Federal Grants

Using the Grants.gov system makes it faster, easier and more cost effective for grant applicants to electronically interact with federal grant-making agencies. It also provides the following key benefits, among many others, to the grant community.

Helping the grant community learn more about available opportunities.

- Centralizing more than 1,000 different grant programs across federal grant-making agencies awarding more than $500 billion annually.
- Standardizing grant information, application packages and processes for finding and applying for federal grants.

Facilitating interaction with the federal government.

- Streamlining the federal grants process by eliminating the need to navigate complex processes to find and apply for federal grants.
- Registering once to apply to as many federal agencies and grant programs as needed with just one secure login.

Simplifying the grant application process to save applicants costs, time and hassle.

- Eliminating the need to expend resources, time, postage and reproduction costs associated with traditional paper-based grant applications.
- Reducing training costs related to learning several different grant application systems and processes.

Making it easier to research and find federal grant opportunities.

- Conducting grant opportunity research with improved search capabilities from a simple key word search to advanced searches over numerous grant opportunity categories, including agency and grant category.
- Having grant opportunities sent directly to grant applicant desktops through custom search profiles, potential applicants can be notified via email or RSS feeds of future grant opportunities as they are posted by federal agencies.

Making electronic grant application processing easier.

- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

For-Profit Organizations

- Organizations other than small businesses

Small Businesses

- Small business grants may be awarded to companies meeting the size standards established by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for most industries in the economy.

Individuals

- Individuals may submit applications for a funding opportunity on their own behalf (i.e., not on behalf of a company, organization, institution, or government). If you are registered with only an individual applicant profile, you are only allowed to apply to funding opportunities that are open to individuals.

A host of agencies award grants, including USDA, Department of Commerce (DOC), Department of Education (ED), Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Department of Labor (DOL), among many others.

TEFAP and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018

TEFAP State agencies have the opportunity to convert their fair-share of up to 15 percent of their food funds into TEFAP administrative funds. Accordingly, $45.9 million in TEFAP food funds are available for conversion into TEFAP administrative funds. USDA has already provided opportunities for State agencies to convert up to 15 percent of their fair share of food funds available under the three Continuing Resolutions of FY 2019. The Appropriations Act includes $79.63 million in TEFAP administrative funds. Additionally, USDA has been directed to transfer $30 million in unobligated prior year balances of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to TEFAP administrative funds. In total, $109.63 million is available for TEFAP administrative costs for FY 2019. As always, TEFAP State agencies may convert any portion of their administrative funds into food funds.

Additionally, Section 4018 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 amends the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to provide $4 million per year in mandatory funding through fiscal year 2023 for State agencies to partner with emergency feeding organizations to establish projects to harvest, process, or package unharvested, unprocessed, or unpackaged commodities (including the transportation of those commodities) that are donated by agricultural producers, processors, or distributors and to pay for up to 50 percent of the cost of such projects. It also provides emergency feeding organizations and eligible recipient agencies the opportunity to provide input on the commodity needs and preferences of those entities.

Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP)
http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants

Does the project support local/regional food efforts to increase consumption of such products and develop, improve, or expand local/regional markets?

YES   NO

Qualifies for the Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) if project involves intermediary non-direct-to-consumer supply chain activity:	**Qualifies for the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)** if project is promoting direct-to-consumer marketing:	**Project is ineligible for both FMPP and LFPP.** Check www.grants.gov for other federal opportunities.

Project moves/promotes product from the origin of the product to a distributor (e.g. food hub)	Marketing project directly to consumers at food outlets (e.g. farmers markets, roadside stands, CSAs, agritourist, etc.)

OR   OR

Project moves/promotes product from the distributor (e.g. food hub) to the retail outlet (e.g. store, CSA, farmers market, etc.)	Marketing products directly to consumers via information campaign (e.g. farmers market promotional activities, etc.)

OR   OR

Project provides outreach, training, and technical assistance (e.g. establishing shared kitchens, food incubators, etc.)	Project provides outreach, training, and technical assistance for direct-to-consumer marketing (e.g. assistance with market establishment and design, working with experts to market specific products, etc.)

OR

Organization is in the planning stages of establishing or expanding a local/regional food business in a community (e.g. market research, feasibility studies, business planning, and providing technical assistance)