



MPPTA Annual Impact Report

2024





About Meat and Poultry Processing Technical Assistance Program (MPPTA)

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Meat and Poultry Processing Technical Assistance Program (MPPTA) program is designed to support the growth of domestic processing capacity and the ability of independent facilities to serve more customers in more markets.

The MPPTA program ensures that participants in USDA's Meat and Poultry Supply Chain initiatives have access to robust technical assistance (TA) to support their project development and success. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has established a nationwide MPPTA network of technical support focusing on four key areas, or scopes:

1. **Federal Grant Application Management.** Navigating federal grants processes and procedures, from pre-award application processes through post-award grant management compliance;
2. **Business Development and Financial Planning.** Business and financial planning resources, market intelligence, and project/ concept feasibility analyses;
3. **Meat And Poultry Processing Technical and Operational Support.** Advice and resources to support the operational needs - including workforce development - of processing plant development and utilization; and
4. **Supply Chain Development.** Support for the development and maintenance of successful supply chain and marketing relationships - between suppliers, processors, distributors, and customers.

Program Highlights



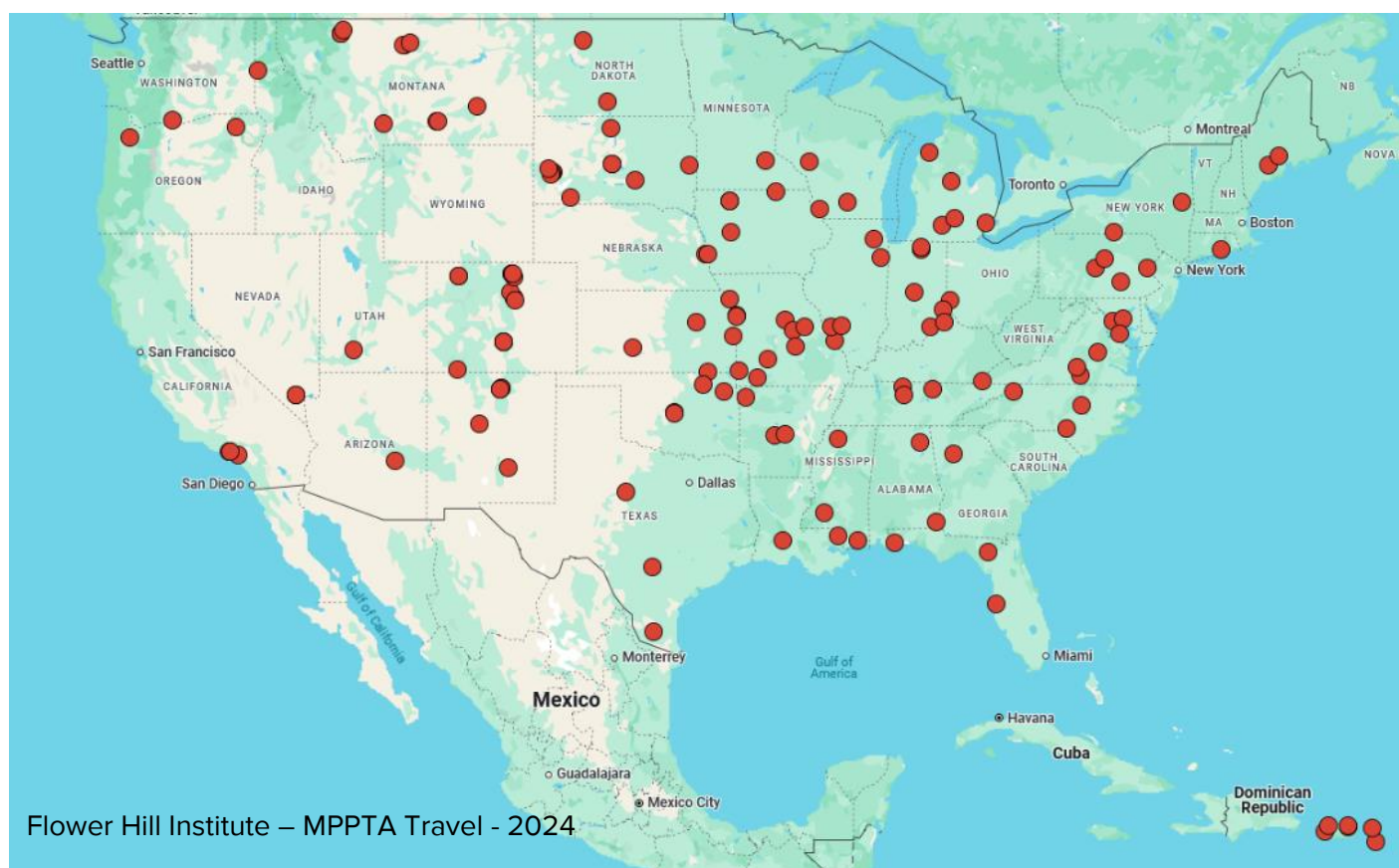
1,400

Since MPPTA's inception in 2022, we have received over 1,400 requests for technical assistance from across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands, and 80 different Tribal Nations.



1,010

In 2024, we hosted 11 monthly education webinars reaching 1,010 people.



Our MPPTA team traveled to 143 places in 2024. These include client visits, collaborator meetings and conferences. This includes 60 site visits to assist clients in completing their grant requirements.

USDA MPPTA 2024 ANNUAL OVERVIEW

ABOUT THIS DASHBOARD

This dashboard includes only data collected through FHI's "USDA MPPTA Technical Assistance Request Form" for one-on-one technical assistance. Tuskegee and AURI submit updates into this database, but requests submitted directly to other Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) in the network are not included.

2024 REQUESTS

937

Total Clients Served

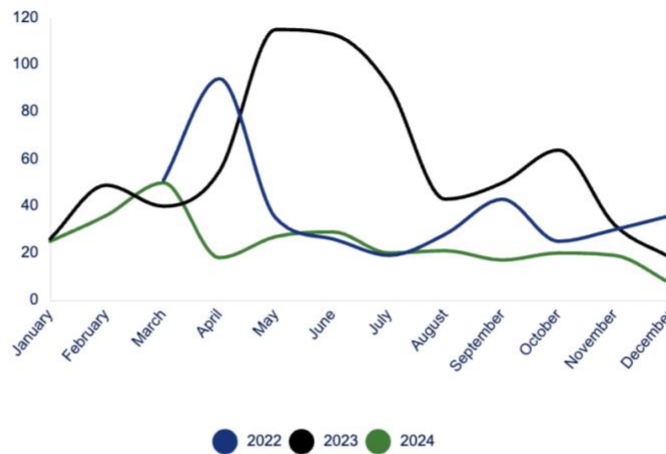
289

2024 TA Requests

134

Remaining Open Requests

TA REQUESTS BY MONTH



CUMULATIVE REQUESTS

1,390

Total TA Requests

1,118

Completed Requests

272

Total Open Requests Rolling into 2024

PROGRESS

STATUS LEGEND

Not Started- A request for TA has been submitted by the client, but no action has been taken.

Initial Contact- FHI has emailed the client to request more information to determine the most appropriate TA provider and/or course of action for the request. This phase may be skipped if sufficient detail is provided in the request form.

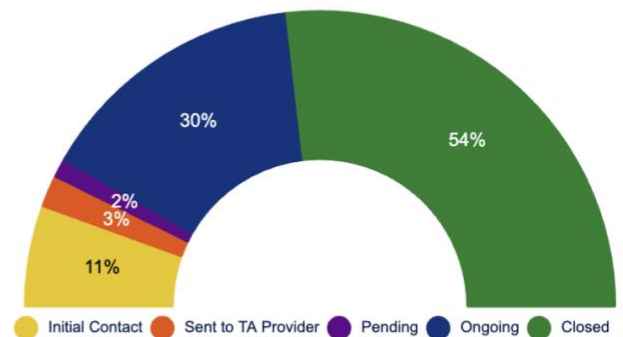
Sent to TA Provider- FHI has assessed the TA request and forwarded it to the appropriate TA provider. No action reported by TA provider yet.

Pending- A preliminary meeting has been scheduled with the client but has not yet happened. This phase may be skipped if assistance is provided via email.

Ongoing- TAPs are actively working with the client.

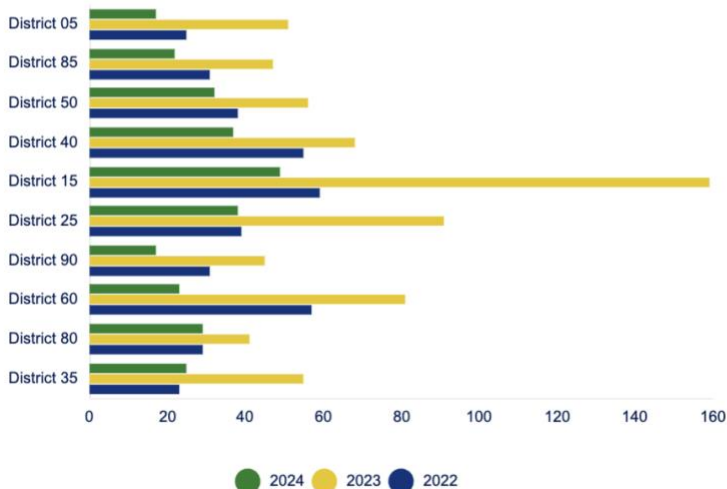
Closed- TA services have concluded for the request. Requests are closed following verbal or written confirmation from the client and/or TAP that the request is closed or a lack of response from the client after 3 follow-up attempts.

2024 TA REQUEST STATUS

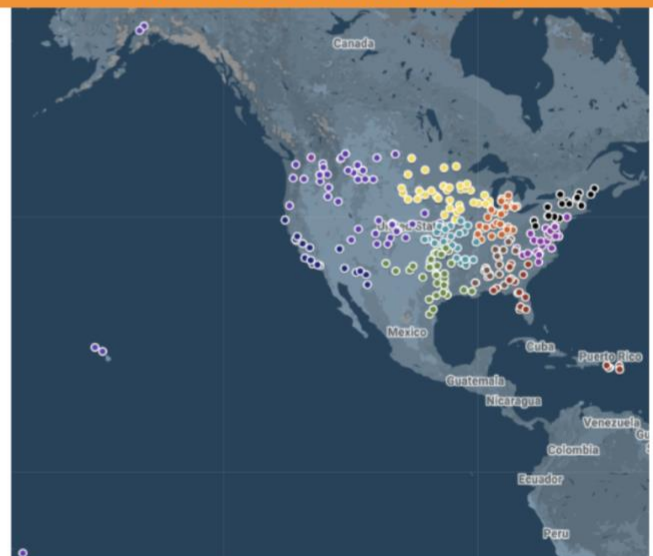


REQUESTS BY REGION

REQUESTS BY REGION



2024 REQUESTS BY REGION



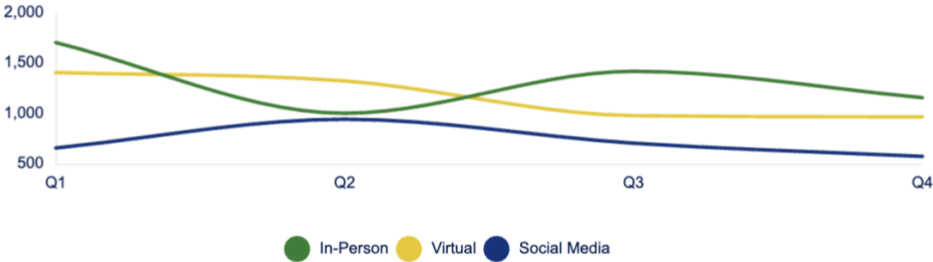
USDA MPPTA ANNUAL OVERVIEW (Cont.)

OUTREACH

REACH METRIC DEFINITIONS

- **In-person Events:** Industry events, conferences, workshops, speaking engagements
- **Virtual Participation:** MPPTA website traffic, webinars
- **Social Media Engagement:** Measures the number of engagements (reactions, comments, and shares) that content gets

2024 OUTREACH



SOCIAL MEDIA METRICS

149,111
Total Virtual Footprint

109,847
Reach

57,556
Views

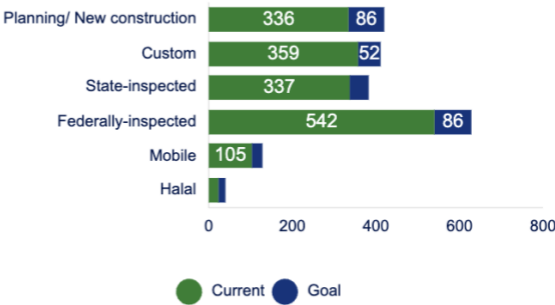
2,888
Engagement

SCOPES & SERVICES

REQUESTED TA CATEGORIES



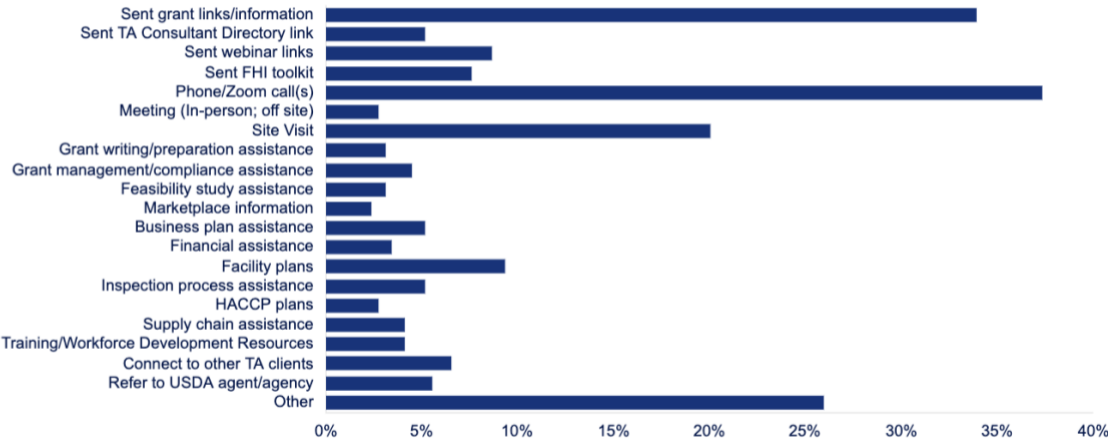
TYPES OF PROCESSING FACILITIES



ABOUT THIS GRAPH

This graph is limited to data for direct TA services provided to clients who submitted a request in 2024. This is not representative of *all* the services provided in 2024 due to ongoing clients from the previous year(s).

SERVICES PROVIDED TO NEW REQUESTS



Testimonials

“*The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have absolutely benefitted from the first-person knowledge and expertise that Flower Hill has provided throughout development of our meat processing plant project. They provided essential information in 2022 when we were developing our feasibility study and business plan, and again in 2023 as we worked on our grant application for the Indigenous Animals Harvesting and Meat Processing Program—leading to CSKT’s \$7.7 million grant award. Chris Roper and his team are invaluable to anyone developing complex systems for local food production in their communities. Lemlmts’/Hu sukítqúkni/Thank you for all of your wonderful work!*

Janet Camel | Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes | Pablo, Montana

“*Glacier Processing Cooperative began working with Flower Hill Institute in 2022. We were trying to form a producer owned cooperative to buy a local meat processing facility that was going to close. Without the connection and services provided by Flower Hill Institute I don't believe we would have got the project off the ground. With them by our side we have been able to take advantage of the opportunities that USDA made available. Without their continued support and resources, I feel our business would be struggling, instead we are growing and expanding. I can't give enough praise to Flower Hill Institute, they are committed to preserving and growing local meat processing capacity.*

Mark Siderius | Glacier Processing Cooperative | Columbia Falls, Montana

“*The expertise of MPPTA is unparalleled. The team at Flower Hill was exceptionally generous with their time and resources to help us accomplish our project, from conception to operationalization. Without this service, our project would have never gotten past the ideation phase. There are no other resources for new meat processors like this; to say it is vitally integral to the industry would be an understatement.*

Hannah Varnell | Wellfarm | Roanoke, Virginia

“*Felito’s Finest LLC dba 2F Akaushi Beef was awarded a MPIRG in the fall of 2021. The Meat and Poultry Processing Technical Assistance Program afforded to us, at no cost, answered questions that we had during the duration of our grant period. Their support in making personal visits gave opportunity to physically see the need for our expansion and document how these USDA Grants to small minority Businesses are making a Big Impact in the Agricultural Industry.*

Stephanie Martinez | Felito’s Finest | Santa Elena, Texas

Success Stories

Bordenaro's Meat Processing

Many smaller meat businesses sprouting across the U.S. are providing local customers with new access to delicious food in addition to beef, pork, and poultry. MPPTA client Bordenaro's Meat Processing is one flourishing example.

Tom and Cindy Bordenaro founded their business in 2017 as a meat market located inside a small retail mall. As customers discovered their high-quality meat, the business grew exponentially and now has three locations! [Click here to read more.](#)



Local Impacts from a National Commitment



The initial round of Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grants (MPIRG) initiated in 2021 was offered to support smaller meat and poultry processors. Flower Hill Institute's MPPTA Regional Directors Chris Roper and Dave Carter have been visiting several processors who received those initial grants, and these visits were overwhelmingly heartening, to say the least. Their newest blog talks about growing processors in South Dakota, Alabama, and North Dakota who all received MPIRG funds to

support their small businesses. [Click here to read more.](#)

Double L Meat Processing

Double L Meat Processing is located in the central Appalachian region near the small town of Jonesville in southwestern Virginia. They started out processing beef and pork under USDA FSIS inspection just one day per week and have now increased inspected processing to five days per week with support from a USDA AMS Meat Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG) they received in 2021.



Double L Meat Processing was eager to become a USDA FSIS inspected processor. Owner Charles Layman says that USDA inspected processing is vital to his customers who come from Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and North Carolina. Charles also stated that farmers and ranchers in this region now have better access to inspected processing that was not available in this region before. With the MPIRG grant, they were able to make plant improvements and equipment upgrades to increase added value processing and increase overall capacity of processing. [Click here to read more.](#)

Makoce Agriculture Development



Nick Hernandez, founder and CEO of Makoce Agriculture Development has learned to embrace the potential of poultry production and processing to significantly contribute to building food security for the Oglala Sioux people. Now, Makoce is creating a model that incorporates choke cherry bushes, along with buffalo berry, plum, and oak trees, to create a chicken-friendly habitat. At the heart of this system is an 8' x 52' foot mobile processing unit anchored to a permanent site and being readied to serve as the first USDA-inspected poultry processing facility in all of Indian Country. [Click here to read more.](#)

Glacier Processing Cooperative

When a longtime business owner with one of the only two meat processing facilities in the Flathead Valley of Montana decided to retire, the community sprang into action. With a waitlist of 18 to 24 months for meat processing, the closure would leave local ranchers with a difficult choice: ship their livestock hundreds of miles to another USDA-approved facility or close their operations.

Concerned community members held a meeting in October 2022 to gauge interest in forming a cooperative to purchase the processing facility. Through word of mouth, the group was connected to the USDA MPPTA program. Since that first meeting, the group has consulted with MPPTA to identify the scope of work and complete both a feasibility study & business plan.



“Had we not had MPPTA’s technical support going forward, I’m pretty sure we would have all gone home in February, and that would have been the end of it,” Siderius said. [Click here to read more.](#)

USDA & FHI Partner in First-of-Its-Kind Technical Assistance for Meat and Poultry Producers

Flower Hill Institute Executive Director Roger Fragua, along with Regional Directors Chris Roper and Dave Carter, reflect on the economic and social impact that USDA's commitment to no-cost technical assistance for smaller meat and poultry processors is making in rural communities nationwide.



[Scan the QR code to watch the video.](#)



To request assistance under USDA’s Meat and Poultry Processing Technical Assistance (MPPTA) Program, please use the QR code to go directly to the Technical Assistance request page or visit flowerhill.institute/usda-mppta



The MPPTA Project Coordinators do not offer or provide direct contractor services or financial capital, grant writing, or project management services, nor does the voluntary use of MPPTA guarantee the success of a grant application or the grant-funded project.