

# Value-Added Producer Grant Program For Tribal Applicants





# **OVERVIEW:** Is VAPG for me?

## What is VAPG?

VAPG provides funds to enable viable Agricultural Producers to develop businesses that produce and market Value-Added Agricultural Products and to create marketing opportunities for such businesses.

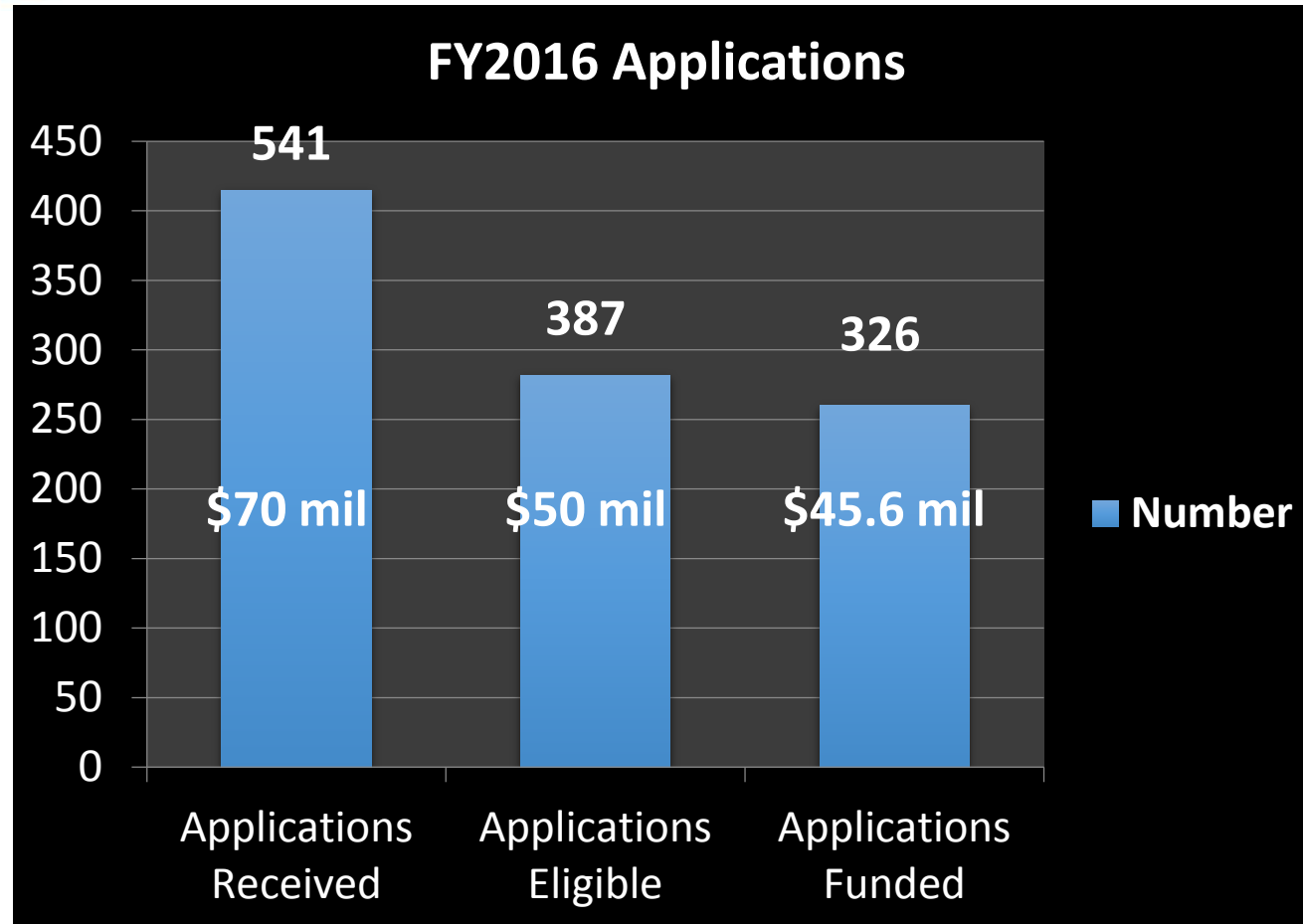
## VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANT

- **National Competition**
- **FY2017 Available Funding: TBD**
- **FY2017 Application Deadlines: TBD**
- **Maximum Award Amounts**
  - \$75,000 Planning
  - \$250,000 Working Capital
- **Matching Requirement**
  - 1-to-1 match (50% of total project costs) cash or in-kind
- **Grant Period**
  - Up to 36 months, depending on project complexity.



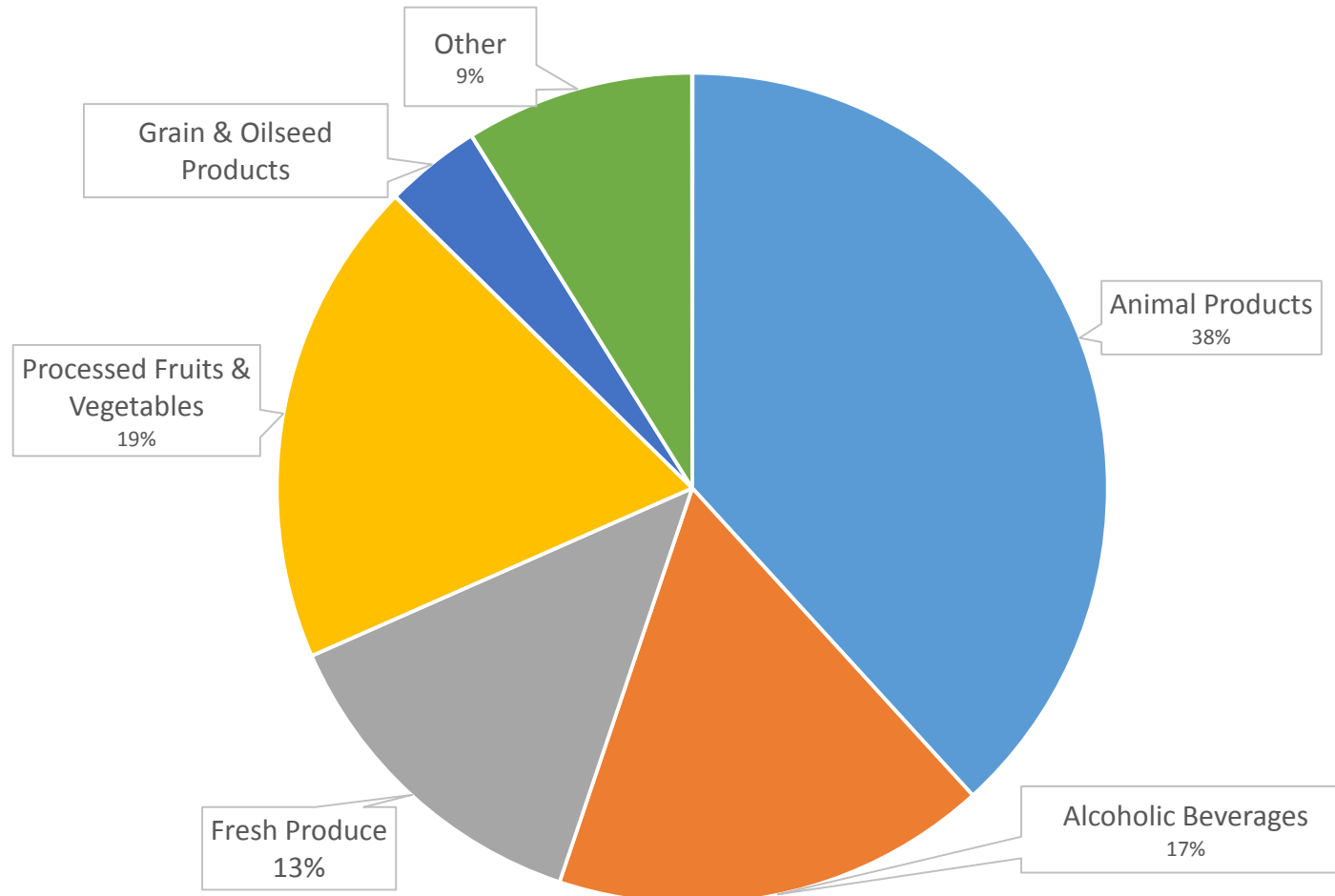
VAPG

BY THE **NUMBERS**



\*Funded applications from 47 States and 2 Territories

**FY2016 VAPG Awards by Product Category**



# Eligible Applicants

...must be **Agricultural Producers**:

“An individual or entity that produces an Agricultural Commodity through participation in the day-to-day labor, management, and field operations.”

...and must meet the definition of one of four applicant types:



# Four Eligible Applicant Types

- Independent Producers\*
- Agricultural Producer Groups
- Farmer or Rancher Cooperatives\*
- Majority-Controlled Producer-Based Businesses

\* Most tribal applicants will be IPs or Co-ops



# Independent Producer

An agricultural producer who is the sole proprietor OR a group comprised solely of agricultural producers.



# Farmer or Rancher Cooperative

A business owned and controlled by agricultural producers that is incorporated as a cooperative or is otherwise recognized in the state in which it does business, as operating as a cooperative.

## All Four Applicant Types *Must* :

- **Currently produce** and own more than 50 percent of the raw commodity that will be used for the Value-Added product.
- Own the product from its raw commodity state through the production of the Value-Added product during the Project (except for MTVC).

# What Qualifies as a Value-Added Product?

- Change in physical state
- Produced in a manner that enhances the value of the raw commodity or product
- Physical segregation
- Is a source of farm- or ranch-generated renewable energy
- Locally marketed agricultural food product

## All applicants must demonstrate that the project will result in:

- Expanded customer base
- Increased revenue returned to the producer.



# How can grant funds be used?

## 2 Types of Grants

**Planning:** Development of a feasibility study, business plan, and/or marketing plan related to processing and marketing the value-added product.

**Working Capital:** Eligible costs associated directly with the processing and/or marketing of the value-added product.

# Examples: Common tasks/expenses

## Planning Grants

- Hire a consultant to develop a feasibility study, business plan, or marketing plan.



# Examples: Common tasks/expenses

## Working Capital

- Pay costs of processing the raw commodity into the value-added product.
  - Product packaging & labeling
    - Ingredients
  - Promotional materials
    - Advertising

# Examples: Ineligible expenses

- Purchase of land, buildings or equipment
  - Preparation of the grant application,
- Research and development, architectural or engineering design work
- Production, harvesting or delivery of the raw commodity to a processing facility

## What about matching funds?

- Equal to at least the grant amount (at least 50 percent of total project costs).
- Spent only on eligible expenses;
- Spent in advance of grant funding (for every dollar of grant funds disbursed, not less than an equal amount of matching funds will have been expended prior to submitting the request for reimbursement);
- From eligible sources without a real or apparent conflict of interest
- Must be verified at application and confirmed at award



# Matching Funds

- Applicant cash (including PL 93-683 Indian Self-Determination Act grant funds), loan, or line of credit; and/or
- Applicant or family member in-kind contributions of fairly valued time spent on the project (applicant provided services limited to 25 percent of total project costs); and/or
- Third-party cash, or
- Third-party in-kind contributions

Note: cash matching funds score higher than in-kind





# VAPG for Tribal Applicants

# How do tribal applicants fit?

Tribal entities must:

- Meet the definition an “Agricultural producer”
- Meet the requirements of one of the four applicant types

However, the definition of Agricultural Producer has been revised to clarify that the eligibility of Tribes and Tribal entities, due to their unique structures, will be determined by the Agency *without regard to day-to-day labor, management, and field operation and right to harvest status.*

# How do tribal applicants fit?

***How will the Agency determine eligibility “without regard to day-to-day labor, management, and field operation and right to harvest status.”***

Tribes and tribal entities should address the questions in application template Appendix A regarding composition, structure and relationship of the entity to the tribe, the beneficiaries of returns generated by the project, and related eligibility questions.

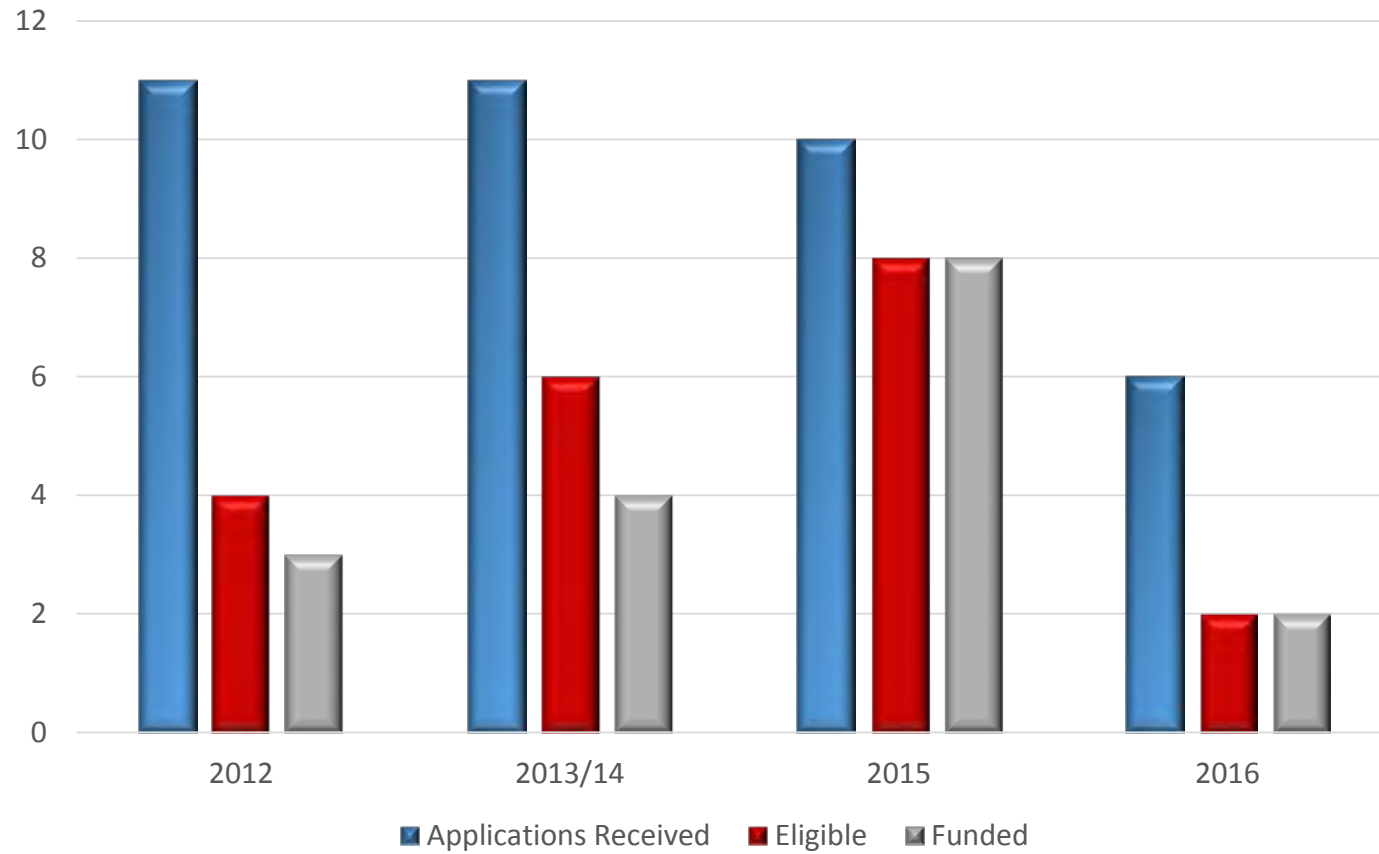


# Tribal Applicants

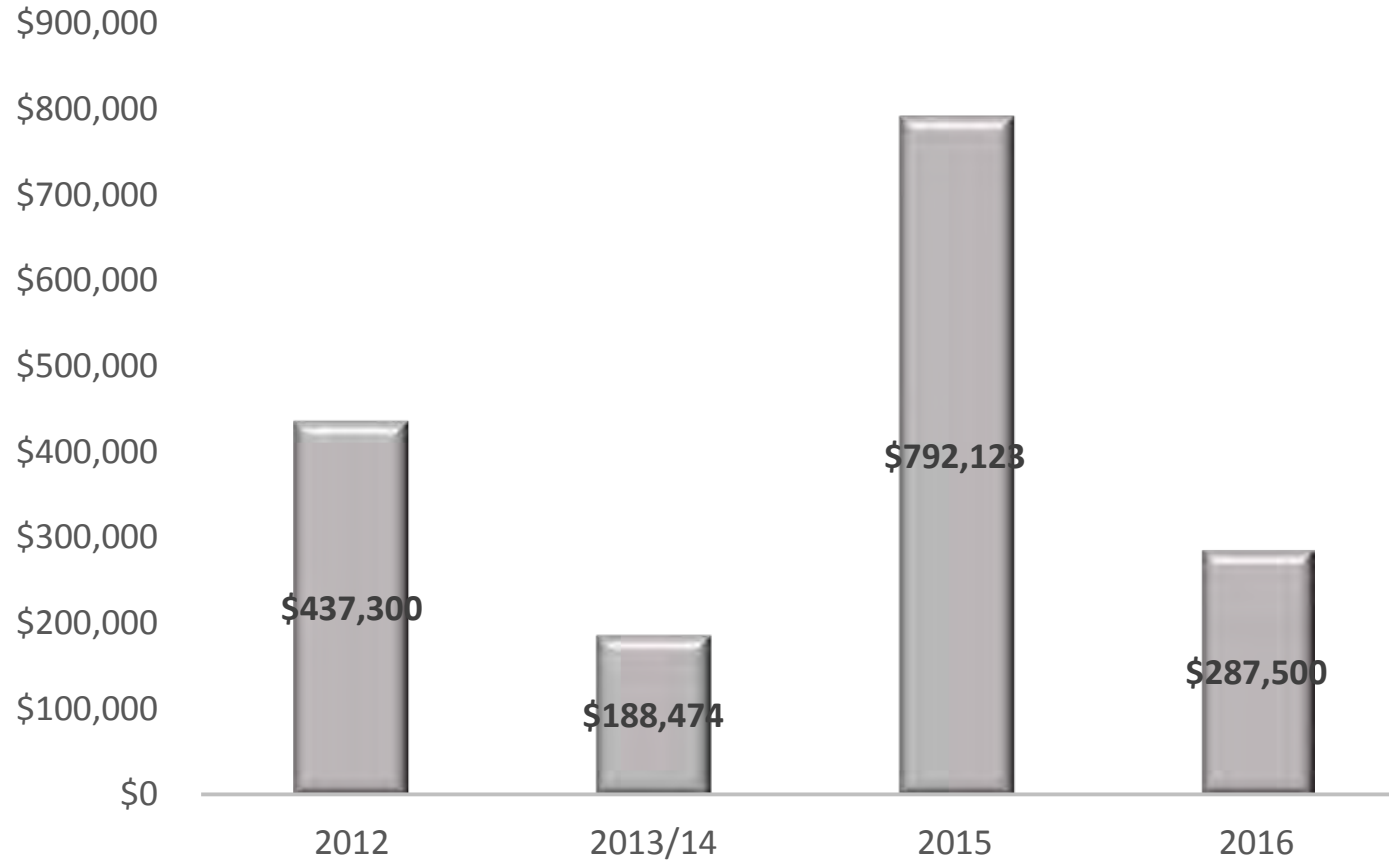
## BY THE NUMBERS



### TRIBAL APPLICATIONS



### FUNDING TO TRIBAL APPLICANTS



# FY2016 Tribal Awards

STATE	RECIPIENT	AMT	PURPOSE
Minnesota	Leech Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	\$250,000	The Leech Lake Band of Chippewa Indians received a working capital award in the amount of \$250,000 to implement a comprehensive marketing program for Leech Lake Natural Wild Rice, to include hiring an experienced marketing manager, development of an online sales platform, and advertising through other outlets. These first-time marketing efforts have a goal of reducing dependence on Leech Lake tribal government for cash injections.
Wisconsin	Oneida Nation	\$37,500	VAPG planning grant funds will be used to conduct a feasibility study, business plan and market study for customer acceptance to determine if the processing and sale of Oneida Nation apples into apple chips is feasible.

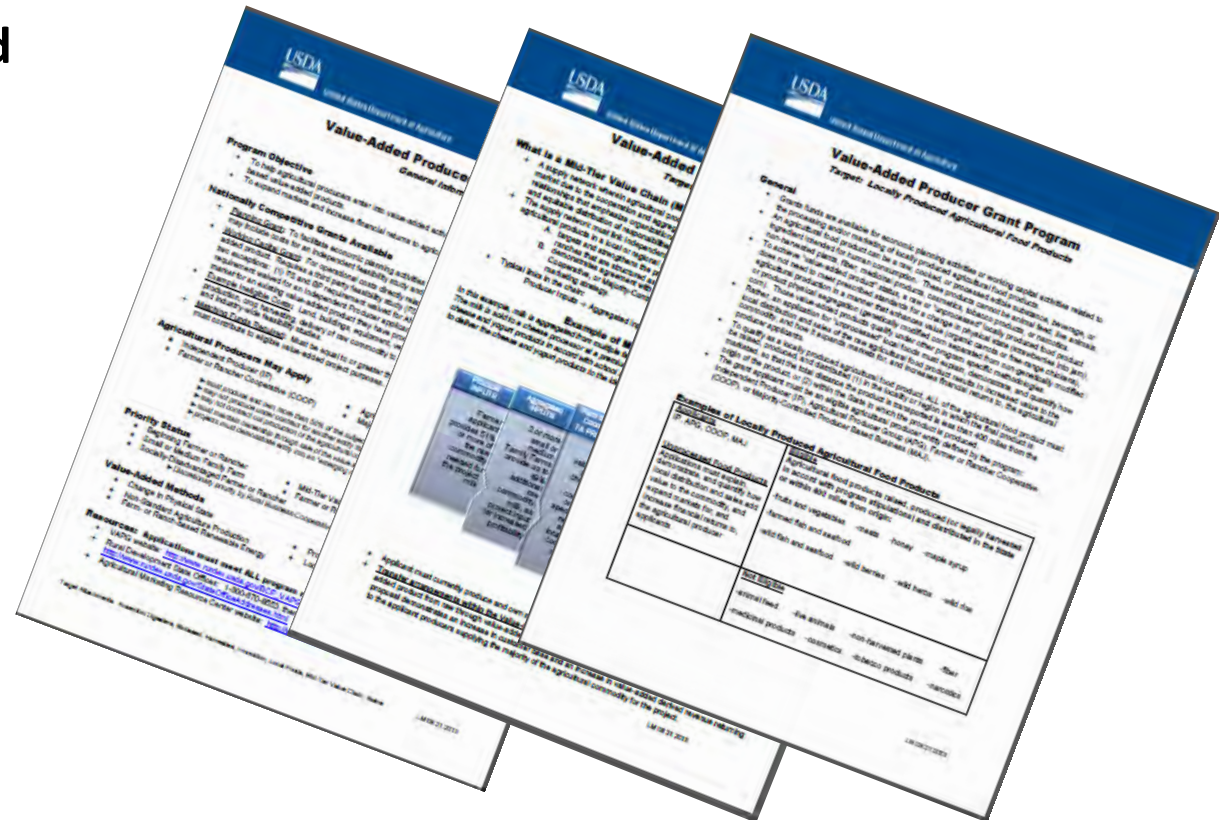
# How Do I Apply?

## Tools for Applicants

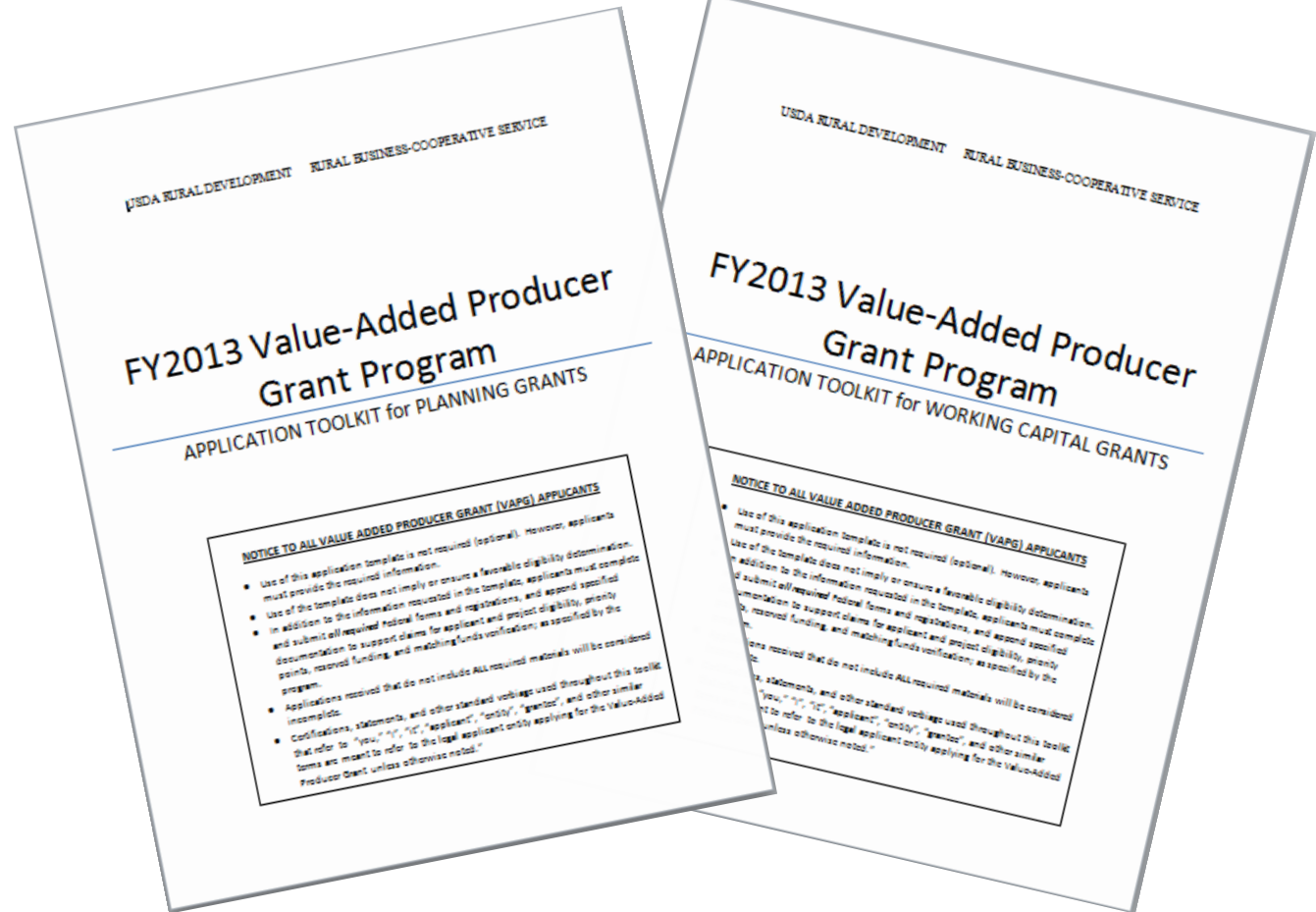


## Outreach Fact sheets

- General program Info
- Locally-produced food
- Anaerobic digesters
- Harvesters
- Mid-tier value chains



# Comprehensive Toolkits for Planning and Working Capital



**USDA Value-Added Producer Grant**  
FY 2013 Application Toolkit for Working Capital

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**CHECKLIST**

Program requirements are detailed in [7 CFR 4284, subpart J](#), the 2013 Notice of Funds Availability contained in this toolkit. You must become familiar with these documents before applying. Before you submit your application, please be sure you have addressed all of the following elements.

**Required forms (see links below for fillable forms)**

- Form SF-424, "Application for Federal Assistance"
- Form SF-424A, "Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs"
- Form SF-424B, "Assurances- Non-Construction Programs"
- Form RD 400-4, "Assurance Agreement"
- Form AD-3030, "Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquency Status for Corporate Applicants" (required only for corporate applicants)

**Section 1. Summary Information**

- Legal Name of Applicant
- DUNS #
- SAM Registration Code and Expiration Date
- Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- Applicant Type
- Purpose
- Requested Grant Amount
- Reserve Fund Request
- Brief Summary of Proposed Project

**Section 2. Executive Summary**

- One page description of your proposed project.

**Section 3. General Eligibility Requirements**

- Citizenship
- Legal Authority and Responsibility
- Multiple Grant Eligibility
- Currently Active VAPG Grant
- Certification of Federal Judgments

**Section 4. Applicant Eligibility**

- Applicant Eligibility
  - Applicant Type Requirements
  - Emerging Market (as applicable)

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**Section 5. Project Eligibility**

- Product Eligibility
  - Value-Added Methodology
  - Expansion of Customer Base
  - Increased Revenue
- Project Eligibility
  - Increase in Revenue
  - Use of Funds
  - Work Plan
  - Budget
  - Type of Working Capital Application

**Match Evaluation Criteria**

**Performance Evaluation Criteria**

- Applicant-suggested Performance Criteria
- Jobs Created/Saved
- Expansion of Customer Base
- Increased Revenue

**Match Evaluation/Scoring Criteria**

- Nature of the Proposed Venture
- Qualifications of the Project Personnel
- Commitments and Support
- Work Plan and Budget
- Priority points (if applicable)

**Reserve Funds**

- Certification of Matching Funds
- Verification of Matching Funds

**Appendix A - Tribes and Tribal Entities as VAPG Applicants**

**Appendix B - Legal Authority and Responsibility**

**Appendix C - Supporting Documentation**

**Appendix D - Matching Funds Verification**

**Appendix E - Priority Points and Reserve Funds Documentation**

# Checklists to ensure complete applications

Links to required forms and necessary resources, including:

- SF 424s
- AD 3030
- Program regulation
- NOFA

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FY2013 Application Toolkit for Working Capital

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**REQUIRED STANDARD FORMS**

Form SF-424, "Application for Federal Assistance"  
<http://www.grants.gov>  
[http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424\\_2-2012.1.pdf](http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424_2-2012.1.pdf)

Form SF-424A, "Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs"  
<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424A-V1.0.pdf>

Form SF-424B, "Assurances - Non-Construction Programs"  
<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424B-V1.1.pdf>

Form RD 400-4, "Assurance Agreement"  
<http://forms.usda.gov/usda.gov/efcommon/ef/efservices/efforms/RD400-4.PDF>

Form AD-3030, "Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquency Status for Corporate Applicants"  
<http://www.ecis.usda.gov/document/e32030>

**OPTIONAL FORM**  
[INSERT INSTRUCTIONS]

Form AD-2126, "Form to Assist in Assessment of USDA Compliance with Civil Rights Laws"  
<http://forms.usda.gov/efcommon/ef/efservices/efforms/AD2126.PDF>

**IMPORTANT APPLICATION RESOURCES**

VAPG Program Regulation 7 CFR 4284 subpart J  
et  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/supportDocuments/4284.pdf>

VAPG Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

Administrative Notice on Tribal Applicant Eligibility

DUNS #  
Obtain a free DUNS number by calling 1-800-354-5887 or go to:  
[www.dunandbradstreet.com/us/duns\\_updates/index.html](http://www.dunandbradstreet.com/us/duns_updates/index.html)

SAM Registration Case Code  
Register at no charge at <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/>

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The image shows a composite of two web pages. The top portion is the SAM (System for Award Management) website. It features a header with the SAM logo and a navigation menu with links for HOME, SEARCH RECORDS, DATA ACCESS, GENERAL INFO, and HELP. A login form is visible with fields for USER NAME and PASSWORD, and a LOG IN button. Below the login form is a 'CREATE USER ACCOUNT' button. The bottom portion of the image shows the DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) website. It features a header with the D&B logo and a navigation menu with links for OUR DATA IN SIGHT, LEARNING CENTER, and ABOUT US. The main content area has a heading 'The D-U-N-S® Number' and a 'View Infographic' button.

Links to DUNS and SAM

OPTIONAL templates for  
Planning and Working  
Capital applications.

USDA Value-Added Producer Grant  
FY2013 Application Toolkit for Working Capital

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**APPLICATION TEMPLATE**

**SECTION 1: SUMMARY INFORMATION**

Legal Name of Applicant Entity: \_\_\_\_\_

DUNS # \_\_\_\_\_ Employer Identification Number (EIN) \_\_\_\_\_

SAM/CCR Registration Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Type – Please Check One:

Independent Producer                       Agricultural Producer Group  
 Farmer or Rancher Cooperative            Majority-Controlled Producer Based Business

New Agricultural Commodity: \_\_\_\_\_

Value-Added Product: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose:  Working Capital Grant

Requested Grant Amount (\$200,000 or less): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Grant Period Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed Grant Period End Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Proposer dates should correspond with grant period date included in SF424 and Section 5.4(2)(g) of the template.

Check yes if you are competing for Reserved Funds (See 4284.902 and Appendix E for Definitions):

Reserve Funds for Beginning Farmer or Rancher  
 Reserve Funds for Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher  
 Reserve Funds for a Mid-Tier Value Chain Project

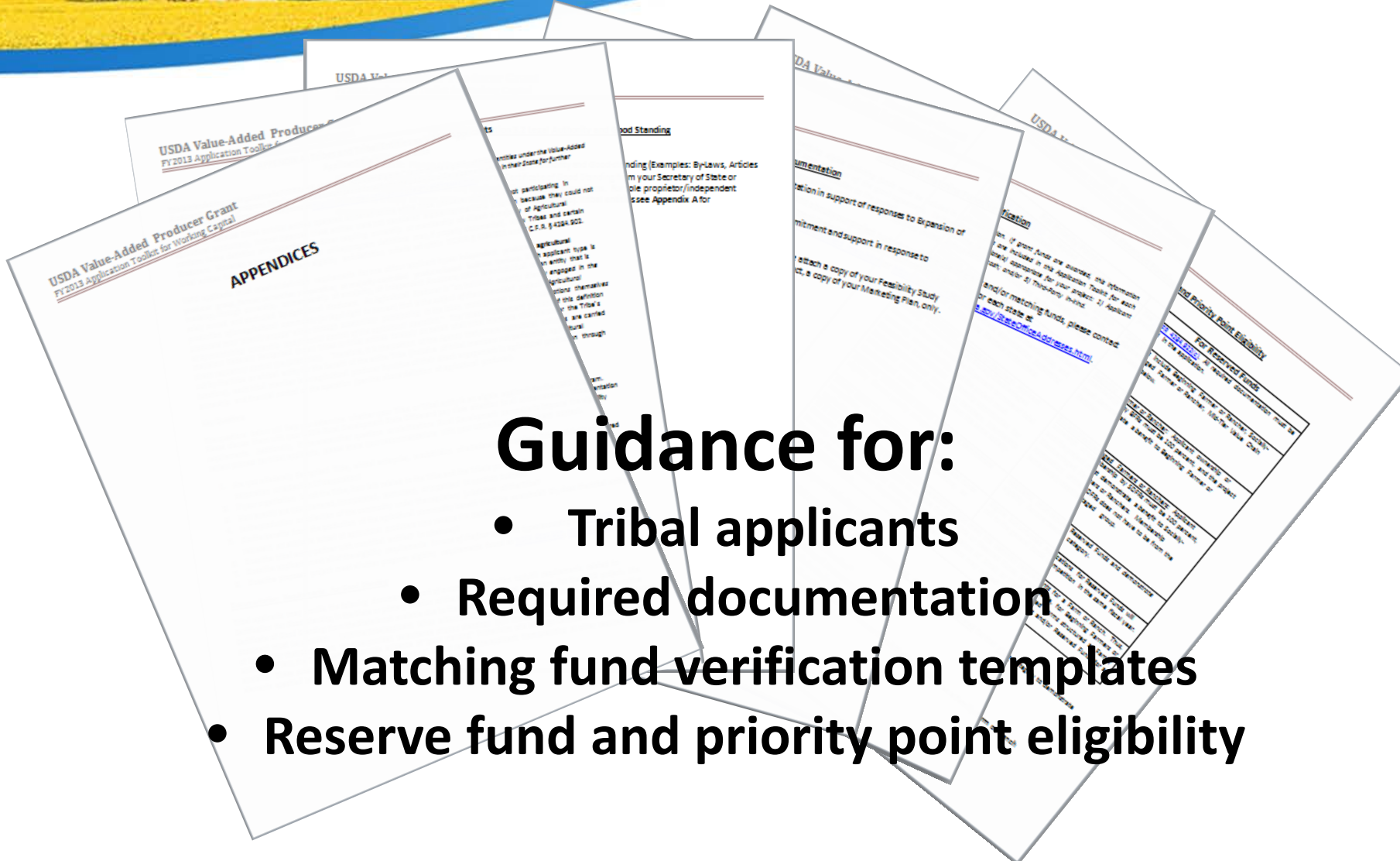

Brief Summary of Proposed Project (limit 100 words)  
(Example: VAPG working capital funds will be used to pay labor costs to produce artisan cheese from organic milk and for packaging, labeling, and promotional expenses.)

(Insert brief summary of proposed project)

**SECTION 2: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PROJECT**

(Insert a more detailed description of your project containing the following information: 1) legal name of applicant entity, 2) applicant type (planning or working capital), 3) applicant type, 4) amount of grant request, 5) a summary of your project, 6) project goals and 7) how you intend to use the grant funds. Limit one page.)

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**Guidance for:**

- Tribal applicants
- Required documentation
- Matching fund verification templates
- Reserve fund and priority point eligibility

# Program Information & Materials

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants>

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the USDA Rural Development website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants>. The website header includes the USDA logo, the text "United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development", and navigation links for "About USDA", "Ask The Expert", "Help", and "En Español". A search bar is located on the right side of the header. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "About RD", "Programs & Services", "Browse by State", "Newsroom", "Publications", and "Contact Us". Social media icons for Twitter, RSS, YouTube, Facebook, and LinkedIn are also present. The main content area is titled "Value Added Producer Grants" and includes a "Program 101" section with "Forms & Resources". The "Program Status" is listed as "Open", with an "Application Deadline" of July 7, 2015 (paper) and July 2, 2015 (electronic). A "Notice of Solicitation of Application" is dated May 8, 2015, with a link to a "Printable Version". A "Program Contact" box states that the program is administered by the State Office and provides a drop-down menu to select a state. A "Related Programs" box lists the "Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant".

## Where to go for assistance:

**USDA Rural Development State Office Contacts**

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>

**USDA Service Center Locator**

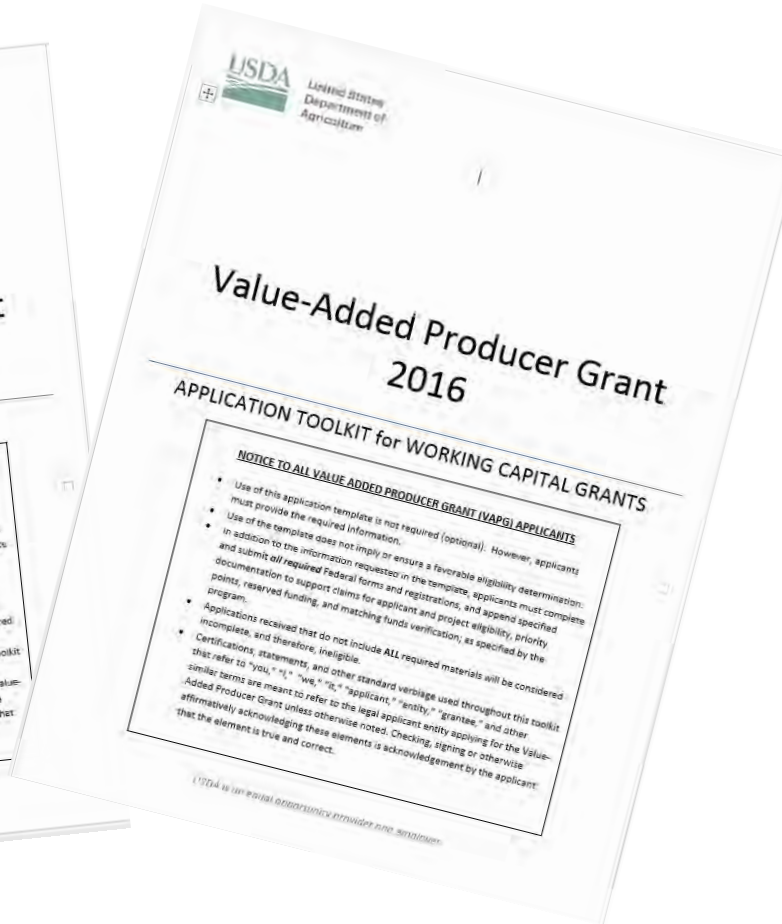
<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=us&agency=rd>



**INTERTRIBAL  
AGRICULTURE COUNCIL**  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

<http://www.indianaglink.com/>

# How do I apply? The Application Package





# Basic Program Requirements

- Eligibility
- Evaluation & scoring

# The Application Package

## USDA Value-Added Producer Grant Application Toolkit for Working Capital

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# Eligibility

- Applications are submitted to the Rural Development office in the applicant's state.
  - State Office is responsible for determining eligibility
- National Office may select individual applications for a quality control check on eligibility

# The Application Package Eligibility

## SECTION 4: APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

*Use 7 CFR 4284.920 and 921, the definitions at 902 and the NOFA to address this section. Tribes and tribal entities should also refer to Appendix A for guidance on eligibility requirements.*

### **4.1 All Applicants must acknowledge and agree to the following by checking each.**

- I/We produce the subject agricultural commodities through participation in the day-to-day labor, management, and field operations; or have the legal right to harvest an agricultural commodity that is the subject of the VAPG project (see the definition of Agricultural Producer at 4284.902).
- I/We currently produce and own the majority (more than 50 percent) of the subject raw agricultural commodity to which value will be added in this project.
- I/We do not produce the subject agricultural commodity under contract for another entity, nor contract out the production of the subject agricultural commodity to another entity.
- I/We will maintain ownership of the subject agricultural commodity from its raw state through the production, marketing and sale of the value-added product during the grant funding period (except for qualifying Mid-Tier Value Chain (MTVC) projects).

### **4.2 Applicant Type**

*Please address eligibility requirements for only one applicant type (a), (b), (c) or (d) below*

#### **(a) Independent Producer**

*See definitions for Independent Producer and Agricultural Producer at 7 CFR 4284.902. Acknowledge that you meet the following requirements by checking the appropriate boxes and providing the requested information.*

# The Application Package

## Eligibility

### USDA Value-Added Producer Grant

#### Application Toolkit for Working Capital

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**(a)  Independent Producer**

See definitions for Independent Producer and Agricultural Producer at 7 CFR 4284.902. Acknowledge that you meet the following requirements by checking the appropriate boxes and providing the requested information.

I am an Independent Agricultural Producer and am the sole owner of my business;

OR

100 percent of the owners or members of the applicant organization are *individual* Agricultural Producers, or *entities* that are solely owned and controlled by Agricultural Producers, who produce an Agricultural Commodity through participation in the day-to-day labor, management, and field operations; or are owners or members who have the legal right to access and harvest the agricultural commodity to which value will be added (Additional verification may be required upon award).

- 1) **List** names of all owners or members of the “Independent Producer” applicant organization and their individual percentage of ownership/membership.

*(Note: Tribes and tribal entities should include tribal enrollment data (number of enrolled members) along with a brief narrative description of the tribal entity or tribal members that will be directly involved in the production of the primary agricultural commodity.)*

*[Insert list]*

- 2) Is the Applicant a **steering committee** (as found in the definition of Independent Producer at 7 CFR

# The Application Package

## Eligibility

### USDA Value-Added Producer Grant

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#### SECTION 5: PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

*You must detail how the project meets product, and purpose, and reserved funds and priority points (if applicable) eligibility requirements in 7 CFR 4284.922 and in the current NOFA. Documentation for Priority Point eligibility should be addressed in **Appendix F**, as applicable.*

**You must address all sections below.**

#### **5.1 Raw Agricultural Commodity and Outcome Value-Added Product**

**Name** the raw agricultural commodity that will be used as the *input* for the project:

\_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the majority of the raw agricultural product that will be used as the input for the project was produced in the United States including the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or American Samoa).

**Name** the value-added product that will be the outcome from using one of the five value-added methodologies: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **5.2 Value-Added Agricultural Product Methodology (7 CFR 4284.922(a))**

# The Application Package

## Eligibility

### USDA Value-Added Producer Grant Application Toolkit for Planning Grants

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1)  **Change in Physical State**

*Examples include, but are not limited to, strawberries into jam, milk into cheese, wheat into flour, wool into clothing or rugs, corn into E-85 ethanol that is generated off-farm, livestock into packaged meat.*

**Explain** the method or process used to add value to your agricultural product, and how the change in physical state or form of the product enhances its value.

*[Insert explanation]*

2)  **Produced in a Manner that Enhances the Value of the Agricultural Commodity**

*Examples include, but are not limited to, organic carrots, eggs produced from free-range chickens.*

**Explain** the method or process used to add value to your agricultural product, and how a non-standard agricultural production method adds value to the agricultural commodity per unit of production over a standard production method, and provide evidence via a quantifiable comparison with products produced in the standard manner.

*[Insert explanation]*

3)  **Physical Segregation**

*An example is genetically modified corn that is separated from non-genetically modified corn on the farm during production and harvesting, with continued separation from similar commodities or products during the processing and marketing of the value-added product.*

**Explain** the method or process used to add value to your agricultural product, and demonstrate how the physical

## The Application Package Eligibility

### 2) Work Plan and Budget

*Provide a detailed work plan and budget below that shows how the project's goals will be accomplished in accordance with the requirements in 7 CFR 4284.922 (b) (5), including a narrative description of the eligible activities and tasks associated with those activities, a budget breakdown of the estimated costs allocated to those activities and tasks; identification of the key personnel responsible for overseeing and/or conducting the activities or tasks; timeframes for completion of the activities and tasks; identification of the sources and uses of grant and matching funds for all activities.*

**b. Insert Work Plan narrative here (upload additional pages as needed):**

*[Insert work plan narrative]*

**c. Project Budget Summary**

*Summarize the total project budget by task. Insert additional rows as needed.*

Activity #	Task Name, Description, and Responsible Party	Start Date	End Date	VAPG Funds	Cash Matching Funds	In-Kind Matching Funds	Total Project Costs
	<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>			\$	\$	\$	\$

# The Application Package Eligibility

## Common Mistakes by Tribal Applicants

- Incomplete applications-missing forms, failure to address all elements
- Ineligible expenses-ag production, buildings, equipment
- Insufficient matching contributions
- Insufficient documentation to verify matching contributions

**Remember: “must” means “must”**

## Evaluation Criterion & Scoring

- Eligible applications are evaluated and scored by the Rural Development State Office and by at least one non-federal independent reviewer.
- Scores from all reviewers are averaged and any priority points added, to arrive at a final score.
- Rural Development National Office compiles and ranks scores from all states, from highest to lowest.



# Proposal Evaluation Criteria

The Agency selects and ranks applications based on responses to 5 criteria:

1. Nature of the proposed project (0-30)
2. Qualifications of project personnel (0-20)
3. Commitments and support (0-10)
4. Work plan and budget (0-20)
5. Priority points (5 and/or additional 5)

## Evaluation & Scoring

*evaluation criteria. For each criterion, you must demonstrate how the project has merit and provide rationale for the likelihood of success. Responses that do not address all aspects of the criterion in a meaningful way, or that do not convey relevant project information will receive lower scores. VAPG is a competitive program, so your responses will be evaluated on the quality of each response. Simply providing an answer will not guarantee higher scores. The maximum number of points that will be awarded to an application is 100. The minimum score necessary to receive funding is 50 points. **You must review the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) at section E.1 for a detailed description of the graduated scoring thresholds for each criterion.***

### **1) Nature of the Proposed Venture (graduated score 0 - 30 points)**

*For the following sections you should reference published, third-party data or other information that specifically supports your project, including, business financial statements, previous business experience producing or marketing the value-added product or similar product, experience in similar markets, or other successful ventures. **Planning applications should address the sections below by describing the expected outcomes of the project and the rationale supporting those expectations.***

- a. Describe the technological feasibility of the project (i.e. is the product currently being manufactured somewhere, what is the size constraint, is product in test phase versus full capacity, is recipe formulated, existing versus new technology, etc.): In addition, demonstrate the potential for expanding the customer base for the agricultural commodity or value-added product, and the expected increase in revenue returns to the producer-owners providing the majority of the raw agricultural commodity to the project. discuss the value-added process you are proposing; potential markets and distribution channels; the value to be added

## The Application Package Evaluation Criteria & Scoring

### Common Mistakes by Tribal Applicants

- Lack of detail: incomplete discussion of all sub-elements of each evaluation criterion.
  - Failure to apply for priority points

**Read the fine print!**

# Scoring Priority

Up to 5 points *additional* points will be awarded to **Agricultural Producer Groups, Farmer or Rancher Cooperatives, and Majority Controlled Producer-Based Businesses** that propose projects that best contribute to new or expanded marketing opportunities for :

- Beginning Farmers or Ranchers
- Veteran Farmers or Ranchers\*
- Socially-Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers
- Small- or Medium-Sized Family Farms

## USDA Value-Added Producer Grant

### Application Toolkit for Working Capital

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#### **APPENDIX F Priority Point Eligibility and Documentation**

##### **To Request Priority Points in a Priority Category**

*Eligible applicants may apply for priority points if their applications: propose projects that create or increase opportunities for Beginning Farmers or Ranchers, Socially-Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers, Veteran Farmers or Ranchers, or Operators of Small- or Medium-sized Farms or Ranches that are structured as a Family Farm; or propose Mid-Tier Value Chain projects; or are a Farmer or Rancher Cooperative.*

**Applicants may qualify for 5 priority points in one of the categories listed below:**

Choose *only one* category and provide the supporting documentation indicated in the appropriate Appendix for that *single* category to demonstrate eligibility.

- Beginning Farmer or Rancher **(Appendix F.1)**
- Veteran Farmer or Rancher **(Appendix F.2)**
- Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher **(Appendix F.3)**
- Mid-Tier Value Chain Project **(Appendix F.4)**
- Operator of a Small- or Medium-sized Farm or Ranch Structured as a Family Farm or Ranch **(Appendix F.5)**
- Farmer or Rancher Cooperative **(Appendix F.6)**

*Note: To receive Priority Points as a Beginning Farmers or Rancher or a Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Rancher, applicant ownership or membership by Beginning Farmers or Ranchers or Socially Disadvantaged*



**QUESTIONS?**



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# Rural Development



Tedd Buelow  
Native American Coordinator  
Rural Development  
[tedd.buelow@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:tedd.buelow@wdc.usda.gov)  
Office: 720-544-2911  
[www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov)

*USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities.*



**Value Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG)**  
**[www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants](http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants)**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).