



Transportation and Marketing



Grant Opportunities and Activities

Supporting Domestic Agricultural Markets, including Local and Regional Food Systems

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) supports economic development for communities and commodities by funding projects that enhance the marketability and competitiveness of U.S. agricultural products locally, nationally and internationally. AMS grant programs focus on local and regional food systems, and the specialty crops, dairy, meat, poultry, and sheep industries.

Acer Access Development Program (Acer)

Promotes the domestic maple syrup industry through research, expansion of production land, and marketing and education projects. www.ams.usda.gov/acer

Eligibility and Match Requirement: States, Tribal governments and research institutions. No match required.

Bison Production and Marketing Grant Program (BPMGP)

Strengthens and enhances the production and marketing of bison and bison products through business and resource development, and the advancement of innovative solutions or approaches to support the long-term growth of the Bison sector. www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/bpmgp1

Eligibility and Match Requirement: Agricultural businesses or cooperatives, producer networks or associations, local governments, nonprofit corporations, economic development corporations, Tribal governments, and federally chartered Tribal organizations, with prioritization to national non-profits and federally chartered Tribal organizations that have expertise in bison production or marketing. No match required.

Dairy Business Innovation Initiative (DBI)

Supports dairy businesses in the development, production, marketing, and distribution of dairy products.

www.ams.usda.gov/dbi

Eligibility and Match Requirement: State agencies of agriculture or other state entities, cooperative extension service, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations. No match required.

Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP)

Explores new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products and encourages research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the U.S. marketing system.

www.ams.usda.gov/fsmip

Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP)

Enhances local and regional food systems through:

- **Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)** supports direct-to-consumer marketing such as: farmers markets, community supported agriculture programs (CSAs), sales to restaurants and institutions and agritourism. www.ams.usda.gov/fmpp
- **Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP)** supports local and regional food system intermediaries that process, distribute, aggregate and store locally or regionally produced food projects through Planning and Implementation grants. www.ams.usda.gov/lfpp
- **Regional Food System Partnerships Program (RFSP)** supports collaborative efforts that plan and develop local/regional food systems. www.ams.usda.gov/rfsp
- **Value-Added Producer Grants (VAPG)** helps producers enter into value-added activities, including processing and/or marketing of new product. AMS coordinates closely with USDA Rural Development, which administers VAPG. www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants

Eligibility and Match Requirement: Eligibility varies by program. Please visit the program webpages for more specific information. There is a 25% match (FMPP, LFPP, RFSP) \$1-for-\$1 (VAPG).

Micro-Grants for Food Security Program (MGFSP)

Supports the competitive distribution of subgrants that increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food through small-scale gardening, herding, and livestock operations in areas of the United States that have significant levels of food insecurity and import a significant quantity of food.

www.ams.usda.gov/mgfsfp

Eligibility and Match Requirement: Individuals, Indian tribes or Tribal organizations as defined in 25 U.S.C. § 5304, nonprofit organizations, Federally funded educational facilities, or Local or Tribal governments. No match required.

Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program (SPMGP)

Strengthens and enhances the production and marketing of sheep and sheep products in the U.S. through improved infrastructure and business and resource development. In 2019, AMS awarded a 5-year grant for 1.9 million to the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC). Each year, the NSIIC conducts a competitive sub-award process, and those interested in funding should apply directly to the NSIIC.

www.ams.usda.gov/spmgp

Eligibility and Match Requirement: National entities with a mission consistent with SPMGP's purpose. No match required.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)

Provides noncompetitive grants to SDAs to support locally led projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, including fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, floriculture and nursery crops. www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp

Eligibility and Match Requirement: SDAs, who administer a subaward program and determine eligibility for subaward recipients. No match required.

Specialty Crop Multistate Program (SCMP)

Develops solutions for specialty crop problems crossing state boundaries, particularly related to improved food safety, plant pests and disease, research and marketing and promotion. www.ams.usda.gov/scmp

Eligibility and Match Requirement: SDAs and multi-state project partners. No match required.

Additional Programs

These programs were funded through various one-time authorizations and were launched from 2021 to 2023. They have varying time periods for completion through 2027.

- **Local Meat Capacity Grant (Local MCap)** supports independently owned meat and poultry processing businesses with grant funds to provide more and better processing options for local livestock producers by modernizing, increasing, diversifying, and decentralizing meat and poultry processing capacity. www.ams.usda.gov/localmcap
- **Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant Program (MPIRG)** assists currently operational meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities in obtaining a Federal Grant of Inspection under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) or the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA); or operating as a State-inspected facility that is compliant with FMIA or PPIA under a Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) program. www.ams.usda.gov/mpirg
- **Organic Market Development Grant (OMDG)** supports the development of new and expanded organic markets to help increase the consumption of domestic organic agricultural commodities. The program focuses on building and expanding capacity for certified organic production, aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, distribution, and development of consumer markets. www.ams.usda.gov/omdg
- **Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI)** builds resilience in the middle of the food supply chain, to provide more and better markets to small farms and food businesses, to support the development of value-added products for consumers, fair prices, fair wages, and new and safe job opportunities. www.ams.usda.gov/rfsi

Contact: AMSGrants@usda.gov

Related USDA Information: www.ams.usda.gov/localfood • www.farmers.gov

Grant Resources and Training: www.grants.gov