



MPPTA Annual Impact Report

2025





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.

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 or [click here](#).



Program Highlights



1,620

Since MPPTA's inception in 2022, we have received over 1,620 requests for technical assistance from 49 states, four U.S. territories, the District of Columbia and 84 Tribes.



219

In 2025, we had 219 new requests for technical assistance and served 459 unique clients throughout the year. The most requested scope of TA was Technical and Operational Support and Business Development and Financial Planning.



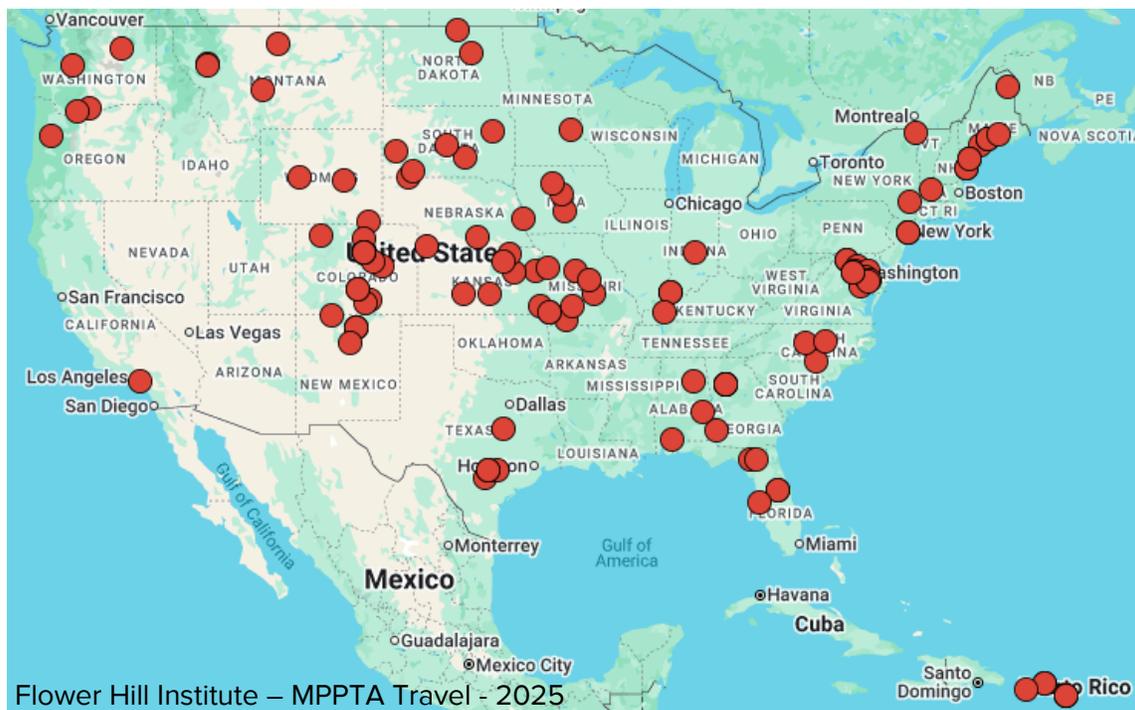
162,260

Our total virtual footprint in 2025 was 162,260.



10,257

In 2025, we hosted 15 educational webinars, and our total outreach for the year was 10,257. [View archived webinars here.](#)



Our MPPTA team traveled to 119 places in 2025. These included 83 client visits and 36 collaborator meetings, outreach events and conferences.

USDA MPPTA 2025 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. AURI submits updates into this database, but requests submitted directly to other Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) in the network are not included.

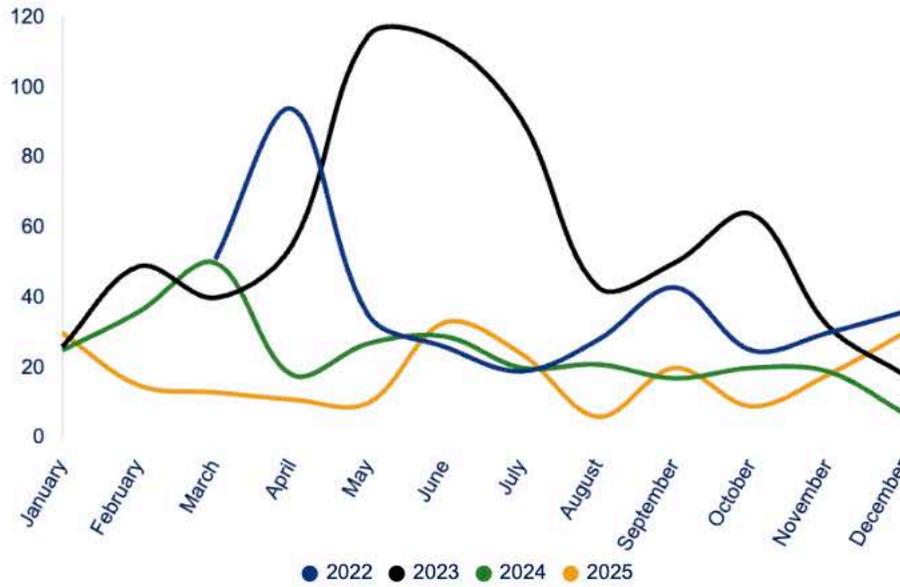
2025 REQUESTS

459
Unique Clients Served

219
Incoming Requests

117
Open Requests

TA REQUESTS BY MONTH



CUMULATIVE REQUESTS

1,624
Total TA Requests

1,358
Completed Requests

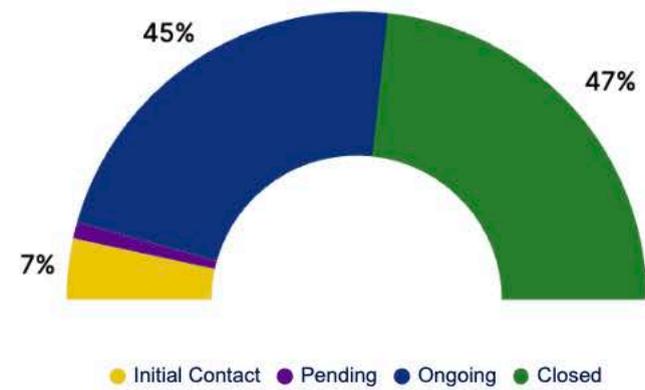
266
Total Open Requests Rolling into 2026

PROGRESS

STATUS LEGEND

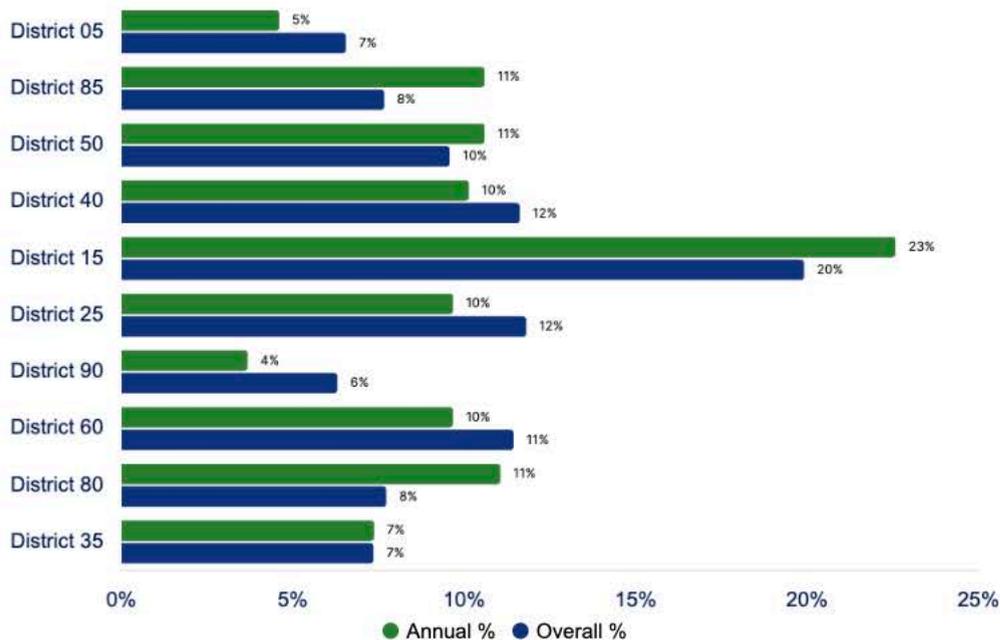
- Not Started**- A request for TA has been submitted by the client, but no action has been taken.
- Initial Contact**- FHI has emailed the client to request more information to determine the most appropriate TA provider and/or course of action for the request. This phase may be skipped if sufficient 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.

2025 TA REQUEST STATUS



REQUESTS BY REGION

REQUESTS BY REGION



2025 REQUESTS BY REGION



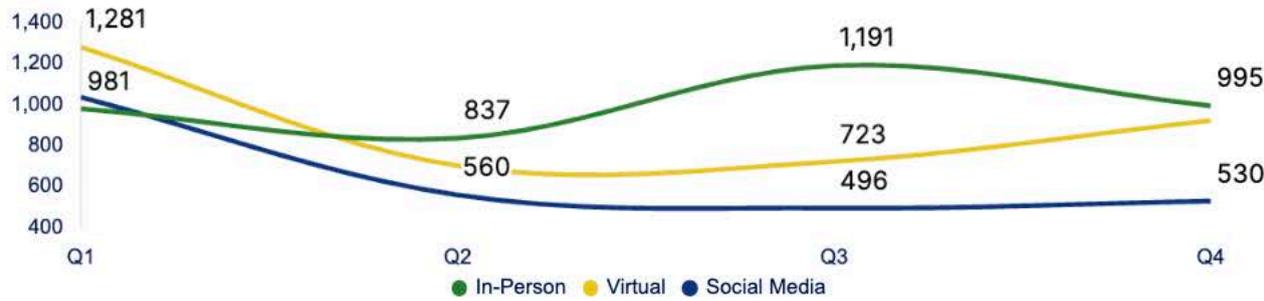
USDA MPPTA ANNUAL OVERVIEW (Cont.)

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

2025 OUTREACH



SOCIAL MEDIA METRICS

162,260
Total Virtual Footprint

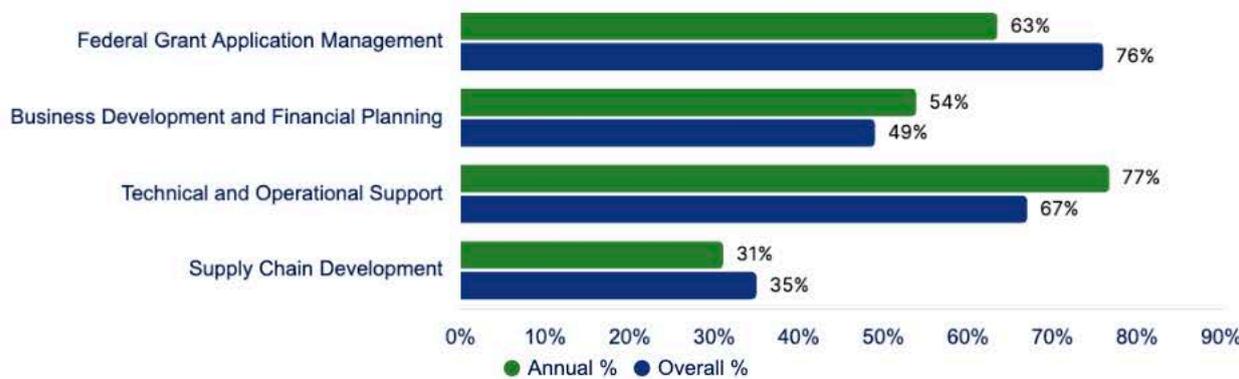
77,022
Views

45,010
Reach

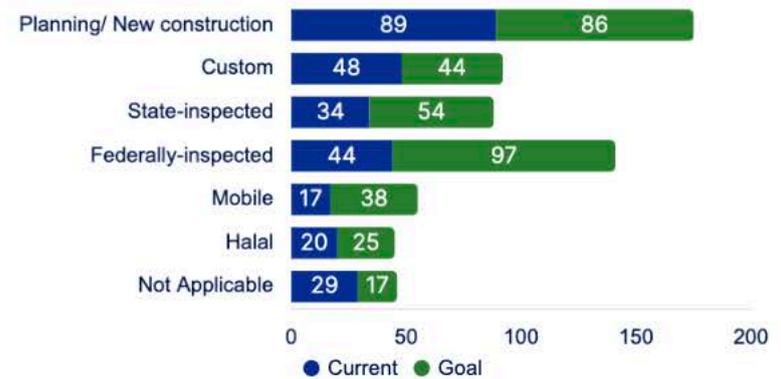
2,623
Engagement

SCOPES & SERVICES

REQUESTED TA CATEGORIES



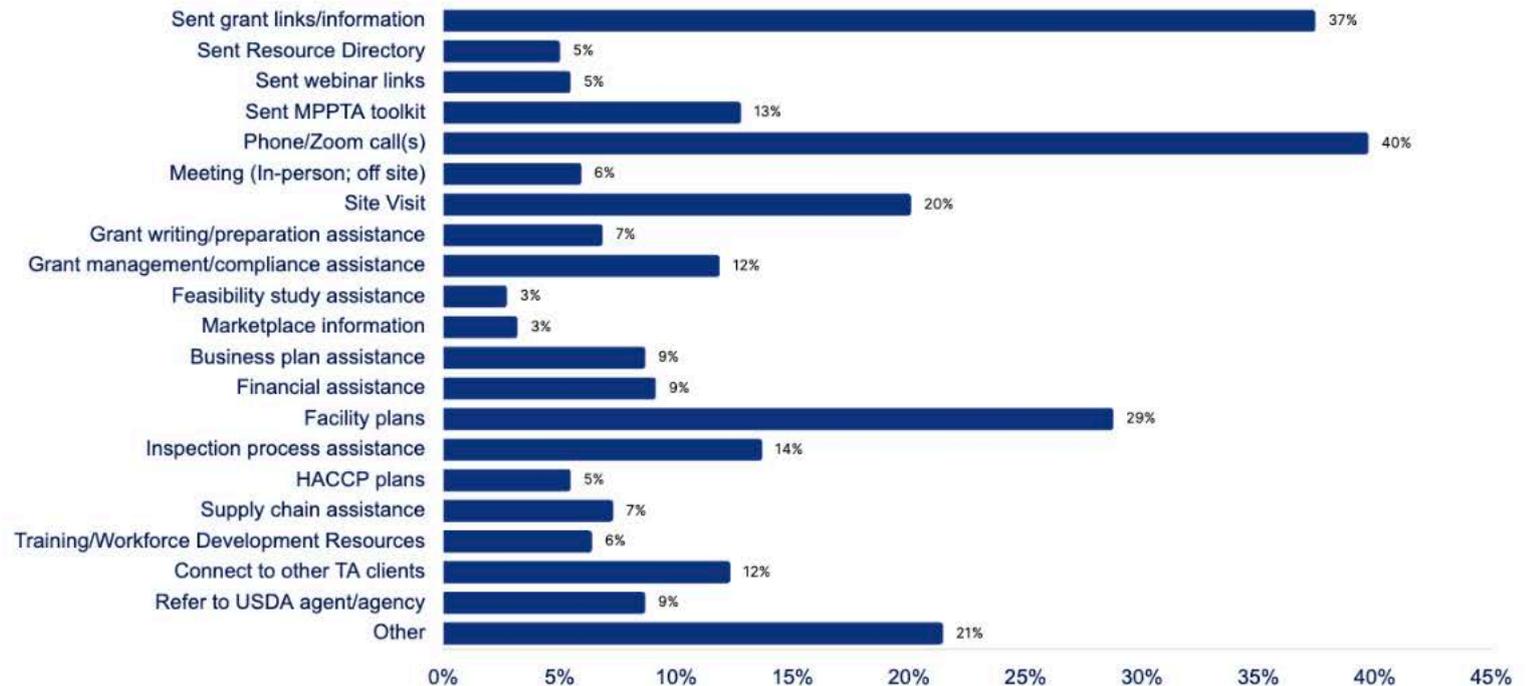
TYPES OF PROCESSING FACILITIES



ABOUT THIS GRAPH

This graph is limited to data for direct TA services provided to clients who submitted a request in 2025. This is not representative of *all* the services provided in 2025 due to ongoing clients from the previous year(s).

SERVICES PROVIDED TO INCOMING REQUESTS





Testimonials

“ It is hard to overstate the value that Flower Hill Institute provides to the small/medium size meat processor. There is so much relevant and insightful content on their website, but it doesn't end there. The ability to directly contact individuals well-versed in the industry for advice and the referral capacity they provide is top notch. Virtually any question one might have in the development of their business or process can quickly be addressed with a short consultation with Dave, Chris, or Roger - for free!

Lucas Salazar, Matanza Project in Taos, New Mexico

“ As AgriUnity-TX enters this new year as a fully incorporated Cooperative and one on the hunt to acquire a meat processing facility, we'd like to thank you and Flower Hill Institute for journeying with us. Although we have had other support to get this far, we credit Flower Hill most with furthering our business objectives. We appreciate that you appreciate the fact that for those of us in the thick of developing businesses, it's not academic. We need near real-time access and expert advice, and we sometimes need boots on the ground. You've got the expertise, you've always called us back, you've responded to our emails, and you've come out for site visits and meetings at opportune times. Thank you and thanks to USDA for sponsoring your service to us. We look forward to your continued support in the new year.

Pamela Hodge Dickinson, AgriUnity, Texas

“ Flower Hill Institute is a critical partner in providing technical assistance to our USDA Meat and Poultry Intermediary Loan Program (MPILP) recipients in Georgia. We have now utilized Flower Hill on over a dozen projects to provide technical assistance on everything from plant layout, processing staff training, USDA inspection compliance, facility trouble shooting, proper labeling and packaging, as well as identifying revenue enhancing options (such as further processing options and online sales). Working with a variety of technical assistance providers in other programs we deliver with SBA, USDA, and EDA, we have never worked with any technical assistance provider that works with more passion and urgency in helping our customers. USDA is to be commended for providing this critical resource to new and expanding processors as we attempt to reduce our dependence on imported food for our citizens.

Randy Griffin, CSRA Business Lending, Georgia

Success Stories

Stagecoach Travels the Tallow Trail

Beef tallow is only the latest stop on the trail that Stagecoach Meats in Wiggins, CO, has traveled over the past half-decade.

The journey began in 2020, when Kris and Jessica Musgrave and their friends Stacy and Travis Cowan purchased a custom exempt plant in the small northeastern Colorado town to process cattle that the Musgraves raised on their nearby ranch. As the Covid-19 pandemic-related disruption swept through the beef industry, the four soon recognized the need for a USDA-inspected facility in their area.



The Colorado Department of Agriculture helped them kick-start construction of a new facility with a Farm-to-Table grant, and funding provided through USDA's Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG) supported some upgrades needed to obtain the USDA Grant of Inspection. They are now finalizing work with the Morgan County Economic Development Corporation to refinance their loans through USDA's Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program. [Click here to read more.](#)

Grand Opening of Briarwood Custom Meats Butcher Shop



The Flower Hill Institute Team celebrates the grand opening of Briarwood Custom Meats Butcher Shop! The MPPTA team has been working with the Frink family for about three years and are excited to celebrate this accomplishment with them.

Years of planning have made this dream a reality for the Frink family!

In July 2025, Marvin and Tanisha Frink opened Briarwood Custom Meats Butcher Shop at 5476 Blue Springs Road in Red Springs, NC. Designed to be more than a retail location, the shop blends education, culinary craftsmanship and community pride into every square foot. [Click here to read more.](#)

Community Rallies Behind Processing Project

Sometimes, it takes a village to expand a meat processing enterprise.

That was evident recently in the northwestern Colorado town of Craig as Deborah Fitch of Fitch Ranch Artisan Meats guided the mayor, city council members, economic development officials, lenders, and builders through the processing plant she and her husband, Cam, have steadily grown since purchasing it in 2022.



The current facility is bursting at the seams, producing the family's branded products distributed in regional retail stores and restaurants, and processing beef and pork for fellow ranchers in the area. The point of the tour, and a subsequent meeting with the officials, was to demonstrate the need for a new facility planned across the street from the existing plant.

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'Good Meat' Has a Great Future at The Spotted Trotter



Perhaps Kevin Ouzts should be known as The Meat Doctor.

After all, he can cure nearly any type of meat...into mouth-watering slices of prosciutto, bresaola, salami, and more.

Kevin and his wife Megan own and operate The Spotted Trotter Charcuterie, a Production and Retail facility in Edgewood, GA. Kevin works daily to perfect his craft of transforming pork, beef, chicken, and duck into products steeped in old-world tradition but infused with local ingredients, which helped them to coin and trademark the phrase, New American Charcuterie™.

His Southern Smash Salami, for example, is based on a traditional French salami but offers a nod to Kevin's Southern roots with a mixture of locally sourced pork shoulder, toasted Georgia peanuts, Southern cayenne, garlic, and smoked pimentón. [Click here to read more.](#)

To view more success stories, visit our [MPPTA Blog Page](#).



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.