 or more. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-business-development-grants	Rural public entities including, but not limited to: • Towns • Communities • State agencies. • Authorities • Nonprofit organizations • Institutions of higher education • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) • Rural cooperatives (if organized as a private nonprofit corporation)	• Grant – Annual Application Period • No award maximum.	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance • Equipment • Infrastructure

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Rural Cooperative Development Grants (RD)	The Rural Cooperative Development Grant program improves the economic condition of rural areas by helping individuals and businesses start, expand, or improve rural cooperatives and other mutually owned businesses through Cooperative Development Centers. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-cooperative-development-grant-program	• Nonprofit corporations • Institutions of higher education (private and public)	• Grant – Annual Application Period • Up to \$200,000 • Cost share or match required.	
Small Business Innovation Research (NIFA)	The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs offer competitively awarded grants to qualified small businesses to support high quality research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefits. More information available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/small-business-innovation-research-technology-transfer-programs-sbirsttr	• Small, independent, US firms	• Grant – Annual Application Period • \$125,000 to \$600,000	• Equipment (limited)
Socially Disadvantaged Group Grant (RD)	The primary objective of the Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant program is to provide technical assistance to socially disadvantaged groups through cooperatives and Cooperative Development Centers. More information available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/socially-disadvantaged-groups-grant	• Cooperatives • Groups of Cooperatives • Cooperative Development Centers that serve socially disadvantaged groups • Indian Tribes (Federally recognized)	• Grant – Annual Application Period • Up to \$175,000	• Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Soil Carbon Monitoring Training and Outreach Agreements (NRCS)	The Soil Carbon Monitoring Training and Outreach Agreements is training and outreach for assessing and monitoring the effects of certain practices on soil carbon sequestration and the use of a NRCS conservation evaluation and monitoring activity that provides financial assistance to producers for deep core soil organic carbon measurement. Project agreements will last two to four years. More information available at: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=343895	- Indian Tribes (Federally recognized) - Tribal organizations - Nonprofit organizations - Public, state-controlled, and private institutions of higher education - Members of Cooperative Ecosystem studies Units network - State governments	- Cooperative Agreement– One-time Application (CLOSED) \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000	Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (AMS)	The purpose of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. States develop and oversee projects that leverage efforts to market and promote specialty crops, assist producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops, expand availability and access to specialty crops, and address local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crops. More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgbp	State departments of agriculture (in the 50 States, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands)	- Grant – Annual Application Period - Varies by State.	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Value Chain Coordination - Equipment (limited)
Specialty Crop Research Initiative (NIFA)	The purpose of the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) program is to address the critical needs of the specialty crop industry by awarding grants to support research and extension that address key challenges of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of food and agriculture, including conventional and organic food production systems. More information available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/specialty-crop-research-initiative-scri	- Federal agencies - National laboratories - Colleges and universities - Research institutions and organizations - Private organizations or corporations - State Agricultural Experiment Stations - Individuals - Groups consisting of two or more of the entities above	- Grant – Annual Application Period - Varies by project type. - Planning: Up to \$50,000 - Standard Research and Extension Projects: \$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000 - Coordinated Agriculture Projects: \$8,000,000 to \$10,000,000 - Cost share or match required.	

Program	Purpose	Eligible Recipients	Type of Assistance/ Typical Award	Common Allowances
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (NIFA)	The purpose of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program is to encourage research and extension projects designed to increase knowledge concerning agricultural production systems that maintain and enhance the quality and productivity of the soil; conserve soil, water, energy, natural resources, and fish and wildlife habitat; maintain and enhance the quality of surface and ground water; protect the health and safety of persons involved in the food and farm system; promote the well-being of animals; and increase employment opportunities in agriculture. The SARE program is delivered through four regional centers that provide leadership and various types of competitive annual grants within their regions. More information available at: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/sustainable-agriculture-research-education-sare-regional-host For funding opportunities in each region go to: https://www.sare.org/ and click on the regional website.	- Varies depending on the type of grant applied for. Check the regional SARE program website for more information. - Eligible applicants commonly include anyone who works with farmers, including personnel at nonprofit organizations, colleges and universities, Cooperative Extension, municipalities, tribal governments, state departments of agriculture, federal agencies, research farms and experiment stations, for-profit business entities (such as private consultants, farmers and veterinary practices), etc.	- Subawards from SARE Regional Centers - Annual Application Period \$5,000 to \$400,000	- Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance - Equipment (limited)
Transition to Organic Partnership Program (AMS)	As part of the Organic Transition Initiative (OTI), the Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) is investing up to \$100 million over five years in cooperative agreements with non-profit organizations who will partner with others to provide technical assistance and wrap-around support for transitioning and existing organic farmers. More information available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/topp	Nonprofit organizations	- Cooperative Agreement - - On-going Application Period	Workforce Training/ Technical Assistance



ABOUT USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is made up of 29 agencies and offices with nearly 100,000 employees who serve the American people at more than 4,500 locations across the country and abroad. We provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on public policy, the best available science, and effective management.

We have a vision to provide economic opportunity through innovation, helping rural America to thrive; to promote agriculture production that better nourishes Americans while also helping feed others throughout the world; and to preserve our Nation's natural resources through conservation, restored forests, improved watersheds, and healthy private working lands. The following agencies and offices contributed to this guide:

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE (AMS) AMS administers programs that create domestic and international marketing opportunities for U.S. producers of food, fiber, and specialty crops. AMS also provides the agriculture industry with valuable services to ensure the quality and availability of wholesome food for consumers across the country. In alignment with its mission, AMS serves as a local and regional food systems convener, data provider and researcher, funder, and technical assistance provider. AMS also facilitates local and regional food purchases.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE (ERS) ERS's mission is to anticipate trends and emerging issues in agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America and to conduct high-quality, objective economic research to inform and enhance public and private decision making. ERS research provides context for and informs the decisions that affect the agricultural sector, which in turn benefits everyone with efficient stewardship of our agricultural resources and the economic prosperity of the sector. ERS conducts research on local food systems, including alternative definitions of local food, estimates market size and scope, characteristics of local food consumers and producers, and early indications of local food systems' economic and health impacts.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) FSA implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster and farm marketing programs through a national network of offices.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE (FAS) FAS links U.S. agriculture to the world to enhance export opportunities and global food security. FAS staff identify problems, provide practical solutions, and work to advance opportunities for U.S. agriculture and support U.S. foreign policy around the globe.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS) FNS aims to advance food and nutrition security and reduces hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and income eligible individuals and households access to food and nutrition education in a manner that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE STATISTICS SERVICES (NASS) NASS conducts hundreds of surveys every year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. Production and supplies of food and fiber, prices paid and received by farmers, farm labor and wages, farm finances, chemical use, and changes in the demographics of U.S. producers are only a few examples.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (NIFA) NIFA's mission is to invest in and advance agricultural research, education, and Extension to solve societal challenges. NIFA's investments in transformative science directly support the long-term prosperity and global preeminence of U.S. agriculture.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) Through voluntary conservation programs, NRCS helps producers, soil and water conservation districts, and other partners protect and conserve natural resources on private lands throughout the United States. Since its inception on the 1930's Dust Bowl, NRCS has been locally-led and producer-focused. Today, the agency works side-by-side with producers in their communities through approximately 2,300 service centers and a network of dedicated partners.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST (OCE) OCE is the focal point for economic and policy-related research and analysis for the USDA. OCE houses USDA's Food Loss and Waste Liaison, established by SEC. 12504 of the 2018 Farm Bill. This Liaison supports and promotes Federal programs to measure and reduce food loss and waste and increase food recovery, and provides information to, and serves as a resource for all entities interested in food loss and waste.

OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (OPPE) OPPE develops and maintains partnerships focused on solutions to challenges facing rural and underserved communities in the United States. OPPE works across USDA agencies to coordinate outreach efforts to promote increased awareness of, and participation in, USDA's programs and services.

OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELATIONS (OTR) OTR serves as a single point of contact for Tribal issues and works to ensure that relevant programs and policies are efficient, easy to understand, accessible, and developed in consultation with the American Indians and Alaska Native constituents they impact.

OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION (OUAIP) The 2018 Farm Bill established the OUAIP to encourage and promote urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural practices. The office is housed within the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) but is a USDA-wide office, including representatives from other USDA agencies like the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The USDA provides financial and technical assistance through competitive grants, cooperative agreements, and pilot urban and suburban county committees administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The office also provides advice to the Secretary, coordinates policy and programs updates across agencies, collaborates with other Federal agencies, and provides engagement with the public through the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agricultural and Innovative Production.

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (RMA) RMA helps to ensure that farmers have the financial tools necessary to manage their agricultural risks. RMA provides coverage through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, which promotes national welfare by improving the economic stability of agriculture.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD) RD is committed to improving the economy and quality of life in rural America. We offer loans, grants and loan guarantees that help create jobs, support economic development, and bolster essential services such as health care, first responder services and equipment, and water, electric and communications infrastructure. We promote rural economic development by backing loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community- managed lending pools. We support technical assistance and training to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started or improve the effectiveness of their operations, and we also help rural residents buy or rent safe, affordable housing and make repairs necessary for health and safety to their homes.

ENDNOTES

- 1 https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Local_Food/
- 2 https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Local_Food/
- 3 <https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Local-and-Regional-Food-Systems-Response-to-COVID-19-Final-Report-004-1.pdf>
- 4 <https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/LFS-CFI-02-UPDATED.pdf>
- 5 <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp/how-do-i-apply-fmpp-grant>
- 6 <https://www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/geographic-preference>
- 7 <https://www.usda.gov/oce/sustainability/definitions>
- 8 Kovacs, T. (2017, February 7) Farm to Institution: USDA Tools and Resources [PowerPoint Presentation] Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.
- 9 https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Local_Food/
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- 11 <https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Local-and-Regional-Food-Systems-Response-to-COVID-19-Final-Report-004-1.pdf>
- 12 <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/USDAAgriFoodSupplyChainReport.pdf>
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