



# Value Added Grant Information for Meat and Poultry Processors

USDA's Value-Added Producer Grant Program is now open. USDA Rural Development will award approximately \$30 million in grant funding during this year's round. Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. ET on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Here are some important considerations for meat and poultry processors interested in applying for this grant.

**Eligibility** – eligible applicants must produce more than 50% of the agricultural commodity to which value will be added. Processors that don't own any of the livestock being processed are ineligible.

**Definition of Value-Added** – The definition includes commodities that have “undergone a change in physical state” or “produced in a manner that enhances the value.” Under this definition, cutting, grinding, and/or portioning meat or poultry qualifies as adding value. However, proposals with added value components (e.g., jerky, prepared food, etc.) tend to score higher.

## Types of Grants

- **Planning grants** of up to \$75,000 to fund economic planning activities such as developing business and marketing plans and feasibility studies to establish viable marketing opportunities for value-added products. Funds may only be used to pay a Qualified Consultant to conduct and develop a Feasibility Study, Business Plan, and/or Marketing Plan associated with the post-harvest processing and/or marketing of a Value-Added Agricultural Product.
- **Working capital grants** of up to \$250,000 to fund the operation of a value-added business venture; specifically, to pay for eligible expenses related to the processing and/or marketing of the value-added product.

**Matching Funds Required**—All grants require a 1:1 match in funds. Some in-kind expenses (e.g., the value of labor from non-family members) can be used as part of the matching funds.

**No Construction or Equipment Funding** --No funds can be used for construction or equipment.

**Simplified Applications** – there is a simplified application provision for working capital grant requests of less than \$50,000 and market expansion grant requests of less than \$50,000

## Scoring Criteria:

Nature of the Proposed Venture: 0-30 points

Describe the technological feasibility of the project, as well as the operational efficiency, profitability, and overall economic sustainability resulting from the project.

Qualifications of Project Personnel 0-20 points

Personnel must be listed, along with their qualifications.

Commitments and Support: 0-10 points

*All information presented in this document has been compiled and updated by Flower Hill Institute under a cooperative agreement with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service for the Meat and Poultry Processing Technical Assistance Program (MPPTA). This information is intended to provide up-to-date resources and information related to Federal grants provided by the USDA and their respective USDA divisions for interested grant applicants and MPPTA inquirers.*

This includes commitments from producers supplying ht commodities and market outlets. It also includes community supports.

Work Plan and Budget 0-20points

Applicants must submit a comprehensive work plan and budget.

Priority Points 0-10 points

This allows points for underserved producers.

Priority Categories 0-10 points

This allows the administrator or State Rural Development Director to improve the geographic diversity of awardees.

#### **Additional Information**

- [USDA Value-Added Producer Grant Site](#)
- [Value-Added Grant Regulations](#)
- [Value Added Grant Overview Webinar](#)