



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

**Regional
Markets
Program**

CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES – FALL 2023

- **Local Food System Infrastructure, Supply Chains, and Market Access Grants**
 - This grant supports local food supply chains and market access for farms, ranches, food processors, and food distributors.
 - Now is the time to start planning for the *Local Food System Infrastructure Grant*, opening in October 2023.
 - Learn more at: bit.ly/WSDAInfrastructureGrant
 - Sign up to be notified of future grant opportunities and share your thoughts on investing in local food systems:
 - English: bit.ly/WSDASurvey
 - Español: bit.ly/WSDAEncuesta

- **Compost Reimbursement Program**
 - The Washington State Legislature has allocated grant funding to reimburse Washington farmers for purchasing and spreading compost on their land. The Compost Reimbursement Program aims to encourage on-farm use of commercial compost. For eligible farms, the program will pay up to 50% of the cost to obtain, transport, and spread compost, up to \$10,000, per farm per year. Compost must be purchased from a facility with a solid waste handling permit (you can find nearby facilities here).
 - Please note that this will be a first-come, first-served grant. Once open, the first step will be to fill out a form to confirm eligibility, and then you will have more time to purchase/spread the compost and apply for reimbursement.
 - Sign up as soon as the grant opens if you think you want to take advantage of this opportunity. The grant will be ongoing, so there should be more opportunity in the future as well.
 - Learn more about the grant and sign up to receive notification for when it opens here: <https://agr.wa.gov/departments/land-and-water/natural-resources/soil-health/compost-reimbursement>
 - You can also reach out to the program managers directly by emailing compost@agr.wa.gov.

- **USDA (Federal) Discrimination Financial Assistance Program**
 - Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides financial assistance for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination by USDA in USDA's farm lending prior to 2021.
 - DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 31, 2023
 - WEBSITE: <https://22007apply.gov/>
 - ELIGIBILITY: You are eligible to file an application if:
 - You experienced discrimination, prior to January 1, 2021, by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) in its farm loan programs, which are administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA);

For additional help or resources please contact WSDA Regional Markets Program at smallfarms@agr.wa.gov.

AND / OR

- You are currently a debtor with assigned or assumed USDA farm loan debt that was the subject of USDA discrimination that occurred prior to January 1, 2021. (This applies, for example, if you inherited the debt that was the subject of USDA farm loan program discrimination.)
- For more information about application support visit <https://22007apply.gov/local-assistance.html>

➤ **USDA GRANT FOR MEAT PROCESSORS**

- USDA Rural Development has just opened a new grant opportunity for new and existing meat and poultry processors who are operating under or pursuing USDA-inspection.
- **DEADLINE:** November 22, 2023
- **USDA GRANT WEBPAGE:** <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/meat-and-poultry-processing-expansion-program#overview>
- **WHO CAN APPLY?** Entities that engage or plan to engage in meat and poultry processing. **Processors must operate or plan to operate under USDA-inspection.** See the grant's [Request for Applications](#) (RFA), [Fact Sheet](#), and [FAQ](#) documents for more eligibility information.
- **WHAT IS IT FOR?** The Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP) provides grants to help eligible processors expand their processing capacity, which create new, better and more processing options for meat and poultry producers. Processor projects eligible for this program include construction of a new facility or the purchase and upgrade of an inoperable facility, including real estate; modernization, including construction, at an existing facility; equipment; workforce recruitment, training, and apprenticeships; staffing or operational costs tied to the proposed project, and more. See the [RFA](#) for full details.
- **FUNDING LEVELS**

Construction & Equipment	Projects including construction and equipment associated with the project	Amount: \$250,000 to \$10 million Match: 70% match required
Equipment Only	Equipment purchases only	Amount: \$5 million to \$10 million Match: 70% match required

- **WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE?** Entities that are custom-exempt with no plans to operate under federal inspection; entities that have received a grant award from MPPEP (Phase 1), the Indigenous Animals Grant (IAG) or the Agricultural Marketing Service's Local Meat Capacity Grant Program (Local MCAP); entities that only engage in secondary processing. There are also restrictions on the size of entity that can apply (see [FAQ](#) document for more information).
- **WHERE TO GET GRANT SUPPORT?** Applicants can request federal grant support through the USDA's Meat and Poultry Processing Technical Assistance Program (MPPTA) (<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/mppta>) or the Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network's (NMPAN) one-on-one Office Hours with grant experts (<https://www.nichemeatprocessing.org/technical-assistance/>) A list of for-hire grant writers is maintained by MPPTA, here: <https://publish.smartsheet.com/e9ce3cfee1654c40b9f02c8c4a318ff3>.

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