

Financial Assistance Resources (Grants and Loans)

Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Market Development Division
(208) 332-8530
www.agri.idaho.gov

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FEDERAL GRANT DATABASES

ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture Program

<https://attra.ncat.org/business-and-marketing/>

The National Center for Appropriate Technology's ATTRA (Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas) Sustainable Agriculture website hosts a wealth of resources and information on sustainable agriculture by providing links to publications, advice, videos, working groups, as well as a list of funding opportunities. The high-value information and technical assistance is useful for farmers, ranchers, agriculture educators, and land managers at every stage of their agricultural journey.

Candid

<https://candid.org/>

Candid is a nonprofit that provides comprehensive data and insights about the social sector – nonprofits, foundations, and grants. They find out where non-profit funding opportunities come from, where it goes, and why it matters. Through research, collaboration, and training, Candid connects people who want to change the world to the resources they need to do it. Candid's Foundation Directory gives you access to the information you need to be smart and strategic with your funding requests for funding opportunities beyond open Requests for Proposals (RFPS).

Grants.gov

<http://www.grants.gov/>

Grants.gov is designed to enable federal grant-making agencies with funding opportunities and applicants to find and apply for these federal grants. They provide explanations and step-by-step instructions for both applicants and grantors to complete these processes. Federal funding opportunities published on Grants.gov are for organizations and entities supporting the development and management of government-funded programs and projects.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/upcoming-request-applications-calendar>

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provides leadership and funding for programs that advance agriculture-related sciences. They invest in and support initiatives that ensure the long-term viability of agriculture. NIFA applies an integrated approach to ensure that groundbreaking discoveries in agriculture-related sciences and technologies reach the people who can put them into practice. Visit their website for a list of open, upcoming, and closed funding opportunities. Keep in mind, the dates in the upcoming funding opportunity table are target dates only and are subject to change. The current list applies to competitive, directed, continuation, and capacity opportunities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program

The Community Facilities Programs provide 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 (cities, villages, townships and towns including Federally Recognized Tribal Lands with no more than 20,000 residents), and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings. Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses.

Examples of essential community facilities include:

- Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs, or greenhouses
- Health care facilities, Public facilities, Community support services, Public safety services, Educational services, or Utility services, and Local food systems (visit the Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program page for examples of these facilities)

Eligibility: Public bodies, community-based non-profit corporations, federally-recognized Tribes

Funding: Low interest direct loans, grants, a combination of loans and grants, or a loan guarantee program. Funding prioritizes small communities by population and low-income communities by median household income.

For loans, repayment terms may not be longer than the useful life of the facility, state statutes, the applicants authority, or a maximum of 40 years, whichever is less.

For grants, smaller communities with the lowest median household income are eligible for projects with a higher proportion of grant funds. Grant assistance is limited to the following percentages of eligible project costs:

- Maximum 75% when located in a rural community with a population of 5,000 or fewer; and the median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 60 percent of the State nonmetropolitan median household income
- Maximum of 55% when located in a rural community with a population of 12,000 or fewer; and the median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 70 percent of the State nonmetropolitan median household income
- Maximum of 35% when located in a rural community with a population of 20,000 or fewer; and the median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 80 percent of the State nonmetropolitan median household income
- Maximum of 15% when located in a rural community having a population of 20,000 or fewer; and the median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 90 percent of the State nonmetropolitan median household income

Timing: Applications are accepted year-round.

USDA Rural Development, Idaho State Office

(208) 690-3538

Email: noel.laroque@usda.gov

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/id>

Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP)

The CFPCGP is intended to bring together stakeholders from distinct parts of the food system and to foster understanding of national food security trends and how they might improve local food systems. Understanding that people with low incomes experience disproportionate access to healthy foods, projects should address food and nutrition security, particularly among our nation's historically underrepresented communities. CFPCGP projects are to include food insecure community members in the planning, designing, development, implementation and evaluation of activities, services, programs, and policies to combat food and nutrition insecurity; and to address underlying causes and factors related to hunger.

Grant types:

- Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA): Awards up to \$250,000 in any single year or \$1M in 4 years. No matching of funds is required. The T&TA provider is expected to offer a one-stop service to CFPCGP applicants requesting technical assistance. This grant is not open every year (it is not included in the '25-'26 Fiscal Year funding opportunity).
- Planning Projects (PP): To complete plans toward the improvement of community food security in keeping with the primary goals of the CFPCGP. Award minimum is \$25,000 up to \$50,000, over 12-36 months, with 1:1 matching required.
- Community Food Projects (CFP): To support the development of projects with a one-time infusion of federal dollars to make such projects self-sustaining. Award minimum is \$125,000 in any single year, and maximum of \$400,000 over four years, with 1:1 matching requirement. Program evaluation required.

Eligibility: applicants must be a private nonprofit entity AND meet all four mandatory eligibility requirements of the CFP Purpose and Priorities. Please visit the CFPCGP grant opportunity page for more details on these eligibility requirements.

Timing: At the beginning of each fiscal year, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) publishes the Upcoming RFA Calendar for all NIFA funding opportunities

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture - Division of Food Safety and Nutrition

E-mail: pascale.jean@usda.gov

<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/community-food-projects-competitive-grant-program-cfpcgp>

Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program

This program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas (rural areas and towns with less than a population of 10,000, tribal lands in rural areas, and Colonias).

Funds may be used to finance the acquisition, construction or improvement of: Drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage and distribution; Sewer collection, transmission, treatment and disposal; Solid waste collection, disposal and closure; and Storm water collection, transmission and disposal. In some cases, funding may also be available for related activities such as: Legal and engineering fees; Land acquisition, water and land rights, permits and equipment; Start-up operations and maintenance; Interest incurred during construction; Purchase of facilities to improve service or prevent loss of service; and Other costs determined to be necessary for completion of the project.

Eligibility: Most state and local governmental entities, private non-profits, and federally-recognized tribes.

Funding: Long-term, low-interest loans and, if funds are available, a grant may be combined with a loan. Loan term is up to a 40-year payback period based on the useful life of the facilities financed with fixed interest rates based on the need for the project and the median household income of the area to be served.

Idaho Rural Development State Office

Tel: (208) 378-5600 Ext.2

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program/id>

CONSERVATION & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)

The CIG is a competitive program that supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands.

There are three annual CIG grant funding opportunities:

- CIG Classic: National competition for projects that support early-stage development and piloting of new tools, practices and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands.
- CIG On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (On-Farm Trials): National competition for projects that support widespread adoption and evaluation of innovative conservation approaches in partnership with agricultural producers. Awardees provide technical assistance and incentive payments to producers to help compensate for risks associated with implementation of new conservation practices, systems, and approaches. Awardees also evaluate the environmental, financial and social impacts of implementing innovative approaches. The Soil Health Demo Trial is a priority within the On-Farm Trials competition which focuses exclusively on implementation of conservation practices and systems that improve soil health.
- State CIG Classic: State-level competitions for projects that support early-stage development and piloting of new tools, practices and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands. The overall goal and approach match those of

CIG Classic, but State CIG fund projects that target state-identified conservation priorities. State CIG competitions are announced separately from national competitions.

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service – Idaho Service Center

Tel: (208) 454-8684

Email: tate.walters@usda.gov

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/cig-conservation-innovation-grants/idaho/conservation-innovation-grants-idaho>

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

ECP, administered by the Farm Service Agency, offers financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to repair and restore farmland affected by natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, wildfires, drought, and other calamities. ECP helps farmers and ranchers implement emergency conservation measures to rehabilitate damaged land, restore agricultural production, and prevent further environmental degradation.

Eligibility: Farmers and ranchers who have suffered damage to their farmland due to natural disasters. The damage must significantly impair the land's agricultural productivity or pose a threat to land or water resources.

Funding: Cost-share assistance of up to 75% of the cost of approved conservation practices. Limited resource producers may be eligible for up to 90% cost-share. The availability of funds is subject to annual appropriations and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Funding priorities may be established based on the severity of the disaster and the extent of the damage.

Timeframe: Applications are accepted following a natural disaster event. Producers should apply as soon as possible after the disaster occurs to ensure timely assistance.

USDA - Farm Service Agency Office

Tel: (208) 454-8695 ext 2

Email: jeffrey.harvey@usda.gov

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/emergency-conservation/index>

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The FSA administers and manages loan, conservation, disaster recovery, and income support programs as laid out by Congress through a network of federal, state, and county offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of the agricultural industry and to help farmers adjust production to meet demand. Economically, the desired result of these programs is a steady price range for agricultural commodities for both farmers and consumers. Programs vary from year to year, so contact your local office or search their Program Finder to find out what programs are currently active.

USDA Farm Service Agency Service Center

Tel: (208) 454-8695 ext 2

Email: jeffrey.harvey@usda.gov
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

Natural Resource Conservation Service

NRCS offers free one-on-one technical assistance to producers to develop a conservation plan that outlines conservation practices and activities to help solve on-farm resource issues. Producers implement practices and activities in their conservation plan that can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, all while improving their agricultural operations. The availability and amount of financial assistance for selected conservation practices can vary between states and is re-evaluated each year.

Conservation financial assistance programs:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands or protect working farms and ranches through conservation easements. ACEP has two components: Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) that help private and tribal landowners, land trusts, and other entities such as state and local governments protect croplands and grasslands on working farms and ranches by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land through conservation easements & Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) that help private and tribal landowners protect, restore and enhance wetlands which have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses. Through ACEP, USDA also offers the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP) to leverage resources to carry out high priority wetland protection, restoration, and enhancement and to improve wildlife habitat.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation while strengthening operations, using new conservation practices or activities, based on management objectives for your operation. Producers implement practices and activities in their conservation plan that expands on the benefits of cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, while improving their agricultural operations. NRCS offers technical assistance, and CSP offers annual payments for implementing these practices on your land and operating and maintaining existing conservation efforts, as well as bundles where you can select a suite of enhancements and receive a higher payment rate. Most participants are eligible for a \$4000 minimum payment during any year that their total annual contract payment falls below the minimum payment amount. Existing CSP participants may be eligible to renew their contract for an additional 5-year term during the fifth year of their initial contract.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): offers financial assistance for working lands, including field crops, specialty crops, organic, confined livestock and grazing, and non-industrial private forest land. EQIP supports producers who improve and sustain natural resources on their operation by implementing structural, vegetative, and management practices. NRCS offers technical assistance, and EQIP offers payments for implementing these practices on your land with the expectation that you will operate while maintaining the practices for the expected lifespan. The length of an EQIP contract can vary depending on your goals and timeline, but cannot exceed 10 years.

Idaho NRCS State Office
Tel: (208) 378-5700

Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants (REAP)

REAP provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing, or use guaranteed loan funds to install energy efficient equipment and systems for agricultural production or processing.

Eligibility: Agricultural producers and Rural Small Businesses that meet SBA size standards, be located in eligible rural areas, and one of the following: Private for-profit entity; A Cooperative; An electric utility that provides service to rural consumers and operates independent of direct government control; A Tribal corporation or other Tribal business entities that are chartered or have similar structures and relationships with their Tribal entity without regard to the resources of the Tribal government.

Funding:

- Loan guarantees on loans up to 75 percent of total eligible project costs.
- Grants for up to 50 percent of total eligible project costs.
- Renewable Energy System Grants: \$2,500 minimum - \$1 million maximum
- Energy Efficiency Grants: \$1,500 minimum - \$500,000 maximum
- Combined grant and loan guarantee funding up to 75% of total eligible project costs.

USDA Rural Development – Idaho State Office

Tel: (208) 327-6463

Email: timothy.wheeler@usda.gov

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency/id>

FINANCING BUSINESS & NEW ENTERPRISES

Business Builder Grant

The Business Builder Grant Program is a dynamic funding initiative developed through the USDA's network of Regional Food Business Centers (RFBCs). In the Northwest and Rocky Mountain (NWRM) region, these grants are designed to empower small- and mid-sized farm and food businesses, helping them scale, enter new markets, and expand their impact. The program also extends to essential partners—aggregators, processors, distributors, and more—who play a critical role in bringing local food to market.

Priority topics include:

- Building Meat Supply Chain Capacity: to expand the capacity of meat, seafood and poultry businesses that provide important services to small or mid-scale meat and/or poultry producers and brands.

- **Creating Diverse Markets for Climate Resilient Ag:** for development and expansion of markets for climate resilient cropping systems producing grains, pulses, and other row crops across the NW Mountain region. Building and expanding local, regional, and national markets for climate resilient grains, pulses and row crops requires market research, business development and value chain coordination across producers, processors, distributors, and buyers.
- **Connecting and Scaling Food Entrepreneurs:** to expand the capacity of facilities that incubate and support multiple small, value-added food businesses by providing those businesses with access to commercial kitchen space, business development support, and other services, for example advanced food manufacturing services.
- **Support Right-Size Investing and Infrastructure:** supports enhancing investment and capital readiness for small and mid-sized producers, processors, distributors, and value chain operators serving food and farm businesses producing, and sourcing through coordination, technical assistance, and capacity building to reduce gaps in understanding between funders and businesses across the regional food value chain.

Who can apply: Small- and mid-scale farm, ranch, fish/seafood, and value-added food businesses producing in, sourcing from, and focused on local and regional markets, as well as food processors, aggregators, and distributors that source locally and/or regionally, serve multiple small- and mid-scale food and farm businesses, and focus on local and/or regional markets. Value-Added Farm Businesses that make value-added products out of what they produce and/or source from other producers in their region and Value-added Food Businesses that are currently sourcing or actively trying to increase the ingredients they source from producers locally or regionally. Each Business Builder Grant Program has different eligibility; review the specific Request for Applications webpage to learn more about the specific criteria needed for eligibility.

Funding: \$3,000 - \$50,000. Reimbursement grant. No matching funds or cost-sharing required.

USDA Regional Food Business Centers Northwest & Rocky Mountain

Tel: (970) 325-3406

<https://nwrockymountainregionalfoodbusiness.com/biz-builder/>

Idaho Women's Business Center

The Idaho Women's Business Center is a program of Business Impact NW in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration. statewide, university-based organization which has been helping small businesses succeed since 1986. Experienced Idaho SBDC consultants meet with clients to provide guidance in developing and growing a successful business.

With six office locations throughout the state, each affiliated with one of Idaho's colleges or universities, the Idaho SBDC is uniquely positioned to serve as a focal point for linking together partners from higher education, the private business community, and federal, state and local government.

Meetings are by appointment only at the Nampa Business Accelerator

Tel: (208) 608-5174

Email: iwbc@businessimpactnw.org
<https://businessimpactnw.org/idaho-womens-business-center/>

Rural Business Development Grants

The purpose of the program is to promote economic development and job creation projects through grant funds to eligible entities in two categories: Business Enterprise Grants and Business Opportunity Grants. Grant money 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.

Enterprise grants can be used for:

- Training and technical assistance (project planning, business counseling/training, market research, feasibility studies, professional/technical reports, product/service improvement)
- Acquisition or development of land, easements, or rights of way; construction, conversion, renovation of buildings; plants, machinery, equipment, access for streets and roads; parking areas and utilities
- Pollution control and abatement
- Capitalization of revolving loan funds and loans for start-ups and working capital
- Rural distance learning for job training and advancement for adult students
- Rural transportation improvement
- Community economic development
- Technology-based economic development
- Feasibility studies and business plans
- Leadership and entrepreneur training
- Rural business incubators
- Long-term business strategic planning

Opportunity grants can be used for:

- Community economic development
- Technology-based economic development
- Feasibility studies and business plans
- Leadership and entrepreneur training
- Rural business incubators
- Long-term business strategic planning

Who may apply: A Public Body/Government Entity, Federally Recognized Indian Tribe or a Nonprofit entity serving rural areas.

Funding: There is no maximum grant amount; however, smaller requests are given higher priority. There is no cost sharing requirement. Enterprise Grants must be used on projects to benefit small and emerging businesses in rural areas as specified in the grant application. Opportunity Grants are limited to up to 10 percent of the total Rural Business Development Grant annual funding.

USDA Rural Development - Idaho State Office
Tel: (208) 327-6463
Email: timothy.wheeler@usda.gov

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants>

Rural Business Investment Program (RBIC)

RBIC provides a Rural Business Investment Company license to newly formed development capital organizations to help meet the equity capital investment needs in rural communities.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants for the RBIC license include newly formed for-profit entities or subsidiary of an entity. All applicants must have relevant experience in venture capital or community development financing, must raise a minimum of \$10 million in private equity capital, and may be structured as limited partnerships, limited liability companies or corporations. There are no restrictions on the location of eligible applicants for RBIC licenses. The goal of each RBIC is to help fill the need for business and development capital in rural areas.

Funding: Contact your local office for funding amounts.

- Minimum 75% of funds must be made in rural areas with a population of 50,000 or less
- Minimum 50% of funds must be invested in smaller enterprises
- Maximum 10% of RBIC investments may be made in urban areas

Timeframe: Applications are accepted year-round.

USDA Rural Development – Idaho State Office

Tel: (208) 327-6463

Email: timothy.wheeler@usda.gov

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-investment-program>

Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The Idaho Small Business Development Center is a statewide, university-based organization which has been helping small businesses succeed since 1986. Experienced Idaho SBDC consultants meet with clients to provide guidance in developing and growing a successful business. Starting and running a small business takes dedication, passion, and time. It takes information, connections and new skills. Their team supports the startup and growth of women-owned businesses in Idaho, offering free business coaching and free to low-cost training. Services are open to ALL.

Boise State University, State Office

Tel: 208-426-3875

<http://www.idahosbdc.org/>

Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant

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. Cooperatives or Centers can be located in any area, but the group assisted must be located in an eligible rural area.

Grants must be used to provide technical assistance (feasibility studies, business plans, strategic planning, leadership training) to socially-disadvantaged groups in rural areas.

Who can apply: Cooperatives and Cooperative Development Centers.

Funding: Maximum grant \$175,000. Matching funds are not required.

USDA Rural Development – Idaho State Office

Tel: (208) 327-6463

Email: timothy.wheeler@usda.gov

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/socially-disadvantaged-groups-grant>

MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT

Acer Access & Development Program (ACER)

ACER is a competitive grant program that promotes the domestic maple syrup industry through activities associated with research and education related to maple syrup production, natural resource sustainability in the maple syrup industry, and the marketing of maple syrup and maple-sap products. ACER also incentivizes owners and operators of privately held land containing species of trees in the genus Acer to initiate or expand maple-sugaring activities on the land or to voluntarily make the land available for access by the public for maple-sugaring activities.

Who may apply: States, Tribal governments, and Research institutions located within the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Funding: This program supports two project types: Market Development and Promotion and Producer and Landowner Education. The funding for each project type ranges from \$200,000 to \$500,000. No cost sharing or match required

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

E-mail: SAGPgrants@usda.gov

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/acer>

Emerging Markets Program (EMP)

EMP helps U.S. organizations promote exports of U.S. agricultural products to countries that have, or are developing, market-oriented economies and that have the potential to be viable commercial markets.

Through the EMP, the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) provides cost-share funding for technical assistance activities such as feasibility studies, market research, sectorial assessments, orientation visits, specialized training and business workshops. The EMP supports exports of

generic U.S. agricultural commodities and products, meaning projects that endorse or promote branded products or specific companies are not eligible.

There is no fixed list of "emerging market" countries, but the program identifies an emerging market as any country that "is taking steps toward a market-oriented economy through the food, agriculture, or rural business sectors of the economy of the country" and "has the potential to provide a viable and significant market for United States commodities or products of United States agricultural commodities." Guidance on qualified countries is provided each year in the program application announcement.

Eligibility: U.S. non-profit, for-profit and government entities. Applicants must submit proposals through the Unified Export Strategy (UES) process.

Timeframe: Each year, FAS announces the EMP application period and criteria on its website and via Grants.gov.

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service - Program Operations Division

Email: podadmin@usda.gov

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/emerging-markets-program-emp>

Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)

FMPP funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products through the creation, coordinating, and delivery of outreach, training, and technical assistance to domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, online sales or other direct producer-to-consumer (including direct producer-to-retail, direct producer-to-restaurant and direct producer-to-institutional marketing) market opportunities.

Eligibility: Agricultural businesses and cooperatives, Community Supported Agriculture networks and associations, Food councils, Economic development corporations, Local governments, Nonprofit and public benefit corporations, Producer networks or associations, Regional farmers' market authorities, and Tribal governments owned, operated, and located within the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Funding: FMPP offers four types of projects: 36-month Capacity Building (\$50,000 - \$250,000), 36-month Community Development Training and Technical Assistance (\$100,000 - \$500,000), 24-month Turnkey Marketing and Promotion (\$50,000 - \$100,000), and 24-month Turnkey Recruitment and Training (\$50,000 - \$100,000). The program requires matching fund contributions in an amount equal to 25 percent of the total Federal portion of the grant.

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service - Farmers Market Promotion Program

Email: FMLFPPgrants@usda.gov

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/fmpp/>

Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP)

FSMIP is a competitive grant program that funds projects to explore new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products, and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the marketing system.

This program supports four project types: Agricultural Product Distribution, Cooperative Development, Economic Research, and Agricultural Product Development.

Eligibility: State departments of agriculture, state agricultural experiment stations, and other appropriate state agencies located within the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Funding: Funding for each project type ranges from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Requires \$1-for-\$1 cost sharing or match.

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service - Federal State Marketing Improvement Program
E-mail: SAGPgrants@usda.gov
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fsmip>

Foreign Market Development Program (FMD)

FMD, also known as the Cooperator Program, helps create, expand and maintain long-term export markets for U.S. agricultural products. Under the program, FAS partners with U.S. agricultural producers and processors, who are represented by non-profit commodity or trade associations called “cooperators,” to promote U.S. commodities overseas.

The FMD program focuses on generic promotion of U.S. commodities, rather than consumer-oriented promotion of branded products. FMD-funded projects generally address long-term opportunities to reduce foreign import constraints or expand export growth opportunities.

Eligibility: Preference is given to organizations that represent an entire industry or are nationwide in membership and scope. Organizations must apply through the Unified Export Strategy process.

Timeframe: Timeframe: Each year, FAS announces the EMP application period and criteria on its website and via Grants.gov.

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service -Program Operations Division
Email: podadmin@usda.gov
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/programs/fmdprogram.asp>

Forest Products Marketing Unit (FPMU)

FPMU helps ensure healthy, sustainable forests that are more resilient to disturbances by creating high-value, high-volume markets from woody biomass.

The objectives of the FPMU are to: Help accelerate forest restoration, improve economic conditions and create new jobs; Strengthen forest products marketing, technology development and applications through a wide-range of strong working relationships and partnerships; Create incentives for increased use of biomass through federal financial assistance; Provide national coordination for creating higher value markets from low value wood through new, innovative forest products marketing and utilization opportunities across mixed ownerships along a complex rural to urban land gradient; Extend forest products marketing technical assistance expertise across all mission areas of the Forest Service and other areas outside the agency, as needed.

USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Marketing Unit

Tel: (608) 231-9200

<https://research.fs.usda.gov/fpl/centers/marketing>

Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP)

LFPP funds projects that develop, coordinate, and expand local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer to consumer marketing to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products.

Eligibility: Agricultural businesses and cooperatives, Community Supported Agriculture networks and associations, Food councils, Economic development corporations, Local governments, Nonprofit and public benefit corporations, Producer networks or associations, Regional farmers' market authorities, and Tribal governments owned, operated, and located within the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Funding: LFPP offers four types of projects: 24-month Planning (\$25,000 - \$100,000), 36-month Implementation (\$100,000 - \$500,000), 24-month Turnkey Marketing and Promotion (\$50,000 - \$100,000), and 24-month Turnkey Recruitment and Training (\$50,000 - \$100,000). The program requires matching fund contributions in an amount equal to 25 percent of the total Federal portion of the grant.

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service - Local Food Promotion Programs

Email: FMLFPPgrants@usda.gov

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp>

Market Access Program (MAP)

Through MAP, the Foreign Agricultural Service partners with U.S. agricultural trade associations, cooperatives, state regional trade groups and small businesses to share the costs of overseas marketing and promotional activities that help build commercial export markets for U.S. agricultural products and commodities.

MAP reaches virtually every corner of the globe, helping to build markets for a wide variety U.S. farm and food products. FAS provides cost-share assistance to eligible U.S. organizations for activities such as consumer advertising, public relations, point-of-sale demonstrations, participation in trade fairs and exhibits, market research, and technical assistance.

Funding: Requires participant contribution of a minimum 10% match for generic marketing and promotion. Requires \$1-for-\$1 match for promotion of branded products.

Timeframe: Each year, FAS announces the EMP application period and criteria on its website and via Grants.gov. Applicants must apply through the Unified Export Strategy process.

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service - Program Operations Division

Email: podadmin@usda.gov

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/programs/map.asp>

Regional Food System Partnership (RFSP)

RFSP supports partnerships that connect public and private resources to plan and develop local or regional food systems and focuses on strengthening the viability and resilience of regional food economies.

Eligibility: Eligible entities include producers, farmer or rancher cooperatives, producer networks or associations, majority-controlled producer-based business venture, community supported agriculture networks or associations, food councils, local governments, nonprofit corporations, public benefit corporations, economic development corporations, regional farmers market authorities, and tribal governments. Eligible partners include state agencies or regional authorities, philanthropic corporations, institutions of higher education, private corporations, and commercial, federal or farm credit system lending institutions.

Funding: RFSP offers two types of projects: 24-month Planning and Design (\$100,000 - \$250,000) and 36-month Implementation and Expansion (\$100,000 - \$250,000). The program requires cash-only matching fund contributions in an amount equal to 25 percent of the total Federal portion of the grant.

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service – Regional Food System Partnerships

E-mail: IPPGrants@usda.gov

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/rfsp>

Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture allocates Specialty Crop Block Grant funding to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture who passes funds through to the specialty crop industry as competitive grants. The SCBG Program enhances the competitiveness of specialty crops (fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops including floriculture).

Eligible plants must be cultivated or managed and used by people for food, medicinal purposes, and/or aesthetic gratification to be considered a specialty crop. Processed products shall consist of greater than 50% of the specialty crop by weight, exclusive of added water.

Projects may include, but are not limited to, pest and disease control, enhancing food safety, developing new and improved seed varieties, increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops, domestic and international market development, improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems, or developing good agricultural, handling, or manufacturing practices. Projects are evaluated on how well they enhance the competitiveness

of Idaho's specialty crops, soundness and quality of the project plan, measurable outcomes, and return on investment.

Funding: Average awards range from \$50,000 - \$200,000 (no minimum or maximum). No match required. Eligible expenses will be reimbursed on a quarterly basis.

Eligibility: Eligible entities include local, state, and federal government, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and universities. Projects must enhance the competitiveness of Idaho grown specialty crops and must provide a benefit to more than just one product or organization.

Timeframe: The Request for Applications is typically announced each January, with an application deadline of early March.

Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Market Development Division

Tel: (208) 332-8547

Email: Brenden.Meyet@isda.idaho.gov

<https://agri.idaho.gov/marketing/grants-and-loans/specialty-crop-block-grant/>

State Trade Expansion Program (STEP)

The STEP program is funded in part through a grant with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and is administered by Idaho Commerce. The goals of STEP are to increase the number of small businesses that export, increase the value of exports, and increase the number of small businesses exploring significant new [international] trade opportunities.

Companies may apply for:

- Financial Assistance Awards (FAA) – to exhibit at an international trade show. Some domestic trade shows with an international presence are also eligible.
- Online Global program (OGP) – to internationalize websites

Eligibility: Companies that meet SBA eligibility requirements.

Funding: Reimbursement grant. \$2,000 - \$12,000. 20% cash match required. Only one award per application category (FAA and OGP) is allowed per application period.

Time frame: Applications are due in late August for projects occurring between September 30th of the same year through September 29th of the following year.

Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Tel: 208-332-8678

Email: chelsea.conlon@isda.idaho.gov

<https://agri.idaho.gov/main/marketing/financial-assistance/step-grant/>

Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA) Programs

WUSATA receives funding for programs and activities from USDA's Market Access Program (MAP). The Association works with the 13 western State Departments of Agriculture, as well as the territorial departments in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, and USDA's Foreign

Agricultural Service (FAS) in posts around the world to facilitate trade between local U.S. food companies and international buyers.

WUSATA's **Global Connect** program sponsors industry-wide food and agricultural projects that are jointly managed by state marketing specialists and WUSATA to help U.S. companies discover new export markets, connect with international buyers, and increase global distribution. Projects and activities sponsored by Global Connect include inbound and outbound trade missions, international trade shows, and other promotional activities. Companies that want to participate in the Global Connect Program should contact their State Department of Agriculture. WUSATA's **Export Education** program is designed to help companies identify and research key markets through a series of resources including webinars, market intelligence reports, and partner resources that can be found on their website.

WUSATA's **Fund Match** is a cost-share program that doubles an export marketing budget while expanding reach by providing 50% cost reimbursement on eligible international marketing expenses. To be eligible, companies must qualify as a small business, be headquartered in the WUSATA region, be a legally licensed business that has been operating for at least one year, have product that is at least 50% U.S. agricultural origin by weight (excluding added water and packaging), and have product labels and packaging showing a clear U.S. origin statement.

Eligible expenses cover a wide range of export marketing activities. This allows companies to tailor planning to meet specific country goals. To take your savings even further, many of the low-cost events offered through Global Connect are also eligible for reimbursement.

Eligibility:

A company must be –

- Headquartered in the WUSATA region (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming)
- Small-medium in size under Small Business administration (SBA) requirements or a cooperative. Agricultural cooperatives are exempt from size restrictions
- U.S. Business Entity
- Agricultural commodity products offered are not already serviced by an existing cooperator

Products promoted must –

- Contain at least 50% US agricultural content/ingredients by weight
- Be a value-added/processed agricultural product
- Have valid US Origin statement on packaging

Funding: Reimbursement grant. First year applicants may request \$2,500 - \$25,000 for new exporters and repeat applicants may request \$2,500 - \$300,000. 50% cash match required.

Timeframe: Applications open August 1 of the year before the upcoming January 1 – December 31 program year. Applications must be approved before an activity occurs to secure funding.

Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association

Tel: 360-693-3373
Email: export@wusata.org
<http://www.wusata.org/>

Value-Added Producer Grant

The VAPG program helps agricultural producers enter value-added activities to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income. Grant and matching funds can be used for planning activities or for working capital expenses related to producing and marketing a value-added agricultural product. Examples of planning activities include conducting feasibility studies, developing business plans, or developing marketing plans for the proposed value-added product. Examples of working capital expenses include: processing costs, marketing and advertising expenses, and some inventory and salary expenses.

Eligibility: Agricultural producers (includes harvesters and steering committees), agricultural producer groups, farmer- or rancher-cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures, as defined in the program regulation, are eligible to apply for this program. You may receive priority if you are a: beginning farmer or rancher, veteran farmer or rancher, socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher, small or medium-sized farm and ranch structured as a family farm, farmer or rancher cooperative, or proposing a mid-tier value chain.

Funding: Planning grants \$75,000 maximum; Working capital grants \$250,000 maximum. Matching funds requirement of 100 percent of the grant amount required.

USDA Rural Development – Idaho State Office (Boise)
Tel: (208) 327-6463
Email: timothy.wheeler@usda.gov
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants/id>

RESEARCH

Biomass Research & Development Initiative

The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), in conjunction with the US Department of Energy's Office of Biomass Programs, provides grant funding for projects addressing research, development, and demonstration of biofuels and bio-based products and the methods, practices, and technologies for their production, under the Biomass Research and Development Initiative. The competitive award process focuses on three main technical areas:

- Feedstock development
- Biofuels and biobased products development
- Biofuels development analysis

Who may apply: institutions of higher learning, national laboratories, federal research agencies, private sector entities, and non-profit organizations.

Funding: The non-federal share of the total project cost must be at least 20% for research and development projects and 50% for demonstration projects

USDA Office of Rural Development, Business and Cooperative Programs

Tel: (202) 690-4730

<https://afdc.energy.gov/laws/378>

Farmers Advocating for Organic (FAFO)

FAFO is a grant program funded entirely by annual, voluntary contributions from Organic Valley farmers. It is the largest farmer-funded grant program in the U.S. and one of the few focused solely on organic. The fund provides a way for Organic Valley farmers to address the long-term needs of the organic marketplace and future of organic agriculture by supporting the development of long-term solutions. Through combining resources, Organic Valley farmers are able to invest in projects that affect the livelihoods of organic farmers across the country. Applications must advance FAFO's mission of protecting and promoting the organic industry or livelihood of organic farmers through research, education, or advocacy. The impact must reach beyond local communities.

Who may apply: Non-profit organizations and academic/research institutions.

Funding: \$5,000 - \$50,000 for a one-time grant. Grants exceeding \$50,000 and multi-year grants are considered under extraordinary circumstances by invitation only.

E-mail: shannon.suddeth@organicvalley.coop

<https://www.organicvalley.coop/why-organic-valley/power-of-we/farmers-advocating-organics/>

Organic Agriculture Research & Extension Initiative (OREI)

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. Priority concerns include biological, physical, and social sciences, including economics. OREI is particularly interested in projects that emphasize research, education and outreach that assist farmers and ranchers with whole farm planning by delivering practical research-based information. Projects should plan to deliver applied production information to producers. Fieldwork must be done on certified organic land or on land in transition to organic certification, as appropriate to project goals and objectives.

Who may apply: 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, For-profit Organizations Other Than Small Businesses, Private Institutions of Higher Ed, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, State Controlled Institutions of Higher Ed, 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.

Funding: Awards range from \$5,000 - \$3,500,000. 100% match required.

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture - Division of Plant Systems-Production

Tel: (202) 570-1915

E-mail: mngouajio@usda.gov

<https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/organic-agriculture-research-and-extension-initiative>

Potato Breeding Research

Supports potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) research programs that focus on varietal development and testing and potato varieties for commercial production. Varietal development and testing is research using conventional breeding and/or biotechnological genetics to develop improved potato varieties. Aspects of evaluation, screening and testing must support variety development.

Who may apply: 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions. Applications may only be submitted by state agricultural experiment stations, land-grant colleges and universities, research foundations established by land-grant colleges and universities, colleges and universities receiving funds under the Act of October 10, 1962, and accredited schools or colleges of veterinary medicine.

Funding: Awards range from \$500,000 - \$1,500,000. No match required.

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Tel: (610) 312-7619

Email: christian.tobias@usda.gov

<http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/potato-breeding-research>

Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)

SCRI addresses 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. Projects must address at least one of five focus areas:

- Research in plant breeding, genetics, genomics, and other methods to improve crop characteristics
- Efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to specialty crop pollinators
- Efforts to improve production efficiency, handling and processing, productivity, and profitability over the long term (including specialty crop policy and marketing)
- New innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening
- Methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production efficiency, handling and processing of specialty crops

Eligibility: Pre-applications may only be submitted by Federal agencies, national laboratories, colleges and universities, research institutions and organizations, private organizations,

foundations, or corporations, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, Cooperative Extension Services, individuals, or groups consisting of two or more of these entities.

Funding: Average awards range from \$50,000 - \$2,000,000.

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture - Division of Plant Systems-Production
Tel: (202) 306-8670
Email: tbewick@usda.gov
<http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/specialty-crop-research-initiative-scri>

Western Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (Western SARE) Program

The Western SARE is a program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute for Food and Agriculture that provides competitive grants and educational materials. Grant programs cooperatively by farmers, ranchers, researchers, and ag professionals to advance farm and ranch systems that are profitable, environmentally sound, and good for communities.

Types of grants:

- Farmer/Rancher Grant: focuses on advancing on-farm sustainability solutions by funding innovative producer-driven research and outreach. This grant program involves agricultural producers and technical advisor(s) implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture. Producers may apply for up to \$35,000.
- Professional + Producer Grant: an agricultural technical advisor and at least three producers implementing projects that integrate research and education aiming to advance the environmental, economic, and social components of sustainable agriculture and use innovative educational outreach to disseminate new knowledge to producers and agricultural stakeholders. Funded projects should result in quantifiable benefits for producers, increase the preservation of the natural and social resources of agriculture, and be shared with other producers. Technical advisors may apply for \$85,000.
- Graduate Student Research & Education Grant: full-time graduate students enrolled in an accredited university in the Western U.S., their academic advisor, and at least one producer must implement projects that integrate rigorous research and education aiming to advance the environmental, economic, and social components of sustainable agriculture. Outcomes of funded projects should result in quantifiable benefits for producers, increase the preservation of the natural and social agricultural resources, and be documented in scholarly journals and disseminated throughout educational outreach activities. Maximum of \$30,000 budget.
- Research & Education Grant: Researchers from Western institutions may apply. Projects must incorporate research and education, and bring together a team of researchers, students, ag professionals, and producers. Project budget is \$350,000 maximum, with project length 1-3 years.
- Sabbatical Research & Education Grant: an opportunity for faculty around the world to partner with farmers, ranchers, agricultural professionals, and researchers of the Western U.S. region for conducting research, education, and Extension activities. Projects focused on unexplored topics in underserved communities and understudied geographic locations are of special interest. \$75,000 limit/one year in scope.

- Professional Development Grant: educating and training agricultural professionals to increase their understanding and proficiency in sustainable agriculture so they, in turn, can educate and train other agricultural professionals. Project budget \$100,000 completed within three years.
- Professional Development Grant: increase the application and adoption of the results and recommendations from previous SARE-funded research by identifying and overcoming the environmental, economic, and social hindrances of adopting sustainable agricultural practices locally. Projects funded up to \$60,000.

Western SARE State Coordinator - University of Idaho Extension

Tel: (208) 788-5585

E-mail: gloomis@uidaho.edu

<https://western.sare.org/which-grant-is-right-for-me/>

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Extension Risk Management Education Program (ERME)

ERME funds projects that provide farmers with the knowledge, skills, and tools to make informed risk management decisions for their operations. Risk management strategies can range from engaging in futures, options, and forward contracts to broader strategies such as crop and enterprise diversification, conservation planning, new and value-added markets, and asset building. The program currently has five priority topics: production, price or marketing, human resources, legal, and financial risk.

The program is managed by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and operates through four regional centers and a fifth national digital center, which then solicits grant applications on a competitive basis from the regions they represent. All of the centers set different funding priorities, as outlined in the RFA, that are based on the priorities of each region. Grant awardees are chosen at the regional level by each regional center's review panel. Idaho falls under the Western Center (Washington State University).

NIFA emphasizes grants to risk management education projects that assist: Beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, Legal immigrant farmers or ranchers, Farmers preparing to retire and pursuing transition strategies to help new farmers get started, and Farmers converting production and marketing systems to pursue new markets.

Who may apply: Land grant and other colleges and universities, Cooperative extension, and Other public and private entities (farm groups, lenders, risk management service providers, and community-based organizations including nonprofits) with a demonstrated capacity to develop and deliver educational programs for agricultural producers. Collaborative proposals are strongly encouraged.

Funding: Single region projects are awarded \$5,000 - \$50,000. Multi-region projects are allowed, but a separate application must be submitted to each region.

Timeframe: Every year, each of the four regional centers releases a Request for Applications, typically during the fall, and will keep the application period open through mid-November. Awards are typically made in the spring of the following year.

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Extension Risk Management Program
Western Center, Washington State University
Tel: (509) 477-2168
<http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/credit-crop-insurance/risk-management-education-program/>

Organic Certification Cost Share Program

OCCSP provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the National Organic Program (NOP). Cost share assistance covers expenses including application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, inspector travel expenses, user fees, sales assessments, and postage.

Eligibility: Certified organic producers and handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent.

Funding: Up to 75% of certification costs paid during the program year, not to exceed \$750 per certification scope (crops, wild crops, livestock, processing/handling).

USDA Farm Service Agency
Email: jeffrey.harvey@usda.gov
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/organic-certification-cost-share-program-occsp>

Scientific Cooperation Research Program

The Scientific Cooperation Research Program supports joint research, extension, and education projects — lasting up to two years — between U.S. researchers and researchers from selected emerging market economies. The projects address issues including agricultural trade and market access, climate-smart agriculture, animal and plant health, biotechnology, food safety and security, and sustainable natural resource management.

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service – Global Programs
Email: borlaugfellowships@usda.gov
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/scientific-cooperation-research-program>

Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC)

TASC funds projects that address sanitary, phytosanitary, and technical barriers that prohibit or threaten the export of U.S. specialty crops. Eligible activities include seminars and workshops, study tours, field surveys, pest and disease research, and pre-clearance programs. Eligible crops include all cultivated plants and their products produced in the United States except wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, cotton, rice, peanuts, sugar, and tobacco.

The TASC program is intended to benefit an entire industry or commodity rather than a specific company or brand. Proposals may target individual countries or reasonable regional groupings of countries. Proposals may target individual countries or reasonable regional groupings of countries.

Eligibility: U.S. non-profit, for-profit, and government entities.

Funding: maximum of \$500,000 per year and for projects of up to five years.

Timeframe: Applications accepted on a rolling basis subject to program funding availability.

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service - Program Operations Division

Email: podadmin@usda.gov

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/technical-assistance-specialty-crops-tasc>