Financial Assistance Resources

(Grants and Loans)

Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Market Development Division

(208) 332-8530

www.agri.idaho.gov

Table of Contents

[Federal Grant/Funding Programs 3](#_Toc507770601)

[SAM.Gov 3](#_Toc507770602)

[Canid 3](#_Toc507770603)

[Grants.gov 3](#_Toc507770604)

GovLoans.gov [3](#_Toc507770605)

Benefits.gov [4](#_Toc507770606)

ATTRA Sustainable Agreiculture Program  [4](#_Toc507770607)

[Community Development 5](#_Toc507770608)

[Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP) 5](#_Toc507770609)

[Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program 5](#_Toc507770610)

[Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program 6](#_Toc507770630)

[Conservation & Resource Management 7](#_Toc507770634)

[Farm Service Agency (FSA) 7](#_Toc507770635)

[Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 7](#_Toc507770636)

[Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) 9](#_Toc507770637)

[Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Loans & Grants 9](#_Toc507770638)

[Financing Businesses and New Enterprises 10](#_Toc507770639)

[Small Business Development Center Program (SBDC) 10](#_Toc507770640)

[Quality Samples Program (QSP) 11](#_Toc507770641)

[Rural Business Development Grants 11](#_Toc507770642)

[Rural Business Investment Program 12](#_Toc507770644)

[Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant 13](#_Toc507770645)

[Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG) 13](#_Toc507770646)

[Marketing & Development 14](#_Toc507770647)

[Specialty Crop Block Grants 14](#_Toc507770648)

[Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) 14](#_Toc507770649)

[Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) 15](#_Toc507770650)

[Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) 16](#_Toc507770651)

[Foreign Market Development Program (FMD) 16](#_Toc507770652)

[Emerging Markets Program (EMP) 17](#_Toc507770654)

[Market Access Program (MAP) 17](#_Toc507770655)

[Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA) 18](#_Toc507770656)

State Trade Expansion Program (STEP Grant)……………………………………………….19

[Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) 19](#_Toc507770658)

[Forest Products Marketing Unit (FPMU)](#_Toc507770663) 20

[Acer Access and Development Program (ACER) 20](#_Toc507770671)

[Research 2](#_Toc507770675)1

[Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program 2](#_Toc507770676)1

[Potato Breeding Research 2](#_Toc507770689)2

[Biomass Research and Development Initiative (BRDI) 2](#_Toc507770690)2

[Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) 23](#_Toc507770691)

[Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) 2](#_Toc507770692)4

Farmers Advocating for Organic (FAFO)……………………………………………...……..24

[Technical Assistance 25](#_Toc507770693)

[Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) 2](#_Toc507770694)5

[The Cochran Fellowship Program 2](#_Toc507770695)5

 [Scientific Cooperation Research Program…………………………………………………….2](#_Toc507770696)6

Extention [Risk Management Education Program (ERME) 2](#_Toc507770697)6

[Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) 2](#_Toc507770698)7

FEDERAL GRANT/FUDNING PROGRAMS

SAM.gov

<https://sam.gov/content/home>

The System for Award Management (SAM.gov) is an official website of the U.S. Government for entities (prime contractors, organizations or individuals applying for assistance awards, those receiving loans, sole proprietors, corporations, partnerships, and any U.S. federal government agencies desiring to do business with the government) to:

* Register to do business with the U.S. Government
* Update, renew, or check the status of your entity registration
* Search for entity registration and exclusion records
* Search for assistance listings (formerly CFDA.gov), wage determinations (formerly WDOL.gov), contract opportunities (formerly FBO.gov), and contract data reports (formerly part of FPDS.gov)
* View and submit BioPreferred and Service Contract Reports
* Access publicly available award data via data extracts and system accounts

Candid

<https://candid.org/>

Candid is a nonprofit that provides comprehensive data and insights about the social sector. They find out where non-profit fuding 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 data tools on nonprofits, foundations, and grants are the most comprehensive in the world.

Grants.gov

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

Grants.gov is designed to enable federal grant-making agencies to create funding opportunities and applicants to find and apply for these federal grants. The Grants.gov Online Help provides explanations and step-by-step instructions for both applicants and grantors to complete these processes.

GovLoans.gov

<https://www.govloans.gov/categories/agricultural-loans/>

GovLoans.gov is an online resource to help you find government loans you may be eligible for. In addition to other categories, there is a section specifically for Agricultural Loans.

Benefits.gov

<https://www.benefits.gov/>

Operated, managed, and supported by a Federal agency Partnership, Benefits.gov provides an innovative, technology-based solution to benefit information delivery. The site's core function is the eligibility prescreening questionnaire or "Benefit Finder" used to evaluate a citizen’s situation and compare it with eligibility criteria for over 1,000 Federally-funded benefit and assistance programs. Our site also features a recommendation engine that customizes the user’s search for benefits based on their location or interest in a category. Beneficiaries include U.S. citizens, businesses, and Federal and state government entities.

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.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPEMNT

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 insecurity, particularly among our nation’s most vulnerable populations. Applications from organizations that address food insecurity in rural, Tribal, and historically underserved communities are encouraged.

Grant types:

* Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA): a continual multi-year grant up to 4 years. Awards are capped at $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 competed every year
* Planning Projects (PP): for completing plans toward the improvement of community food security in keeping with the primary goals of the CFPCGP. The PP is to prepare a plan for a successful Community Food Project in keeping with the purpose of CFP program goals. Average awards are approximately $25,000 for 12-36 months. Maximum awards are $35,000 over 12-36 months. This is a one-time award. Applicants are to provide matching on a dollar-for-dollar basis for all federal funds requested at the time the application is submitted. This grant is competed every year
* Community Food Projects (CFP): for supporting the development of projects with a ONE-TIME infusion of federal dollars to make such projects self-sustaining. CFPs are designed to create community-based food projects with objectives, activities and outcomes that are in alignment with CFPCGP primary goals. Average awards are $298,000 over 36 to 48 months. No single award should exceed $125,000 in any single year or $400,000 over four years. Applicants are to provide matching on a dollar-for-dollar basis for all federal funds requested at the time the application is submitted. This grant is competed every year

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: Shoushan.Zeng@usda.gov

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

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 (please visit the Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program page for examples of essential community facilities)

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

Funding: Low interest direct loans, grants, a combination of loans and grants, and a loan guarantee program. Funding is provided through a competitive process.

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

Richard Rush, State Director

725 Jensen Grove Dr, Blackfoot, ID 83221

(208) 690-3538

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

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.

USDA Rural Development, Idaho State Office

Richard Rush, State Director

725 Jensen Grove Dr, Blackfoot, ID 83221

(208) 690-3538

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

CONSERVATION & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The FSA administers and manages farm commodity, credit, conservation, disaster, and loan 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 to find out what programs are currently active.

USDA Farm Service Agency – Idaho Office

9173 West Barnes Drive, Suite B, Boise, ID 83709

Tel: (208) 378-5650

Fax: (855) 516-8875

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)The 2018 Farm Bill made updates to NRCS programs and allows authorized programs to continue through Sept. 30, 2024. The 2018 Farm Bill strengthened and expanded support to producers who address significant natural resource concerns through adoption of conservation practices and activities, ensured that voluntary conservation programs balance farm productivity with conservation benefits so the most fertile and productive lands remain in production while land retired for conservation purposes favors more environmentally sensitive acres, supported conservation programs that ensure cost-effective financial assistance for natural resource benefits, and encouraged entry into farming through increased access to land and capital for young, beginning, veteran, and underrepresented farmers.

Conservation financial assistance programs:

* [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farmbill/?cid=stelprdb1242733) (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)](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/ale-agricultural-land-easements) 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)](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/wre-wetland-reserve-easements) 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)](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/wrep-wetland-reserve-enhancement-partnership), a voluntary program through which NRCS enters into agreements with eligible partners to leverage resources to carry out high priority wetland protection, restoration, and enhancement and to improve wildlife habitat.

The Inflation Reduction Act revised ACEP authority, providing funding for easements that will reduce, capture, avoid or sequester greenhouse gas emissions, and extending regular program funding through fiscal year 2031

* [Conservations Stewardship Program](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/csp-conservation-stewardship-program) (CSP): helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation while strengthening operations. NRCS works one-on-one with producers to develop a conservation plan that outlines and enhances existing efforts, 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. Contract payments are based on: Payments to maintain the existing level of conservation and an NRCS assessment of existing stewardship & Payments to implement additional conservation activities. 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](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/) (EQIP): helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands. NRCS works one-on-one with 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.

Financial assistance and advance payment may be available for producers through EQIP. EQIP offers grant opportunities through [Conservation Innovation Grants](https://cig.sc.egov.usda.gov/?utm_source=nrcs-cig&utm_medium=site&utm_campaign=obv-redirect), which awards competitive grants that stimulate the development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies for conservation on agricultural lands

Idaho NRCS State Office

9173 W. Barnes Dr., Ste C, Boise, ID 83709

Tel: (208) 378-5700

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmbill/>

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.

To get started, contact your local Idaho Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office. We’ll discuss your vision for your land. NRCS provides landowners with free technical assistance, or advice, for their land. Common technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design and resource monitoring. Your conservation planner will help you determine if financial assistance is right for you.

**Idaho NRCS State Office**

9173 W. Barnes Dr., Suite C, Boise, ID 83709

Tel: (208) 378-5700

<http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/index.html>

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

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. Funds may be used for the purchase and installation of renewable energy systems and used for the purchase, installation and construction of energy efficiency improvements.

Eligibility: Agricultural producers (entity directly engaged in production of agricultural products where at least 50 percent of their gross income coming from agricultural operations) and Rural Small Businesses (must meet SBA size standards & be located in eligible rural areas and one of the following: Private for-profit entity (sole Proprietorship, Partnership, or Corporation); A Cooperative; An electric utility (including a Tribal or governmental 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.

Timeframe: Open for Fiscal Years 2023 & 2024. Application windows: December 31, 2023 March 31, 2024 June 30, 2024 September 30, 2024

Jeremy French, USDA Rural Development

1441 Filmore, Suite C, Twin Falls, ID 83301

Tel: (208) 944-3754

jeremy.french@id.usda.gov

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

**Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**

ECP helps farmers and ranchers to repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and to help put in place methods for water conservation during severe drought. The ECP does this through funding and technical assistance.

Eligibility: The FSA County Committee inspects damage to determine if land is eligible for ECP. For land to qualify for ECP funds, the damage from a natural disaster or severe drought must create new conservation problems that if not dealt with would: Further damage the land; Significantly affect the land’s productive capacity; Represent damage from a natural disaster unusual for the area (an exception to this is damage from wind erosion); Be too costly to repair without Federal assistance in order to return the land to agricultural production.

Funding: Determined by Congress. Up to 75% of the cost to implement emergency conservation practices can be provided, but final amounts are determined by the committee reviewing an application. Qualified limited resource, underserved, and beginning farmers/ranchers may earn up to 90% cost-share. The FSA County Committee is able to approve applications up to $125,000 while applications of $125,001 to $250,000 require state committee approval. Amounts over $250,000 require the approval of the national FSA office.

Timeframe: Farmers and ranchers should check with their local FSA office to find out about ECP sign-up periods, which are set by the FSA County Committee.

FSA State Office - Idaho State Farm Service Agency

9173 West Barnes Dr., Boise, ID 83709

Tel: (208) 378-5650

Fax: (208) 378-5678

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

FINANCING BUSINESS & NEW ENTERPRISES

Small Business Development Center Program (SBDC)

The Idaho Small Business Development Center (SBDC) 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.

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.

Boise State University, State Office

2360 W. University Dr. Ste. 2132, Boise, ID 83706

Tel: 208-426-3875

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

Rural Business Development Grants

This program is 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 which will employ 50 or fewer new employees and has less than $1 million in gross revenue. Program activities are separated into enterprise or opportunity type grants.

Enterprise grants must be used on projects to benefit small and emerging businesses in rural areas as specified in the grant application, such as:

* 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
* Distance adult learning for job training and advancement
* 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: Towns, communities, state agencies, authorities, nonprofit corporations, institutions of higher education, federally-recognized Tribes, and private non-profit rural cooperatives (if organized as a private nonprofit corporation).

Funding: Varies by program. Contact your local office for available programs.

Layne Bangerter, State Director

9713 West Barnes Drive, Suite A1

Boise, ID 83709
Tel: (208) 378-5600

Fax: (208) 378-5643

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

Rural Business Investment Program

This program provides a Rural Business Investment Company (RBIC) 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

Email: RBIP@usda.gov

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

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 to socially-disadvantaged groups in rural areas, such as feasibility studies, business plans, strategic planning, and leadership training.

Who can apply: Cooperatives and Cooperative Development Centers.

Funding: $175,000.

Layne Bangerter, State Director

9713 West Barnes Drive, Suite A1

Boise, ID 83709

Tel: (208) 378-5600

Fax: (208) 378-5643

[https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/socially-disadvantaged-groups-grant](http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/socially-disadvantaged-groups-grant)

Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG)

The VAPG program helps agricultural producers enter value-added activities related to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income. Applicants may receive priority if they are a beginning farmer or rancher, socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher, small or medium-sized farm, farmer or rancher cooperative, or are proposing a mid-tier value chain. Grants are awarded through a national competition.

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 and developing business plans for processing and marketing the proposed value-added product. Examples of working capital expenses include processing costs, marketing and advertising expenses, and some inventory and salary expenses.

Eligibility: Independent producers (includes harvesters and steering committees), agricultural producer groups, farmer- or rancher-cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

Funding: Planning Grants $75,000 maximum; Working Capital Grants $250,000 maximum. Cost share match requirement of 100 percent of the grant amount required for all applications.

Timeframe: Paper applications due April 16, 2024. Electronic applications due April 11, 2024.

Idaho Rural Development State Office

Richard Rush, State Director

9173 West Barnes Drive, Suite A1, Boise, ID 83709

Tel: (208) 378-5601

[https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants](http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants)

MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT

Specialty Crop Block Grants

The United States Department of Agriculture allocates Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) funding to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture who passes the funds through to the specialty crop industry as competitive grants. This is a reimbursement grant and eligible expenses will be reimbursed on a quarterly basis.

The purpose of the SCBG Program is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as 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: Historically, an annual allocation of over $2 million is received from the USDA to award to projects. There is no minimum or maximum project funding level, average awards range from $50,000 - $200,000. No match required.

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 (RFA) is typically announced in January, with an application deadline of early March.

Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Market Development Division

Brenden Meyet, Grants/Contracts Operations Analyst

2270 Old Penitentiary Rd Boise, ID 38712

Tel: (208) 332-8547

Email: Brenden.Meyet@isda.idaho.gov

https://agri.idaho.gov/main/marketing/financial-assistance/idaho-specialty-crop-block-grant-program/

Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)

The Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products by developing, coordinating, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, online sales or other direct producer-to-consumer (including direct producer-to-retail, direct producer-to-restaurant and direct producer-to-institutional marketing) market opportunities. FMPP is part of the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP).

Eligibility: 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, 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 (ranging from $50,000 to $250,000), 36-month Community Development Training and Technical Assistance (ranging $100,000 to $500,000), 24-month Turnkey Marketing and Promotion (ranging from $50,000 and $100,000), and 24-month Turnkey Recruitment and Training (ranging from $50,000 and $100,000). The program requires matching fund contributions in an amount equal to 25 percent of the total Federal portion of the grant.

Timeframe: The FY 2024 grant application period is open through May 14, 2024.

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service - Farmers Market & Local Food Promotion Programs

Email: FMLFPPgrants@usda.gov

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

Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP)

funds projects that develop, coordinate, and expand local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer to consumer marketing to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. LFPP is part of the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP).

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

Timing: The FY 2024 grant application period is open through May 14, 2024.

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service - Farmers Market & Local Food Promotion Programs

Email: FMLFPPgrants@usda.gov

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

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, Agricultural Product Development.

Eligibility: State departments of agriculture, state agricultural experiment stations, and other state agencies (state universities and colleges, state governmental entities) 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.

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>

**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, 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. Projects that endorse or promote branded products or specific companies are not eligible.

There is no fixed list of "emerging market" countries, but the legislation defines 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.

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>

Market Access Program (MAP)

Through MAP, FAS 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.

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service -Program Operations Division

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

Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA)

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 Oslands, 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 tradeshows, 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 **FundMatch** 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, 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:

* + Company eligibility –
		- 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)
		- Must be a small- or 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
	+ Product eligibility –
		- Must contain at least 50% US agricultural content/ingredients by weight
		- Must be a value-added/processed agricultural product
		- Must 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
4601 NE 77th Ave., Suite 240
Vancouver, WA 98662
Tel: 360-693-3373

Email: export@wusata.org

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

State Trade Expansion Program (STEP Grant)

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 – to plan your own choice of various international activities, including international trade show
	+ Online Global program – to internationalize websites and e-commerce
	+ State-Led Industry Trade Shows – to join an Idaho pavilion at industry-specific international trade shows

Eligibility: Companies that meet SBA eligibility requirements.

Funding: Reimbursement grant. $2,000 - $12,000. 20% cash match required. Only one award is allowed per application window.

Time frame: Applications for Financial Assistance Awards and the Online Global Program are due in late August for projects occurring between September 30th of the same year through September 29th of the following year. State-Led Industry Trade Show applications open as they are planned.

Idaho State Department of Agriculture
2270 Old Penitentiary Road
Boise, ID 83712
Tel: 208-332-8678

Email: chelsea.conlon@isda.idaho.gov

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

Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG)

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 and developing business plans for processing and marketing the proposed value-added product. Examples of working capital expenses include:

processing costs, marketing and advertising expenses and some inventory and salary expenses. VAPG is part of the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP).

Eligibility: Independent producers (includes harvesters and steering committees), agricultural producer groups, farmer- or rancher-cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures. You may receive priority if you are a: beginning farmer or rancher, socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher, small or medium-sized farm, 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. Required cost share match requirement of 100 percent of the grant amount.

USDA Rural Development – Idaho State Office (Boise)

Tim Wheeler, Director Business Programs

Tel: (208) 327-6463

Email: timothy.wheeler@usda.gov

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants/id>

Forest Products Marketing Unit (FPMU)

The Forest Service program, FPMU, expands a national scope to include biomass utilization grants for the development of new or existing high value markets for low value wood, including biomass for energy, wood-based nanotechnology, green building construction, and other forest products to increase the utilization of hazardous fuel wood and thereby accelerate forest restoration and help reduce the rate and size of catastrophic fires.

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.

Technology Marketing Unit, State and Private Forestry

Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory

One Gifford Pinchot Dr.

Madison, WI 53726-2398

Tel: (608) 231-9200

E-mail: mailroom\_forest\_products\_laboratory@fs.fed.us

<https://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/research/units/fpmu/index.shtml>

**Acer Access and Development Program (ACER)**

ACER offers grants to support promotion of the domestic maple syrup industry. Supported activities include: promotion of research and education related to maple syrup production, promotion of natural resource sustainability in the maple syrup industry, market promotion for maple syrup and maple-sap products, encouragement of 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 land available for public access of 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: $900,000 was awarded in Fiscal Year 2017.

Martin “RO” Rosier, Team Lead

Tel: (202) 260-8449

E-mail: martin.rosier@usda.gov

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

RESEARCH

#

[Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program](http://www.sare.org/)

SARE is a program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that functions through competitive grants conducted 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:

* [Research & Education Grants](https://wsaregrants.usu.edu/grants/docs/CFP_PRE.pdf)

provides funding to scientists, producers, and others using interdisciplinary approaches to address issues related to sustaining agriculture.

* [Professional Development Grants](https://wsaregrants.usu.edu/grants/docs/CFP_PDP.pdf)

focus on training agricultural professionals to help them spread knowledge about sustainable agriculture concepts and practices. This grant is limited to $75,000. Grants can run for up to three years, with the final year to be focused on project evaluation.

* [Farmer/Rancher Grants](https://wsaregrants.usu.edu/grants/docs/CFP_PG.pdf)

provides one- to three-year grants that are conducted by agricultural producers with support and guidance from a technical advisor. Individual farmers or ranchers may apply for up to $20,000, and a group of three or more producers may apply for up to $25,000. Producers typically use their grants to conduct on-site experiments that can improve their operations and the environment and can be shared with other producers. Grant recipients may also focus on marketing and organic production.

* [Professional + Producer Grants](https://wsaregrants.usu.edu/grants/docs/CFP_PPG.pdf)

provide one- to three-year grants that are similar in concept to the Farmer/Rancher Grants, with a few key differences. Instead of a producer serving as the project coordinator, an agricultural professional coordinates the project. A farmer or rancher serves as the project advisor. Applicants can seek up to $50,000 and must have at least five producers involved.

* [Graduate Student Grants in Sustainable Agriculture](https://wsaregrants.usu.edu/grants/docs/CFP_GSG.pdf)

provide a maximum of $25,000 and may last for up to two years. Those eligible to apply are masters or Ph.D. students enrolled full time (as determined by the institution’s requirements) at accredited colleges or universities in the Western region. An applicant is eligible for only one grant during his or her graduate program.

Kate Painter, State Coordinator

University of Idaho Extension, Boundary County

P.O. Box 267

Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

Tel: (208) 267-3235

E-mail: kpainter@uidaho.edu

<https://www.westernsare.org/Professional-Development-Program/State-and-Protectorate-Pages/Idaho>

Potato Breeding Research

The purpose of this grant program is to support potato (Solanum tuberosum L.) research programs that focus on varietal development and testing and potato varieties for commercial production. As used herein, 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, Other or Additional Information, and State Agricultural Experiment Stations.

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, as amended (16 USC 582a et seq.), and accredited schools or colleges of veterinary medicine.

Funding: $1,850,000 estimated for Fiscal year 2018. 100% match is required.

[Division of Plant Systems-Production](http://nifa.usda.gov/office/division-plant-systems-production)

[Jeffery](http://nifa.usda.gov/staff-bio/pushpa-kathir) Steiner, Division Director

3140 Waterfront Centre

Tel: (202) 690-4442

Email: Jeffrey.Steiner@nifa.usda.gov

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

Biomass Research and Development Initiative (BRDI)

The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment (IBCE) and the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Golden Field Office, Bioenergy Technologies Office collaborates to provide the interagency Program to support the development of a biomass-based industry in the United States.

The projects must fall under one of these three technical areas:

* Feedstocks development
* Biofuels and biobased products development
* Biofuels and biobased products development analysis

Who may apply: 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS status, other than Institutions of Higher Ed, Other or Additional Information, Private Institutions of Higher Ed, Small Business, State Controlled Institutions of Higher Ed. Institution of Higher Education, National Laboratory, Federal Research Agency, State Research Agency, Private Sector Entity, Non-Profit Organization and/or a consortium of 2 or more entities identified as eligible.

Funding: $6,000,000 was allocated in Fiscal Year 2017.

20% match required for research and development projects and 50% match for demonstrations.

Daniel Cassidy, National Program Leader

 Division of Bioenergy

Tel: 202-401-6444

Email: dcassidy@nifa.usda.gov
<http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/biomass-research-and-development-initiative-brdi>

Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)

The purpose of the 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. 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 or corporations, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, individuals, or groups consisting of two or more of these entities.

Funding: There is an estimated total program funding of $75,440,000. Average awards range from $50,000 - $2,000,000. 100% match required.

Timeframe: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) publishes a call for pre-applications, typically in September or October. Applicants submit a Stakeholder Relevance Statement, estimated budget request, letters of support, and other supporting documents. Those packets undergo a review by members of the specialty crop industry. Following the relevance review, directions and an invitation to submit a full project proposal is sent to those applicants recommended by the relevance review panel. 4 to 6 weeks is typically allowed for submission of full proposals. After the closing date, a full scientific merit review, which follows the same procedures as other scientific merit reviews at NIFA, is conducted. The final ranking of proposals incorporates results from both the relevance and the scientific merit reviews.

Division of Plant Systems-Production

Thomas (Tom) Bewick, National Program Leader

3146 Waterfront Centre

Tel: (202) 306-8670

Email: tbewick@nifa.usda.gov

http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/specialty-crop-research-initiative-scri

Organic Agriculture Research and 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. The 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: $17,600,000 estimated for Fiscal Year 2018. 100% match required.

Division of Plant Systems - Production

Mathieu Ngouajio, National Program Leader

3441 Waterfront Centre

Tel: (202) 401-4895

Fax: (202) 401-6488

E-mail: mngouajio@nifa.usda.gov

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

Farmers Advocating for Organic (FAFO)

Farmers Advocating for Organic (FAFO) began with the 2002 Farm Bill, which included an exemption for organic farmers from contributing to national promotion programs like “Got Milk?” In response, Organic Valley devised a way for farmers to pool exemptions into an organic-focused granting fund as a way to promote and advance organic farming.

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.

Who may apply: Non-profit organizations and academic/research institutions are eligible to submit a letter of interest (LOI). LOIs will reviewed and responded to within two weeks and if approved, the organization will be invited to submit a full application. 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.

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

Vicky Reeves, FAFO Program Manager

E-mail: Vicky.reeves@organicvalley.coop

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

#

[Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC)](http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/tasc/tasc.asp%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

The TASC program 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>

****The Cochran Fellowship Program****

The Cochran Fellowship Program provides short-term training opportunities to agricultural professionals from middle-income countries, emerging markets, and emerging democracies.

The goals are to:

* Help eligible countries develop agricultural systems necessary to meet the food and fiber needs of their domestic populations
* Strengthen and enhance trade linkages between eligible countries and agricultural interests in the United States

The Cochran Fellowship Program provides 2-3 weeks of U.S. agriculture training. Fellows work with U.S. universities, government agencies, and private companies. They receive hands-on training to enhance their technical knowledge and skills in areas related to agricultural trade, agribusiness development, management, policy, and marketing.

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service – Global Programs

Email: borlaugfellowships@usda.gov

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/cochran-fellowship-program>

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.

Funding: $50,000 grant maximum. No cost sharing or match required.

Timeframe: Current application deadline March 25, 2024.

 USDA Foreign Agricultural Service – Global Programs

Email: borlaugfellowships@usda.gov

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/scientific-cooperation-research-program>

Extension Risk Management Education Program (ERME)

ERME program 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 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 solicit grant applications on a competitive basis from the regions they represent:

* North Central Center: University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension
* Northeast Center: University of Delaware Cooperative Extension
* Southern Center: University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture
* Western Center: Washington State University Cooperative Extension
* Digital Center for Risk Management Education: University of Minnesota

The regional centers all use the same process for soliciting and selecting grantees, but each sets its own priorities to align with their region’s needs. NIFA emphasizes grants to risk management education projects that assist: beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers or rancher, legal immigrant farmers or ranchers, farmers preparing to retire and pursuing transition strategies to help new farmers get started, 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: Awards for single region projects range between $5,000 and $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 (RFA) – typically during the fall – and will keep the application period open through mid-November. All the regional centers use the same evaluation criteria and process for choosing project grantees and have the same online grant application. 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. Awards are typically made in the spring of the following year.

<http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/credit-crop-insurance/risk-management-education-program/>

Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

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). Eligible reimbursement costs include application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement/arrangement requirements, travel/per diem for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments, and postage. OCCSP funds are limited and applications are paid on a first-come, first-served basis.

Eligibility: Certified organic producers and handlers who have paid certification fees during the current federal fiscal year (September 30th start – the following September 29th close).

Funding: 75% cost share or $750 per certification scope (crops, livestock, wild crops, handling, and State Organic Program fees).

Timeframe: Applications for reimbursement are accepted through the one month following the current federal fiscal program year (September 30th through the following September 29th).

USDA Farm Service Agency

Jeffrey Harvey, County Executive Director

Email: jeffrey.harvey@usda.gov

<http://fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occsp/index>