



U.S. Representative  
**ABIGAIL SPANBERGER**  
Proudly Serving Virginia's 7th District



## Agriculture & Forestry Grant Resource Guide

Updated as of March 24, 2021

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## About This Guide

This **Agriculture and Forestry Grant Resource Guide** is intended to be used in conjunction with our more general **Grant Resource Guide**, which contains information about identifying and applying for federal grants.

Each year, 26 federal agencies award federal grants to support community initiatives, research, infrastructure programs, and public interest projects, all relevant to the work and/or goals of that agency. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis or distributed under a formula. The majority of federal grant recipients are state and local government agencies who then distribute funds to smaller entities.

The **Grant Resource Guide** includes the following topic areas:

- What is a Federal Grant?
- Finding Grant Opportunities
- Determining Eligibility
- Applying for Grants
- Awarding Grants: The Process
- Additional Resources
- Letter of Support

This **Agriculture and Forestry Grant Resource Guide** provides information about federal agencies which offer grants in this field, as well as examples of grants currently offered.

For more information about the grant process, to discuss a letter of support, or for any other questions, please contact Shawn Meredith at [Shawn.Meredith@mail.house.gov](mailto:Shawn.Meredith@mail.house.gov)

Please note: Funding information and application deadlines are subject to change. Potential applicants should regularly check grants.gov and the funding agency's grants webpage for the most up-to-date information.

## Federal Agencies and Available Grants

### U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

USDA utilizes science and public policy to improve economic opportunity in rural areas, promote agricultural production, and preserve natural resources. To achieve this goal, the Department offers an array of funding avenues that assist with projects that bring housing, community facilities, business guarantees, utilities and other services to rural America.

*For more information about USDA grants and programs, please visit the USDA page on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) or [usda.gov/topics/farming/grants-and-loans](https://www.usda.gov/topics/farming/grants-and-loans)*

### Supplemental and Alternative Crops (SAC) Competitive Grants Program

**Current Grants.gov close date: March 30, 2021**

The SAC Competitive Grants Program will support projects that lead to expanded adaptation and increased acres in the United States of canola grown for oil and industrial hemp grown for value added products. The SAC supports the breeding, testing, and development of superior performing canola and industrial hemp varieties and production practices that result in improved cost efficiencies, reduced grower risks, and wider use in production systems. Research results and technology developed are expected to be rapidly transferred to producers and other users through effective extension outreach and other engagement efforts.

*For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-NIFA-OP-008079** or [nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/supplemental-and-alternative-crops-sacc](https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/supplemental-and-alternative-crops-sacc)*

### Food Safety Outreach Competitive Grants Program

**Current Grants.gov close date: April 1, 2021**

The Food Safety Outreach Program will complement and expand the national infrastructure of the National Food Safety Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Competitive Grants Program. The Food Safety Outreach Program will build upon that national infrastructure, with a sustained focus on delivery of customized training to members of the target audiences. Awardees will develop and implement food safety training, education, extension, outreach and technical assistance projects that address the needs of owners and operators of small to mid-sized farms, beginning farmers, socially-disadvantaged farmers, small processors, or small fresh fruit and vegetable merchant wholesalers. Grant applications will be solicited directly from those in local communities to include those from community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, food hubs, farm cooperatives, extension, and other local groups.

*For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-NIFA-FSMA-008138** or [nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/food-safety-outreach-program](https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/food-safety-outreach-program)*

### Farm Business Management and Benchmarking (FBMB)

**Current Grants.gov close date: April 8, 2021**

The FBMB Competitive Grants Program provides funds for improving the farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers by maintaining and expanding a national, publicly available farm financial management database to support improved farm management.

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-NIFA-FBMB-007854** or [nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/farm-business-management-and-benchmarking-fbmb-competitive-grants-program](https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/farm-business-management-and-benchmarking-fbmb-competitive-grants-program)

## The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)

Current Grants.gov close date: April 15, 2021

GusNIP projects will support and evaluate projects intended to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by low-income consumers participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by providing incentives at the point of purchase through nutrition incentive grants; and to demonstrate and evaluate the improvement of dietary health through increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, reduced individual and household food insecurity, and reduced healthcare usage and associated costs through produce prescription grants.

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-NIFA-FINI-008053** or [nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/gus-schumacher-nutrition-incentive-grant-program](https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/gus-schumacher-nutrition-incentive-grant-program)

## Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)

Current Grants.gov close date: April 15, 2021

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (aka the 2018 Farm Bill) reauthorized the BFRDP and provides mandatory funds for which supports education, mentoring, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers and ranchers.

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-NIFA-BFR-008056** or [nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/beginning-farmer-and-rancher-development-program-bfrdp](https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/beginning-farmer-and-rancher-development-program-bfrdp)

## Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Challenge Cost Share Grant Program

Current Grants.gov close date: April 16, 2021

The U&CF Program restores, sustains, and manages more than 140 million acres of urban and community forest lands for the benefit of communities in the United States. Healthy urban & community forests and green infrastructure are not only critical to all our nation's forests, but also essential to the economic, environmental, physical, and mental well-being of our population. Increasingly, our urban and community forests are facing threats such as insects, diseases, extreme weather events and other hazards. Additionally, the lack of investment in urban forest disaster mitigation is contributing to community disasters such as urban flooding and human heat deaths in our cities-- disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations. New systemic solutions are needed to create and enhance green infrastructure in the right place and at the right scale and encompass pressing social, economic, ecological, and historic factors

holistically. This program consists of two categories: 1) Increasing Resiliency of Urban Forests through Reforestation and Management and 2) Planning Disaster Mitigation Strategies for Urban Forests

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-FS-UCF-010-2021** or [ucfgrants2021.urbanandcommunityforests.org/](https://ucfgrants2021.urbanandcommunityforests.org/)

### Special Research Grants Program Potato Research

Current Grants.gov close date: April 16, 2021

The purpose of this grant program is to support potato research programs that focus on varietal development and testing and potato varieties for commercial production. As used herein, varietal development and testing is research using conventional breeding and/or biotechnological genetics to develop improved potato varieties.

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-NIFA-SRGP-008078** or [nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/potato-breeding-research](https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/potato-breeding-research)

### Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP)

Current Grants.gov close date: April 16, 2021

The VSGP is designed to support education and extension activities and practice enhancement initiatives that will enable veterinarians, veterinary students, veterinary technicians, and veterinary technician students to gain specialized skills and provide practices with additional resources needed to bolster the capacity of private practitioners to provide veterinary services in designated rural veterinarian shortage situations.

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-NIFA-VSGP-008119** or [nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/veterinary-services-grant-program-vsqp](https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/veterinary-services-grant-program-vsqp)

### Alfalfa Forage Research Program (AFRP)

Current Grants.gov close date: April 16, 2021

Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage System Program (ASAFS) will support the development of improved alfalfa forage and seed production systems. Proposals submitted to ASAFS should address one or more of the following priorities: (1) Improving alfalfa forage and seed yield through better nutrient, water and/or pest management; (2) Improving persistence of alfalfa stands by lessening biotic or abiotic stresses; (3) Improving alfalfa forage and seed harvesting and storage systems to optimize economic returns; (4) Improving estimates of alfalfa forage quality as an animal feed to increase forage usage in animal feeds; and/or (5) Breeding to address biotic and abiotic stresses that impact forage yield and persistence and the production of seed for propagation.

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-NIFA-OP-008140** or [nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/alfalfa-and-forage-research-program](https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/alfalfa-and-forage-research-program)

### Team Nutrition Training Grant for School Meal Recipe Development, Cohort B

Current Grants.gov close date: April 19, 2021

The Team Nutrition Training Grant for School Meal Recipe Development supports States in understanding, developing, and using standardized recipes within the School Meal Programs. Using grant funds, States will be able to develop nutritious and tasty recipes that incorporate local agricultural products and appeal to students' taste preferences. States will build their capacity to standardize recipes, show how standardized recipes credit towards school meal pattern requirements, and assist School Food Authorities in engaging students in menu development. Standardized recipes are critical to the success of school meals because they provide consistent results in quality, quantity, and nutrient contribution, while helping to reduce food waste and food costs. FNS intends to share the recipes States develop under this grant via the FNS Team Nutrition website and the Institute of Child Nutrition's online resource center known as the Child Nutrition Recipe Box ([theicn.org/cnrb](http://theicn.org/cnrb)).

*For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-FNS-CNTN-COHORT-B-FY2021** or [fns.usda.gov/grant/rfa-2021-team-nutrition-training-grant-school-meal-recipe-development](https://fns.usda.gov/grant/rfa-2021-team-nutrition-training-grant-school-meal-recipe-development)*

### Value-Added Producer Grant

Current Grants.gov close date: April 29, 2021

The objective of this grant program is to assist viable Independent Producers, Agricultural Producer Groups, Farmer and Rancher Cooperatives, and Majority-Controlled Producer-Based Businesses in starting or expanding value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of Value-Added Agricultural Products. Grants will be awarded competitively for either planning or working capital projects directly related to the processing and/or marketing of value-added products. Generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and increasing producer income are the end goals of the program. All proposals must demonstrate economic viability and sustainability to compete for funding.

*For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **RDBCP-VAPG-2021** and also see the "**Related Documents**" tab or [rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants](https://rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants)*

### Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grants Program (RHSE)

Current Grants.gov close date: April 29, 2021

The RHSE program proposals are expected to be community-based outreach education programs, such as those conducted through Human Science extension outreach that provide individuals and families with: information as to the value of good health at any age; information to increase individual or family's motivation to take more responsibility for their own health; information regarding rural environmental health issues that directly impact human health; information about and access to health promotion and educational activities; and training for volunteers and health services providers concerning health promotion and health care services for individuals and families in cooperation with state, local, and community partners.

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-NIFA-RHSE-007857** or [nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/rural-health-and-safety-education-competitive-grants-program-rhse](https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/rural-health-and-safety-education-competitive-grants-program-rhse)

## Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program (FASLP)

Current Grants.gov close date: May 3, 2021

The purpose of the FASLP is to increase the knowledge of agricultural science and improve the nutritional health of children. The program's goal is to increase the capacity for food, garden, and nutrition education within host organizations or entities, such as school cafeterias and classrooms, while fostering higher levels of community engagement between farms and school systems by bringing together stakeholders from distinct parts of the food system. The initiative is part of a broader effort to not only increase access to school meals for low-income children, but also to dramatically improve their quality.

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-NIFA-FASLP-007992** or [nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/food-and-agriculture-service-learning-program](https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/food-and-agriculture-service-learning-program)

## Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program Phase II

Current Grants.gov close date: May 3, 2021

All Phase II projects must have previously completed a successful USDA Phase I project before applying for a Phase II grant. Success rates for applicants have been 50-60% for Phase II. Projects dealing with agriculturally-related manufacturing and alternative and renewable energy technologies are encouraged across all 2018 SBIR topic areas. USDA SBIR's flexible research areas ensure innovative projects consistent with USDA's vision of a healthy and productive nation in harmony with the land, air, and water.

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-NIFA-SBIR-008080** or [nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/small-business-innovation-research-program-phase-ii](https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/small-business-innovation-research-program-phase-ii)

## Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program (CFPCGP)

Current Grants.gov close date: May 4, 2021

NIFA's CFP intends to solicit applications and fund two types of grants. The types are entitled (1) Community Food Projects (CFP) and (2) Planning Projects (PP). The purpose of the CFP is to support the development of projects with a one-time infusion of federal dollars to make such projects self-sustaining. CFPs are designed to create community-based food projects with objectives, activities and outcomes that are in alignment with CFPCGP primary goals. The purpose of a PP is to complete a plan toward the improvement of community food security in keeping with the primary goals of the CFPCGP. PPs are to focus on a defined community and describe in detail the activities and outcomes of the planning project.

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-NIFA-CFP-007953** or [nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/community-food-projects-cfp-competitive-grants-program](https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/community-food-projects-cfp-competitive-grants-program)

## Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP)

Current Grants.gov close date: May 24, 2021

The FSMIP offers grants with a one-to-one dollar match to assist in exploring new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products, and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the marketing system.

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-AMS-TM-FSMIP-G-21-0004**

## Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Competitive Grants Program Sustainable Agricultural Systems (SAS)

Current Grants.gov close date: July 1, 2021

NIFA seeks creative and visionary applications that take a systems approach for projects focused on the themes in the USDA Science Blueprint: (1) sustainable agricultural intensification; (2) agricultural climate adaptation; (3) value-added innovation; and/or (4) food and nutrition translation. These projects are expected to significantly improve the supply of affordable, safe, nutritious, and accessible agricultural products, while fostering economic development and rural prosperity in America. These approaches must demonstrate current needs and anticipate future social, cultural, behavioral, economic, health, and environmental impacts. Additionally, the outcomes of the work being proposed should result in societal benefits, including promotion of rural prosperity and enhancement of quality of life for all those involved in food and agricultural value chains from production to utilization and consumption.

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-NIFA-AFRI-007892** or [nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/afri-sustainable-agricultural-systems-competitive-grants-program](https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/afri-sustainable-agricultural-systems-competitive-grants-program)

## Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Competitive Grants Program Education and Workforce Development (EWD) Program

Current Grants.gov close date: July 1, 2021

EWD invites applications in five areas: professional development for agricultural literacy; training of undergraduate students in research and extension; fellowships for predoctoral candidates; fellowships for postdoctoral scholars, and a brand-new program for agricultural workforce training.

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-NIFA-AFRI-008121** or [nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-education-workforce-development](https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-education-workforce-development)

## Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) - Foundational and Applied Science

Current Grants.gov close date: July 29, 2021

The AFRI Foundational and Applied Science Program supports grants in six AFRI priority areas to advance knowledge in both fundamental and applied sciences important to agriculture. The six priority areas are: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health; Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment; Agriculture Systems and Technology; and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities.

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-NIFA-AFRI-007692** or [nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-foundational-applied-science-program](https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-foundational-applied-science-program)

## Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) - Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements

Current Grants.gov close date: September 30, 2021

The REAP will provide funds to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to install renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. The REAP is designed to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and help meet the nations critical energy needs. The grants are awarded on a competitive basis.

For more information, please visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) using Opportunity Number **USDA-RD-HCFP-RCDI-2021** or [rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-community-development-initiative-grants](https://rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-community-development-initiative-grants)

## Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program

Applications accepted year-round

The Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program provides funding for rural projects through local utility organizations. USDA provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses (ultimate recipients) for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. The ultimate recipients repay the lending utility directly. The utility then is responsible for repayment to USDA. USDA provides grants to local utility organizations which use the funding to establish Revolving Loan Funds (RLF). Loans are made from the revolving loan funds to projects that will create or retain rural jobs. When the revolving loan fund is terminated, the grant is repaid to USDA.

For more information, please visit [rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program](https://rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program)

## Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP)

Forecasted for spring 2021

The RFSP program supports partnerships that connect public and private resources to plan and develop local or regional food systems. The program focuses on strengthening the viability and resilience of regional food economies through collaboration and coordination.

For more information, please visit [ams.usda.gov/services/grants/rfsp](https://ams.usda.gov/services/grants/rfsp)

## Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP)

Forecasted for spring 2021

The LFPP funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer to consumer marketing to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. Grants can be used for the planning stages of establishing or expanding a local and regional food business enterprise or to improve or expand a food business that supports locally and regionally produced agricultural products and food system infrastructure by performing feasibility studies, market research, training and technical assistance for the business enterprise and/or for producers working with the business enterprise. A 25% match is required.

For more information, please visit [ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp](https://ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp)

### Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)

Forecasted for spring 2021

The FMPP funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products by developing, coordinating, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, online sales or other direct producer-to-consumer (including direct producer-to-retail, direct producer-to-restaurant and direct producer-to-institutional marketing) market opportunities. A 25% match is required.

For more information, please visit [ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp](https://ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp)

## Additional Resources

### Grants.gov Questions?

Contact the Grants.gov Support Center at 1-800-518-4726 (TTY: 301-240-6310), via [email](#), or visit the [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) website.

### Beta.SAM

beta.SAM has replaced the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA). It lists all federal grant opportunities and breaks them down by agency and identifier numbers. Like Grants.gov, you can view both ongoing and past grants. You cannot apply for federal grants via beta.SAM; the only place to apply for federal grants is Grants.gov

For more information, please visit: [beta.sam.gov/](https://beta.sam.gov/)

### Congressional Research Service (CRS)

CRS contains guides to help grant applicants understand and complete their applications. These guides include:

- How to Develop and Write a Grant Proposal
- Resources for Grantseekers
- Federal Grants-in-Aid Administration: A Primer

- Community Development Block Grants and Related Programs: A Primer

For more information, please visit: [crs.gov/](https://www.crs.gov/)

### **A-Z Index of U.S. Departments and Agencies**

To better develop a grant proposal, search a department or agency's Home Page to learn more about its programs and objectives.

For more information, please visit: [usa.gov/federal-agencies/a](https://www.usa.gov/federal-agencies/a)

### **Government Benefits, Grants, and Loans**

Includes contracting with the U.S. government, international trade and exporting, and small business. See also financial assistance links at the Small Business Administration website: [sba.gov/funding-programs/grants](https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/grants)

For more information, please visit: [usa.gov/benefits-grants-loans](https://www.usa.gov/benefits-grants-loans)

### **Student Aid (via Dept. of Education)**

Information on funding education beyond high school, including grants, loans, and work-study assistance to qualified students.

For more information, please visit: [studentaid.ed.gov/sa/](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/)

### **Benefits.gov (via Dept. of Labor)**

Includes information on over 1,000 government assistance programs, and how to apply. Covers direct payment, loan, insurance, training, or other services.

For more information, please visit: [benefits.gov/](https://www.benefits.gov/)

### **FTC Consumer Alert (via Federal Trade Commission)**

The FTC Consumer Alert warns consumers to beware of paying "processing fees" for information that is available free to the public. Ads claiming federal grants are available for home repairs, home business, unpaid bills, or other personal expenses are often a scam.

For more information, please visit: [ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt134.shtm](https://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt134.shtm)

### **OMB Grants Management Web Site (via Office of Management and Budget)**

OMB establishes government-wide grants management policies and guidelines through circulars and common rules. OMB Circulars are cited in *Catalog* program descriptions and may be printed out full text.

For more information, please visit: [whitehouse.gov/omb/information-for-agencies/circulars/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-for-agencies/circulars/)

### **Representative Spanberger's Office**

If your organization needs our office's assistance or would like to request a letter of support for your grant proposal, please contact our Grants Coordinator, Shawn Meredith, at [shawn.meredith@mail.house.gov](mailto:shawn.meredith@mail.house.gov).