

Cold Chain Grants for Emergency Food Assistance

Fiscal Year 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-AMS-TM-CCG-G-26-0001

Publication Date: August 17, 2026

Application Due Date: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on October 1, 2026

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1.0 BASIC INFORMATION

Federal Agency: Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

Funding Opportunity Title: Cold Chain Grants for Emergency Food Assistance

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-AMS-TM-CCG-G-26-0001

Assistance Listing Number: 10.197

Type of Federal Assistance: *Grant Agreements* will be used to provide federal awards to successful applicants.

Type of Application: *New applications* will be evaluated competitively using the selection process and evaluation criteria described in [section 7.0 Application Review Information](#).

Application Deadline: The application deadline to AMS is 11:59 PM Eastern Time on October 1, 2026. Applications received after these deadlines will not be considered for funding.

1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), requests applications for the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Cold Chain Grants for Emergency Food Assistance (CCG). AMS will competitively award funds to one or more recipients to offer subawards for cold storage and distribution equipment to food banks, food pantries, and other emergency food assistance operations to improve their ability to provide high quality meats, eggs, seafood, dairy, and fresh and minimally processed fruits and vegetables to vulnerable Americans. Through these subawards, more Real Foods¹ produced by America's dedicated farmers and ranchers will be made available in support of healthier families and healthier communities and in alignment with the 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Creating these new pathways for donated food products through cold chain support will additionally result in more efficient utilization of the U.S. food supply and avoidance of food waste.

Approximately \$7.5 million is available to fund applications under this solicitation.

This announcement identifies the eligibility criteria for CCG projects and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for a CCG grant. All applications will be reviewed using merit and evaluation procedures described in [7.0 Application Review Information](#).

AMS will award these funds competitively to at least one eligible organization that meets program requirements and whose expertise is consistent with the purpose of the grant program. The selected grant recipient(s) will provide management, oversight, consultation and expertise necessary to advance the purpose and activities of the program, primarily through a subaward program to support cold storage within the middle of the supply chain. **All applicants must demonstrate their capacity to provide subawards to other entities for projects over a broad, relevant geographic coverage area.**

¹<https://realfood.gov>

1.2 AVAILABLE FUNDING

Anticipated Available Funding: Approximately \$7.5 million. This is a one-time program. There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application, to guarantee minimum funding levels, or to make a specific number of awards.

Anticipated Number of Awards: 1 to 4.

Cost Share Requirement: There is no cost share requirement for applicants applying through this NOFO to manage the program.

A cost share is required from subrecipients in the form of cash contributions equal to 10% of the amount of Federal funds being requested. This cost share requirement applies to each subaward project.

1.3 FEDERAL AWARD PERIOD DURATION AND SIZE

AMS expects applicants to complete their projects within the performance period of the grant. It is acceptable to complete a project before the scheduled performance period end date. The applicant must indicate the start date and end date on Block 17 of the SF-424 "Application for Federal Assistance."

Applicants may not request less than or more than the respective minimum/maximum amounts. Applicants must justify the requested funding amounts within the Project Narrative.

Duration	Start Date	End Date	Minimum award	Maximum award
2 years	September 30, 2026*	September 29, 2028*	\$2M	\$7.5M

*Dates are approximate. Start dates are set at the time of the award.

1.4 TIPS FOR APPLICANTS

- **To submit your application electronically using [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), you must:**
 - Have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN);
 - Be registered in SAM.gov;
 - Provide your UEI number and TIN on your application; and
 - Maintain an active and current SAM registration.
- **Allow time for Registration Completion:**
 - The organization registration process can take **as long as four weeks**.
 - Complete the registration as early as possible to meet all deadlines. See [section 6.0 Submission Requirements and Deadlines](#) for more information.
- **Review General Terms and Conditions:**

Review the [CCG Program Specific Terms and Conditions](#), [AMS General Terms and Conditions \(AMS GT&C\)](#), and [USDA General Terms and Conditions \(USDA GT&C\)](#) to understand allowable and unallowable costs.
- **Ensure File Compatibility:**
 - Use latest version of Adobe Reader that is compatible with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

- **File Naming and Size:**
 - Limit file names to 50 characters or fewer.
 - Avoid special characters in file names (\$, %, &, *, Spanish "ñ", etc.).
- **Attachment Upload:**
 - Use the “Add Attachments” button in Grants.gov for upload.
 - Do not use the “paperclip” icon in Adobe Reader.
- **File Security and Formatting:**
 - Do not password protect files.
 - Accept all tracked changes in documents before submission.
- **Accurate Data Entry:**
 - Verify that your UEI number is correctly entered on the SF-424 form cover page.
- **Grants.gov Resources for Support:**
 - [Applicant FAQs](#)
 - [Workspace Overview](#)

By following these steps and recommendations, applicants can reduce errors, meet deadlines, and ensure compliance with submission requirements.

1.5 TIMING TO OBTAIN AND SUBMIT GRANTS.GOV REQUIRED ELEMENTS

Required Action	Timing to Obtain/Submit
AMS Deadline to receive final application and all supporting materials through Grants.Gov	October 1, 2026 – 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time
Obtaining Your Organization’s UEI Number (if you do not already have one)	7-10 business days
Establishing an Active SAM.gov Account (if you do not already have one)	Up to 4 weeks
Obtaining a TIN/EIN (if you do not already have one)	Up to 2 weeks
Creating your Grants.gov profile and registering your Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) authorization	Up to 4 weeks

1.6 AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

1.6.1 AMS PROGRAM CONTACTS

After closely reviewing this NOFO in its entirety, applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact the CCG staff by e-mail with questions about the grant program at AMS.CCG@usda.gov.

AMS provides resources and information on the [CCG website](#) that may be helpful to applicants, including webinar information and required application forms. AMS staff are available to provide timely technical assistance. Staff cannot provide feedback on the merits of an application.

Cold Chain Grants for Emergency Food Assistance

USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 1510-S South Building
Stop 0264
Washington, DC 20250-0264
AMS.CCG@usda.gov

1.6.2 GRANTS.GOV CONTACT INFORMATION

All questions regarding Grants.gov technical assistance or issues must be directed to [Applicant Support Center](#). Applicants may also call the 24/7 (excluding federal holidays) toll-free support number 1-800-518-4726 or email support@grants.gov.

2.0 ELIGIBILITY

2.1 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

All applicants must be domestic entities owned, operated, and located within the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Eligible entities: Nonprofit Corporations. Specifically, this includes any organization or institution, including nonprofits with State or Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) status where no part of the organization's or institution's net earnings inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. This may include charitable organizations or private foundations.

An eligible applicant must be able to demonstrate capacity to implement and manage a competitive subaward program funding others to conduct projects that meet the goals of the program. This includes competitive application solicitation, application review, award, oversight, and reporting.

2.2 COST SHARING

2.2.1 COST SHARING FOR ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are not required to provide a cost share at the prime recipient level. A cost share is required at the subaward level as described in [section 3.3.8 Cost Sharing for Subawards](#).

3.0 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

3.1 LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Legislative authority is provided in Section 1001(b)(4) of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 ([Pub. L. 117-2](#)), which authorizes the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), to make grants to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency.

3.2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Cold Chain Grants for Emergency Food Assistance (CCG) is to support cold chain equipment investments that enable food assistance entities to temporarily store, effectively package, and distribute fresh and minimally processed foods. This NOFO requests applications to administer a CCG subaward competition for investments in cold chain—refrigeration, freezers, refrigerated/freezer vehicles and trailers—and repackaging equipment. These equipment investments will be made through subawards to food banks, faith-based organizations, and other public or private nonprofit organizations that provide nutrition assistance, such as prepared meals or food for use at home, to people with low-income or challenging financial circumstances. The program aims to ensure more nutrient-dense proteins and other healthy foods from our nation’s dedicated farmers and ranchers get to the kitchen tables of American families in need, while supporting more efficient utilization of donated food products as well as food and agricultural supply chain resilience.

In the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2025-2030, HHS and USDA call on every American to eat more Real Food. CCG program investments will help put U.S. farmers and ranchers at the center of solving the nation’s chronic health problems, support recovery of foods that would otherwise go to waste, improve food and agricultural supply chain resilience, and ensure that all families, regardless of circumstance, can access Real Food. This includes working with food banks, food pantries, faith-based organizations and others providing food to America’s most vulnerable individuals and families. These entities require sufficient equipment to efficiently and effectively receive, repackage, and store high quality, nutrient-dense proteins such as meat, eggs, and dairy, and healthy, minimally processed fruits and vegetables. The investments through this new grant program will enable them to meet this call by upgrading their capacity and facilities to handle and distribute more Real Foods.

3.3 SUBAWARD PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

AMS will issue at least one grant award to an eligible entity with experience in grants implementation, cold chain coordination, and food assistance distribution. Grant awards will be issued through Grant Agreements.

The selected grant recipient(s) will be responsible for designing, managing, and overseeing a competitive subaward program, including providing consultation and subject matter expertise to subapplicants in support of cold storage in consumer-facing food assistance operations.

Applicants must submit a proposal describing their approach to program implementation that includes the design and administration of a competitive subaward program.

3.3.1 RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MANAGING SUBAWARDS

The selected applicant(s) are responsible for the management and administrative oversight of all subawards, including financial management, performance monitoring, enforcement of subaward requirements, and conducting outreach to potential applicants and stakeholders.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Designing and administering a competitive Cold Chain subaward program;

- Developing and issuing subaward solicitations;
- Conducting outreach to and engaging with a wide array of stakeholders to ensure broad participation in applying for funding;
- Recruiting and training reviewers for application review;
- Managing the subaward review and selection process;
- Ensuring fair, open, and conflict-free competition;
- Making subaward grants to selected subapplicants;
- Monitoring subrecipient performance in accordance to [2 CFR 200.332](#);
- Maintaining complete documentation of funding decisions and program activities;
- Ensuring compliance with all applicable federal requirements, including the [CCG Program Specific T&C](#), [AMS GT&C](#), and [USDA GT&C](#); and
- Collecting project data, including outcomes, and submitting reports to AMS.

3.3.2 SUBAWARD PROCESS

The selected grant recipient(s) must competitively make subaward grants within the first year of the award, leaving a minimum of one year for subaward equipment purchases, payment reimbursement requests, and required reporting. The recipient(s) must develop and issue a subaward solicitation that includes all information necessary for eligible entities to prepare applications that align with the purpose and eligible activities of the program. The recipient(s) must provide their solicitation document to AMS for confirmation of compliance prior to issuance. The recipient may consult with AMS staff regarding the solicitation process, including to confirm project eligibility and/or obtain guidance on required information to collect from potential subrecipients in their project narratives.

The selected grant recipient(s) must ensure that the subaward funding opportunity is made available publicly to reach eligible subrecipient entities, as described in [section 3.3.4](#), and may not require membership or participation in a specific food assistance organization or network to qualify for funding.

The recipient must use the provided Subrecipient Project Narrative template to collect required information from potential subaward applicants. The subrecipient narrative must include all requested information in support of their proposed project.

The subaward review process must follow standard, documented procedures and include an independent review panel of subject matter experts or other qualified individuals, overseen by appropriate officials, where applicable. The review process must be fair, impartial, and free of conflicts of interest in accordance with [2 CFR 200.112](#), [2 CFR 400.2](#) and described in [AMS Conflict of Interest \(COI\) Policy](#). All reviewers must disclose potential conflicts and sign conflict of interest certifications.

As described in the [AMS COI Policy](#), recipient(s) must disclose any potential conflicts of interest, in writing, to AMS. Subrecipients must also disclose any potential conflicts of interest, in writing, to the recipient. This includes organizational conflicts of interest relating to relationships with a parent company, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, shared or overlapping governance structure, or other relationship between or among the applicant and its partners and collaborators. The relationships may be subject to AMS review and approval.

The recipient(s) must maintain complete documentation supporting funding decisions, including approvals, denials, deferrals, or other determinations. All records must be maintained in a centralized and accessible program file and be available to AMS for review upon request. Reviews must be conducted in accordance with USDA regulations at [2 CFR 200.332](#).

Prior to issuing any subawards, the recipient must submit the proposed subaward package to AMS for review and clearance. The package must include all recommended subaward projects and at a minimum:

- Subapplicant Name/Business Name;
- Subaward amount and funding period;
- Subrecipient project narrative (utilizing required template);
- Project Budget and Budget Narrative
- Cost Share Verification Letter(s);
- Documentation to substantiate the costs of each piece of proposed equipment; and
- Letter of Critical Resources and Infrastructure.

This information can be compiled and submitted via email as a single PDF, MS Word, or MS Excel documents. The package must be reviewed and approved by AMS before informing the subapplicants of their subaward and prior to making any public announcements. AMS will provide feedback and will notify the recipient(s) of clearance to move forward with awarding. After that, recipients must notify all subaward applicants of the outcome of the competitive review process.

3.3.3 SUBAWARD FUNDING

The selected applicant(s) must allocate at least 80 percent of the total award amount to support competitive subaward grants for cold chain infrastructure as follows:

Duration (Months)	Minimum Award Amount	Maximum Award Amount
12	\$10,000	\$200,000

The period of performance for each subaward shall not exceed one year (12 months). Subawards may not be less than \$10,000 or more than \$200,000.

Note: Subaward applicants should not apply directly to this NOFO. Subaward opportunities will be made available at a later date through the competitive process administered by the selected grant recipient(s).

3.3.4 SUBAWARD ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

Eligible entities for the subaward program(s) include food banks, food pantries, faith-based organizations and other public or private nonprofit organizations that provide nutrition assistance to

people with low-income or challenging financial circumstances, by providing prepared meals or food for use at home.

Entities must also meet the following criteria to be eligible for subaward funding:

- Be operating for at least two years;
- Have an existing facility and the necessary infrastructure in place in order to install and operate the requested equipment; and
- Have demonstrated stability and sustainability in the organization to provide staffing and services to continue to receive, store, and distribute these foods to customers into the future.

All subaward recipients must be based and operating in the 50 States, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

3.3.5 DEFINITION OF A SUBAWARD PROJECT

A subaward project is a set of related activities designed to achieve a specific, defined goal within a fixed period of time. Projects must follow a planned and organized approach and adhere to the established cost, scope, and performance requirements. Projects use resources that are specifically allocated to the work and typically involve a defined project team. Unlike ongoing operations, a project has a clear beginning and end. For subawards, applicants must ensure a fair and open competitive process for selecting subapplicants, clear documentation of selection criteria and decision-making, and appropriate oversight and monitoring of subapplicant performance. Projects must demonstrate a measurable benefit to the emergency food distribution industry and should avoid duplication of existing efforts while promoting coordination among industry stakeholders.

Examples of eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Acquiring refrigerators or a cold storage unit and shelving to receive and supply fresh and minimally processed foods to customers and meet local food safety and health codes.
- Purchasing a cold storage vehicle and pallet jack for the ease of loading and unloading large pallets of donated food for distribution.
- Investing in a mobile cooling unit, trailer and ethylene scrubber to reduce the speed of ripening, spoilage, and decay of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Procuring a walk-in freezer, stainless steel tables, and packaging and labeling equipment that increases efficiency of product use and saves on electricity and/or cleaning costs.
- Purchasing a commercial chest freezer, scale, and prep/bagging tables for reportioning and preserving foods for distribution.

3.3.6 ELIGIBLE SUBAWARD ACTIVITIES

Eligible subaward activities are limited to the purchase, delivery, and installation of various cold storage equipment (such as refrigerators, freezers, remote cooling units), refrigerated mobile units and vehicles, and essential ancillary equipment and supplies.

Equipment requiring installation must have pre-existing critical resources and infrastructure in place prior to applying for this funding opportunity (i.e. cement pads, electrical and plumbing connections, permitting, etc.), see [**section 3.3.10 for Subaward Activities Not Eligible for Funding**](#).

Examples of eligible equipment include:

Cold Storage

- Refrigerators
 - Small/chest refrigerator
 - Remote cooling unit
 - Walk-in cooler
- Freezers
 - Small chest freezer
 - Commercial chest freezer
 - Reach-in freezer
 - Walk-in freezer
- Combination fridge/freezer
 - Combined cooler/freezer storage

Refrigerated Mobile Units and Vehicles

- Refrigerated vehicle
- Mobile cooling unit/trailers
- Mobile cooler/freezer combination

Ancillary Equipment/Supplies

- Shelving units
- Prep table/ bagging table
- Pallet jack
- Forklift
- Ethylene scrubber
- Back-up generators or external battery systems
- Insulated coolers, ice and gel packs, thermal blankets, insulated totes
- Enhanced temperature monitoring devices
- Stainless steel tables
- Scales
- Scoops
- Labeling Equipment
- Packaging/labeling supplies – one-time purchase

Ancillary equipment and supplies below the \$10,000 acquisition threshold must be essential to the operation and usage of requested cold storage equipment. For instance, the purchase of a forklift or pallet jack could be justified along with the purchase of a refrigerated vehicle for loading purposes.

3.3.7 SUBRECIPIENT EVIDENCE OF CRITICAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Subaward applicants **MUST** provide written evidence of Critical Resources and Infrastructure to confirm critical resources and/or infrastructure necessary for the installation of proposed equipment is in place and in working condition at the time of application submission. The letter must indicate the critical resources that are necessary for initiation and completion of the project and certify that they are in place and committed prior to the start date of the project. Subaward applicants may use the AMS Suggested [Evidence of Critical Resources and Infrastructure Template Letter](#). If another template is used, letters of Evidence of Critical Infrastructure must minimally include the following:

- Project Applicant Name
- Project Title
- A statement about committing/approving/granting permission, etc. of the critical resource or infrastructure to the project for the time period
- A description of the approved use of the critical resource or infrastructure approved for the project, any costs associated with its use, and any qualifying circumstances for its use.

3.3.8 COST SHARING FOR SUBAWARDS

When establishing subawards, the prime recipient must ensure that each eligible subaward entity provides funds in the form of **cash** equal to **10 percent** of the total federal funds received under the subaward.

Cash contributions are generally defined as actual monetary funds (not the 'value' of someone's time/effort) from the applicant's general revenue/reserves/savings/line of credit, 3rd-party partner(s), or other non-Federal grants. The applicant must be able to track and show the source of the cost share and that the funding source will be dedicated entirely to the grant project and produce records to that effect (for example, taking the cash cost share in your accounting system, or from your partner, and placing it into a special 'grant project' account).

Any cost share amount exceeding the requirement will be considered voluntary and must be documented and secured at the time of the award. There is no competitive advantage for an applicant to provide a cost share that exceeds the required amount. If the project is selected for funding, any exceeding amount will be considered voluntary and must be documented and secured at the time an applicant is recommended for the award.

Cost sharing must be in the form of allowable direct costs. Refer to [2 CFR 200.306](#) for additional Federal requirements and definitions, including the basis for determining the value of cash contributions.

All cost-share contributions must be committed or secured at the time a subaward applicant is selected for an award. A subaward will not be issued unless all cost sharing funds over the life of the grant are secured. Additional anticipated cost sharing funds not in place by the time the project starts cannot be counted toward the cost sharing requirement.

Cost share contributions cannot be used for this program if they are already being used toward satisfying a cost share requirement under any other Federal grant agreement.

Subrecipients may not use Federal funds of any kind (as defined in [2 CFR 200.306\(b\)\(5\)](#)) or program income as cost share.

3.3.9 SUBRECIPIENT LETTERS OF VERIFICATION FOR COST SHARE

Subaward applicants **MUST** provide written proof of the cost share commitments from every *party* who will contribute **cash** cost share to the subawards.

Submit one letter verifying the cost share for EACH cash resource that is being contributed. The letter must be signed by the cost share contributing organization.

AMS will provide a Letter of Verification for Cost Share template to recipients. Subapplicants are strongly encouraged to use this template. If a subapplicant does not use this template, the cost share verification documentation must include the following:

- Project Applicant Name
- Project Title
- Cash Commitment per year (if applicable) and Total Cash Cost Share Contribution
- Explanation of how each type of contribution will correspond to the budget or be used by the applicant
- Signature of Organization Representative providing the cost share, with typed name and title

Instructions for organizations submitting Letter of Verification for *Cost Sharing Funds*: Submit *Letter of Verification for Cost Share* on letterhead and address them to the subaward applicant (i.e. Project Director). Clearly indicate at the top of the documents that they are “LETTER OF VERIFICATION FOR COST SHARE”. All letter(s) must be signed and attached to the sub-award application package.

Refer to [2 CFR 200.306](#) for additional Federal requirements and definitions, including the basis for determining the value of cash and in-kind contributions.

3.3.10 SUBAWARD ACTIVITIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Subaward projects are **not eligible** for funding if the proposed activities involve:

- Purchasing land, buildings, or facilities, or any interest therein.
- New construction and/or structural changes to an existing building/facility.
- Installation of concrete pads or other ground disturbing activities.
- Routine maintenance and repair of an organization’s buildings and operational facilities.
- Paying staffing or operational costs.
- Food safety systems, compliance, and staff training.
- Information technology and software systems, other than those that may be necessary for the operation of the requested equipment (for example, thermostat and safety cut-off systems).
- Agricultural production-related expenses, including crop production and the purchase of farm equipment, tools, materials, supplies, and other related costs.
- Marketing product(s)/services(s) or organizations.
- Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any other Federal, State, or local government funding.

- Equipment meant for large-scale, high-volume processing of food products is not eligible, such as bandsaws for cutting large animal carcasses, industrial size mixers, industrial meat grinders, and other value-added processing equipment.
- Daily operational business expenses/costs including the purchase of healthy and nutrient-dense food products for distribution.

Projects requiring groundbreaking or ground disturbing activities, or that do not have the existing critical resources and infrastructure in place for installation, are ineligible for this funding opportunity (i.e. cement pads, permitting, etc.). Projects with new construction/modifications conducted for the sole purpose of this funding opportunity will be ineligible for funding. Recipients should consult with AMS on projects requiring minimal upgrades or modifications to existing electrical or plumbing.

Although this program will not fund activities such as food safety systems, compliance, or staff training, entities are encouraged to separately budget for training and related activities that ensure compliance with local, state, and federal food and safety laws and to ensure smooth and safe operations. See, for example, the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service [Guideline to Assist with the Donation of Eligible Meat & Poultry Products to Non-Profit Organizations](#).

Projects that have received other federal funding for such modifications may be eligible for this funding opportunity as long as the other federal award activities have been completed prior to the start of this program's period of performance and are not duplicative of this funding opportunity.

3.3.11 SUBAWARD PRIORITIES

Recipients shall prioritize subaward applications that describe a commitment to one or more of the following priorities.

1. Food assistance sites that have little or no current capacity to store or hold foods requiring refrigeration or freezer space (meaning the sites are only or mainly able to provide shelf-stable foods and/or would need to move fresh produce quickly).
2. Increasing purchasing, and/or receiving donations of fresh or frozen meat, seafood, dairy, or produce.
3. When purchasing food, sourcing products from local and regional producers when feasible to provide economic benefits.

3.4 PERFORMANCE MEASURES

To evaluate and report on the outcomes of the CCG program on a national scale, AMS collects information on performance measures. Each subaward proposal submitted **must** include both outcomes and at least one indicator in each outcome as listed in CCG performance measures.

The prime recipient(s) must report progress on the selected outcomes and indicators reported by subrecipients in the semi-annual Performance Reports and provide final results in the Final Performance Report. Please refer to the [AMS Grant Performance Measures](#) for more information.

4.0 RECIPIENT COSTS

4.1 ALLOWABLE AND UNALLOWABLE COSTS AND ACTIVITIES

All AMS awards are subject to the applicable laws, federal cost principles, USDA regulations, and the [CCG Program Specific T&C](#), [AMS GT&C](#), and the [USDA GT&C](#).

Applicants that have questions concerning the allowability of costs after reviewing these documents should contact AMS staff using the contact information listed *[under section 1.6.1 AMS Program Contacts](#)*.

4.1.1 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION COSTS

Administrative costs are costs for the recipient to conduct their subaward management activities, including the subaward outreach, selection process, and award management. These include direct and indirect costs and are limited to **20 percent** of the total Federal funds requested provided under the award to the recipient, as described in *[section 3.3.1, Recipient Responsibilities for Managing Subawards](#)*.

Recipients must ensure they have support staff capacity to manage these award funds and internal controls to administer the award effectively, including timely payment to subrecipients, and that Federal funds are managed appropriately.

Applicants must clearly describe how funds will be allocated for the administration of the CCG competitive subaward program and implementation.

4.1.2 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION COSTS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

The following costs are **not eligible** for funding:

- Ongoing operational business or staffing expenses/costs not associated with the operation of this grant.
- Costs relating to food purchases or distribution.
- Agriculture production, processing, real property improvements or construction.
- Routine maintenance and repair of an organization's buildings and operational facilities.
- Food safety systems, compliance, and staff training.
- Marketing product(s)/services(s) not associated with the outreach activities of conducting the competitive subaward program.
- Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any other Federal, State, or local government funding.

4.2 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION INDIRECT COSTS

Indirect costs (also known as “facilities and administrative costs”—defined at [2 CFR 200.1](#)) are costs “incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, and not readily

assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved).

In accordance with section 4.5 of the [USDA GT&C](#), [2 CFR 200.413](#), and [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#), an applicant that does not have a current or provisional negotiated indirect cost rate (NICRA), except State and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Proposals, may choose to charge a de minimis rate of 15 percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC).

The de minimis rate may be used without providing documentation to justify it. An applicant can use the de minimis rate indefinitely for all Federal awards or choose to negotiate a rate, which they may do at any time through their cognizant agency (Federal Agency that provides the largest amount of funding). As described in [2 CFR 200.403](#), costs must be consistently charged as either direct or indirect costs and may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both.

All applicants who elect to charge a de minimis rate must use the MTDC as the base. MTDC are defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#) as all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$50,000 of each subaward (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards under the award). MTDCs exclude equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs, and the portion of each subaward above \$50,000. Other items may be excluded only when necessary to avoid a serious inequity in the distribution of indirect costs, and with the approval of the cognizant agency for indirect costs.

If an applicant has an approved NICRA by its cognizant agency, the entity must submit a copy of its approved NICRA with its application. Applicants that would like to negotiate an indirect cost rate must contact their cognizant agency. For assignments of cognizant agencies, see [2 CFR 200.1](#).

4.2.1 DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS

Applicants are responsible for presenting direct and indirect costs appropriately and consistently and must not include costs associated with their organization's indirect cost rate agreement as direct costs. Similarly, a cost may not be allocated as an indirect cost if it is also incurred as a direct cost for the same purpose.

Direct costs are costs that can be identified specifically with a particular award, project or program, service, or other organizational activity or that can be directly assigned to such an activity relatively easily with a high degree of accuracy. Typically, direct costs include, but are not limited to, compensation of employees who work directly on the award to include salaries and fringe benefits, travel, equipment, and supplies directly benefiting the grant-supported project or program.

Indirect costs are defined in [section 4.2](#). Applicants must ensure costs are properly classified as direct or indirect in accordance with [2 CFR 200.414](#).

The salaries of administrative and clerical staff should typically be treated as indirect costs. However, charging these costs as direct costs may be appropriate when all the following conditions are met:

1. Administrative or clerical services are integral to a project or activity;
2. Individuals involved can be specifically identified with the project or activity;

3. Such costs are explicitly included in the budget or have the prior written approval of the Federal awarding agency; and
4. The costs are not also recovered as indirect costs.

NOTE: Subaward applicants are not eligible to charge indirect costs to their subaward due to the nature of their awards being equipment only purchases and cannot be used for cost-sharing purposes.

5.0 APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORMAT

Applicants **MUST** submit the required documentation in the appropriate format as listed in this section. Applications that do not comply with the requirements may be deemed incomplete and ineligible for review.

5.1 APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Before submitting an application, applicants must read this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in its entirety to fully understand the program requirements. This application checklist provides the mandatory requirements and, if applicable, documents for an application package.

Mandatory Documents:

- ☐ SF-424 – Application for Federal Assistance (Grants.gov)
- ☐ SF-424A – Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs (Grants.gov)
- ☐ Project Narrative Form ([section 5.4 Project Narrative](#))
 - ☐ Must use the required [template](#).
 - ☐ Executive Summary is no more than 250 words.
 - ☐ Ensure it does not exceed the page limit.
 - ☐ Ensure the application excludes unallowable costs and activities per [section 4.1.2](#).
 - ☐ Ensure the federal funds requested do not exceed the maximum or minimum award amount per [section 1.3](#).

If applicable, packages may also be required to include the following document:

- ☐ NICRA (PDF Attachment)

AMS recommends submitting applications at least two weeks before the deadline to account for any issues.

5.2 SF-424 APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Required. Form SF-424 is available via the application package in Grants.gov. Most information Boxes on the required form are either self-explanatory or are adequately explained in the instructions. However, you must use the following supplemental instructions associated with specific boxes on form SF-424.

Box	Instructions
1 - Type of Submission	Select Application type
2 - Type of Application	Select New
4 through 7	Not required

Box	Instructions
8.c - Organizational Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)	Enter applicant UEI for the organization submitting the application. The UEI must match the active registration in SAM.gov.
8.d - Address	Enter the organization street address as it appears in SAM.gov. P.O. Boxes will not be accepted. Enter a 9-digit zip code.
10 - Name of Federal Agency	AMS, USDA
11 - Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (Assistance Listing Number)	10.197
12 - Funding Opportunity Number	Enter USDA-AMS-TM-CCG-G-26-0001
13 - Competition Identification Number	Not applicable
14 - Areas Affected by Project	Enter cities, counties, states affected by project.
15 - Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project	Provide a short description of the project.
16a - Congressional Districts for Applicant	Enter the Congressional district where your main office is located.
16b - Congressional Districts for Program/Project	Enter the Congressional district where your project will be implemented. Write "All" if the projects will be implemented in more than one location.
17 - Proposed Project Start Date and End Date	Enter Start Date: September 30, 2026.* End date: September 29, 2028.* The project period cannot be more than 24 months (2 years) in length.
18 - Estimated Funding – Federal	Enter the Total Federal award requested.
18b - Estimated Funding – Applicant	Enter the Total Cost Share amount from the subapplicant organization and/or other parties
19 - Is Applicant Subject to Review by State Under Executive Order 12372 Process.	See section 6.5 Intergovernmental Review .

*Dates are approximate. Start dates are set at the time of the award.

5.3 SF-424A BUDGET INFORMATION FOR NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Required. The SF-424A is available via the opportunity at Grants.gov. Most information boxes on the required form are either self-explanatory or adequately explained in the instructions. The following supplemental instructions associated with specific boxes on form SF-424A should be used for this NOFO. **Do not** use instructions found in Grants.gov or elsewhere on the internet for these blocks.

Please fill in **only** sections A and B. **Do not** complete sections C, D, E, and F.

Section A – Budget Summary

Box	Instructions
1.a – Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Enter "Cold Chain Grants for Emergency Food Assistance – Federal"
1.b – Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Enter "10.197"
1.e – Federal	Enter the amount of Federal funding requested for the project

Box	Instructions
1.f – Non-Federal	Enter the total cost share contribution amount for the project

Section B – Budget Categories

Box	Instructions
6.a – 6.j – Object Class Categories	In Column 1, enter the amount of Federal funds requested for each Object Class Category. Do not include cost share funding. For example, if you are requesting \$2,000 in Federal funds for “Travel”, enter 2000 in Column 1, box 6.c

5.4 PROJECT NARRATIVE

Required. Applicants **MUST** prepare and submit a project narrative using the CCG project narrative template. The form and instructions are available on the “[How to Apply](#)” webpage using [the CCC Project Narrative](#) form. The Project Narrative must clearly describe the objectives and goals, types and order of project activities, strategies for monitoring and evaluating the proposed activities, how the applicant will manage the project and subaward competition, and fiscal plan and resource information.

The Project Narrative must be typed and single-spaced in an 11-point font. It **MUST** not exceed fifteen (15) 8.5 x 11 pages (excluding existing Project Narrative form content). For example, if the Project Narrative form is 15 pages before you begin entering your project information into the form, **your narrative may be up to 30 pages (15 pages original pages + 15 pages of applicant content)**. DO NOT modify the CCG Project Narrative form. Evaluation points will be deducted if the Project Narrative form is modified. Before submitting the application to Grants.gov, please make sure no tracked changes or mark-up edits and comments are visible. Handwritten applications or applications submitted in MS Word will not be accepted.

Applicants must submit the [CCG Project Narrative](#) as a PDF and attached to the Grants.gov application package using the “Project Narrative Attachment Form” button in SF-424 item #15. Applications not submitted in the required narrative template and missing critical information will be disqualified.

The supporting documents listed in sections 4.5 through 4.6 do not count toward the 30-page limit.

5.5 NEGOTIATED INDIRECT COST RATE AGREEMENT (NICRA)

Required if the applicant has NICRA. Applicants must submit a copy of the current, approved NICRA. The NICRA must be in PDF format **and** attached to the Grants.gov application package using the “Add Attachments” button under SF-424 item #15.

6.0 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

6.1 ELECTRONIC APPLICATION PACKAGE

Applicants **MUST** apply to this program electronically via Grants.gov. No other submission method is accepted. AMS urges applicants to submit early to the Grants.gov system. The [How to Apply for Grants](#) in Grants.gov webpage gives an overview of the application process. This NOFO contains the information needed to complete the required application forms and AMS-specific attachments. More information about applying through Grants.gov can be found in [section 5.0 Application Contents and Format](#).

Applicants can find the opportunity under either the Assistance Listing number “**10.197**,” or the CCG Funding Opportunity Number “**USDA-AMS-TM-CCG-G-26-0001**”.

6.2 SUBMISSION AND RECEIPT PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

6.2.1 HOW TO REGISTER TO APPLY

Applicants **MUST** have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), an active SAM.gov account, and a Grants.gov account to submit an application. AMS recommends that applicants start the registration process in these systems immediately to allow enough time to meet application submission deadlines. Registration in these systems collectively may take **more than four weeks** to complete. The steps below provide details on how to complete each registration.

Organization applicants can find complete instructions here:

<https://www.grants.gov/help/register/organizations>

1. [Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#): Entities applying for funding, including renewal funding, must have a UEI from SAM.gov. Applicants must enter the UEI number in the data entry field labeled "Organizational UEI" on the SF-424. Getting a UEI requires validation steps in SAM.gov. Applicants are encouraged to start this process as early as possible, and, if applicable, this includes providing guidance to sub applicants on getting their own UEI.
2. [Register with the System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#): In addition to having a UEI number, organizations applying online through Grants.gov must register with SAM. Current SAM registrants have already been assigned their UEI and can view it within SAM.gov. All organizations must register with SAM to apply online. Failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through Grants.gov. **SAM.gov accounts must be renewed annually, and your organization must have an active SAM.gov account to submit your application to Grants.gov. Organizations must maintain an active SAM registration with current information throughout the application review period and, if you are awarded a grant, during the project period.**
3. [Create a Grants.gov Account](#): The next step in the registration process is to create an account with Grants.gov. Applicants must know their organization's UEI number to complete this process. Completing this process automatically triggers an email request for applicant roles to

the organization's E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) for review. The EBiz POC is a representative from your organization who is the contact listed for SAM. To apply for grants on behalf of your organization, you will need the AOR.

- a. Watch the video on how to [Register in Grants.gov](#) and create an institutional profile. Applicants are required to use [Login.gov](#) to sign into [Grants.gov](#). See the [Grants.gov help article](#) for more information on logging in with Login.gov credentials. The Grants.gov validation process also includes a check for an active SAM.gov registration. Applicants without a current SAM.gov registration will be rejected.
4. [Authorize Grants.gov Roles](#): After creating an account on Grants.gov, the EBiz POC receives an email notifying him or her of your registration and request for roles. The EBiz POC will then log in to Grants.gov and authorize the appropriate roles, including the AOR role, thereby giving you permission to complete and submit applications on behalf of the organization. You will be able to submit your application online any time after you have been approved as an AOR.
5. [Track Role Status](#): After registering with Grants.gov and authorizing the applicant AOR, Grants.gov allows you to track your status.
6. [Electronic Signature](#): When applications are submitted through Grants.gov, the name of the organization's AOR who submitted the application is inserted into the signature line of the application, serving as the electronic signature. The EBiz POC must authorize individuals who are able to make legally binding commitments on behalf of the organization to act as an AOR; **this step is often missed, and it is crucial for valid and timely submissions.**

6.2.2 HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO AMS VIA GRANTS.GOV

Applicants may use the [Grants.gov Workspace](#), a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different webforms within an application. For each funding opportunity announcement, an applicant creates individual instances of a workspace.

1. *Create a Workspace*: This allows you to complete your Workspace online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
2. *Complete a Workspace*: Add participants to the workspace, complete all the required forms, and check for errors before submission.
 - a. *Adobe Reader*: If you decide not to apply by filling out the webforms, you can download individual PDF forms in Workspace so that they will appear similar to other Standard or AMS forms. The individual PDF forms can be downloaded and saved to your local storage device, network drive(s), or external drives, and then accessed through Adobe Reader.

NOTE: You may need to visit the [Adobe Software Compatibility](#) to download the appropriate version of the software. There is no cost for Adobe Reader Software.
 - b. *Mandatory Fields in Forms*: Fields marked with an asterisk and a different background color are mandatory fields you must complete to successfully submit your application.

- c. *Complete SF-424 Fields First:* The forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant's name, address, and UEI number. To trigger this feature, an applicant must complete the SF-424 information first. Once it is completed, the information will transfer to the other forms.
3. *Submit via a Workspace:* Submit your application through Workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab. Grants.gov recommends submitting your application package **at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date** to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.
SPECIAL NOTE: Grants.gov **does not** check for AMS required attachments. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all required attachments listed in [section 5.0](#) are included correctly in the application package when submitting via Grants.gov.
4. *Track via a Workspace:* After successfully submitting a workspace package, Grants.gov automatically assigns a Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXX) to the package, which will be listed on the Confirmation page generated after submission.

Applicant Support: Grants.gov provides a [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#) and additional [training resources, including video tutorials](#). Applicants may also call the 24/7 (except federal holidays) toll-free support number 1-800-518-4726, or email support@grants.gov. Grants.gov will issue a ticket number to which you and Grants.gov can refer if the issue is not resolved. For questions related to the specific grant opportunity, use the contact information described in [section 1.6.1 AMS Program Contacts](#).

6.3 ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION DETAILS

AMS will not consider any applications received after the deadline. In addition, AMS will not consider any applications submitted by fax, email, or postal mail, or any applications that don't meet the requirements of this NOFO such as not being eligible, having an incomplete application, or missing required attachments documents, etc.). See the Late, Nonresponsive, and Incomplete Applications Policy on the [AMS Policies and Procedures](#) page for more information.

Ensure that all components are complete before submission. Allow enough time for the application process, as it may take more than one attempt before your application is successfully submitted. **AMS encourages you to submit your application at least two weeks before the application deadline to ensure all certifications and registrations are met.**

Grants.gov will automatically record the date and time when the application is successfully received by Grants.gov. The applicant AOR will then receive an acknowledgement of receipt and a tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov. Applicant AORs will also receive the official date/time stamp in an email as proof that the application was submitted on time.

Special Note for Applicants with Slow Internet Connections: Applicants using slow internet, such as dial-up connections, may experience significantly longer transmission times when submitting their application to Grants.gov, especially if there are large attachments contained in the upload. Again, Grants.gov will provide either an error message or a successfully received transmission notification via email to the applicant AOR.

6.4 SUBMISSION DATE AND TIME

Applicants must submit applications electronically via [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on October 1, 2026. AMS will not consider applications received after this deadline for funding. See the Late, Nonresponsive, and Incomplete Applications Policy on the [AMS Policies and Procedures](#) page for more information.

6.5 INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

This program is not subject to [Executive Order 12372](#), which requires intergovernmental consultation with state and local officials.

7.0 APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

All applications will go through a review process as described in the following subsections.

7.1 INITIAL REVIEW (INITIAL SCREENING)

Each application is initially reviewed for overall completeness, as well as compliance with eligibility and program requirements described in this NOFO. If an application does not meet these requirements, it is removed from consideration. Please see [section 6.3](#) and the Late, Nonresponsive, and Incomplete Applications Policy on the [AMS Policies and Procedures](#) page for more information.

Applications that will not be considered include, but are not limited to:

- Those from an organization that does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- Those requesting CCG funds outside the funding range for the project type selected.
- Those missing the required documentation.
- Those submitted after the deadline.

7.2 REVIEW CRITERIA (TECHNICAL REVIEW)

Applications that pass the initial review screening are evaluated on their overall merit by a USDA review panel of subject matter experts. Each reviewer signs a conflict of interest and confidentiality agreement regarding any assigned applications. Peer review panels evaluate assigned applications using instructions prepared by AMS officials. Individual reviewers score applications and discuss with panel members to arrive at a consensus score. AMS then uses the scores as the basis for selecting applications that will go to administrative review.

Alignment and Intent **30 Points**

1. The application provides a clear and concise description of the specific issue, problem, or need the program will address and across what geographic area(s). Application complies with all written instructions and requirements described within the NOFO and project narrative.
2. The proposed implementation plan describes how it will help develop, coordinate, and expand local and regional food distribution services, including emergency distribution, to equip emergency food assistance organizations with the capacity to collect, package, and distribute more healthy, nutrient-dense, fresh and minimally processed foods.
3. The application clearly indicates how it will conduct outreach engaging with intended subaward applicants by promoting the subaward opportunity, providing program application instructions and assistance that clearly and consistently communicate expectations.

Technical Merit and Expertise **40 Points**

1. The application presents a clear, well-conceived, and suitable implementation and work plan that includes measurable and quantifiable tasks directly tied to the program goals and objectives.
2. The application clearly describes the applicant's capacity to manage and conduct the subaward competitive solicitation, selection, oversight, monitoring, and reporting processes.
3. The application provides a realistic schedule for implementing activities within the proposed award project period.
4. The application clearly identifies the names and titles of key staff and other technical resources who will be responsible for administering the program and individuals who comprise the implementation team.

Fiscal Plan and Performance Accountability **30 Points**

1. The application budget narrative or justification provides a clear and detailed description for each budget item, including:
 - a. How the budget is reasonable and proportional to the size and scope of the program; and
 - b. How each cost item directly supports and aligns with activities and objectives described in the narrative.
2. The proposed budgets within the SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance), SF-424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs), and application narrative template logically align.
3. The application provides evidence that proper accounting systems necessary for the implementation and administration of the proposed program are currently in place.
4. The application describes the systems, tools and procedures to monitor subaward performance, collect and manage project data, and ensure timely and accurate reporting.
5. The application describes the frequency and process for collecting reporting metrics that will measure and monitor the subrecipient(s) progress of project activities and outcomes.

7.3 ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW (SELECTION PROCESS AND RISK REVIEW)

AMS will conduct a final administrative evaluation of each review panel's top scoring applications. In addition to the scores, AMS reviews each application to ensure that potential recommended projects align with the scope of this NOFO, allowability of budget items, available funding, geographic coverage/variety and USDA priorities. AMS staff will work with top-scored applicants to negotiate any revisions as necessary and possible. AMS will also assess an organization's ability to account for the use of Federal funds and monitor the performance associated with these awards using the guidance provided in [section 7.3.1 Risk Review](#).

7.3.1 RISK REVIEW

Prior to making a Federal award, AMS will review the risk of applicants in managing federal funds. AMS will review the applicant's financial stability, the quality of their management systems and standards, current and prior performance managing federal grants, audit reports and findings, the ability to effectively implement Federal award requirements, and make sure that the applicant has policies and procedures in place to manage a federal award. AMS will review the applicant's responsibility and qualification records in SAM.gov, USA Spending, Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) along with any comments entered by the applicant. For additional information refer to [2 CFR 200.206](#).

If the applicant is found to present significant risk, AMS may choose not to fund the application or place specific conditions ([2 CFR § 200.208](#)) on the award.

AMS will follow government-wide rules which prevent making awards to applicants that have been suspended or debarred from receiving federal awards.

8.0 AWARD NOTICES

8.1 SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Upon announcement of the Federal awards, AMS will prepare and send electronically a Notice of Award (NOA) to each recipient for signature by the appropriate official. The NOA will be signed by AMS and the AOR.

The NOA will provide pertinent instructions and information including, at a minimum, the information described in [2 CFR 200.211](#) and reference to the [CCG Program Specific T&C](#), [AMS GT&C](#), and [USDA GT&C](#).

8.2 UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

AMS will contact unsuccessful applicants via email as soon as possible after the CCG awards are announced. The unsuccessful applicants will receive anonymous consensus review panel comments regarding their application.

9.0 POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

9.1 ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

As part of the NOA, all AMS recipients must abide by the [AMS GT&C](#), [CCG Program Specific Terms and Conditions](#), and [USDA GT&C](#), which reference applicable Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

9.2 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Recipients must report progress of their project on a semi-annual basis through the electronic submission of performance reports and federal financial reports (SF-425). All final performance and financial reports and applicable closeout documentation must be submitted after the end of the performance period. Additional detail on reporting and award closeout requirements are included in the [CCG Program Specific T&C](#), [AMS GT&C](#) and [USDA GT&C](#). If there are any program or award-specific terms or conditions, those will be identified in the NOA.

9.3 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF USDA SUPPORT

Proper acknowledgment of your USDA-AMS funding in published solicitations (e.g., for state competitions), presentations, press releases, and other communications is critical for the success of the agency's programs. Grantees must comply with the acknowledgement requirements outlined in the [AMS GT&C](#) and referenced in [USDA GT&C](#).

10.0 OTHER INFORMATION

10.1 CIVIL RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS/NON-DISCRIMINATION

All recipients must comply, and certify that they will comply, with all applicable Federal discrimination laws, regulations, and policies throughout the duration of their award, as specified in Section 12.2 of the [USDA GT&C](#).

10.2 ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATION

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

10.3 ACCOMMODATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

10.4 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS

FOIA requests for records relating to this Federal award may be directed to USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, FOIA/PA Officer, Room 2055, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0201, Telephone: (202) 302-0650; or email: AMS.FOIA@usda.gov. For additional information about the applicability of FOIA to documents, correspondence, and any products related to a Federal award, see Section 1.13 of the [USDA GT&C](#).

10.5 PAPERWORK REDUCTION

Agencies are bound by the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 ([44 U.S.C. 3501](#)). For more information, see AMS T&C Section 22.

Last Updated August 2026.