

Program Name	Specialty Crop Block Grant (USDA)	Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Farmer-Rancher Grants (USDA)	Value-Added Producer Grants USDA Rural Development
Staff Contact	Brian Williams (608) 590-7239 brianp.williams@wisconsin.gov	Diane Mayerfeld (608) 262-8188 dbmayerfeld@wisc.edu	Judy Clendenning 715-345-7642 judy.clendenning@usda.gov
Webpage	https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/SpecialtyCropBlockGrants.aspx	http://www.northcentralsare.org/Grants/	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants Key word: VAPG
Application Deadline	Request for Funding released in February. Typically due late March.	Deadline December 7, 2023, 4pm	Notice anticipated to be released late fall/winter 2023. Anticipating an application window of 90 days.
Purpose	To enhance the competitiveness of Wisconsin Specialty Crops.	To advance farming systems that are profitable, environmentally sound, and good for communities through research and education	To help independent agriculture producers enter into value added activities. Activities can be for planning grants or working capital.
Eligible Applicants	Non-profit organizations, producer organizations, government agencies, universities, and other groups involved in Wisconsin agriculture. Individual producers, for-profit businesses, or commercial entities may only apply if their project can demonstrate a benefit to the specialty crop industry sector.	Individual farmers or groups of farms. (SARE has other grant programs for researchers, educators, and others.)	Independent Producers, Agriculture Producer Groups, Farmer or Ranch Cooperative, or Majority Controlled Producer- Based Business Venture.
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental sustainability, pest and disease control, & varietal improvement• Development of food safety practices, outreach, and education that assist with compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) certification.• Increasing the demand for and supply of Wisconsin specialty crops• Industry innovation in production, processing, packaging, and distribution• Education for producers, processors, and the general public to improve production practices, or increase sales of Wisconsin specialty crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production practices that benefit the environment, farm profitability, and communities• Marketing strategies that support farm profitability and environmentally and socially sustainable agriculture	Anticipate a 10% set-aside for Mid-Tier Value Chain and a 10% set-a-side for Beginning Farmers or Ranchers and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers.
Available Funds	Estimated \$1,250,000	Around \$700,000 for the 12-state region	Estimated \$18 million dollars nationwide
Grant Amount	Maximum \$100,000	Maximum of \$15,000 for one farm or \$30,000 for groups of two or more farms	Maximum planning grant \$75,000 Maximum working capital grant \$250,000
Match	No match required	No match required	Dollar for dollar (1:1) match with eligible project cost
Other Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Projects led or advocated by a specialty crop industry organizations will have priority over other projects.• Eligible specialty crops include: fruits, vegetables, culinary herbs and spices, medicinal plants, tree nuts, flowers, and nursery plants. For a complete updated list of acceptable crops, see www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 23-month project period• Projects must include an outreach component.• Successful grants often involve partnerships.• Project description and results posted on SARE database	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning grant can be used to pay for business plan, feasibility study, marketing plan.• Working capital grant can be used for operating of the ag venture, (non-owner salaries, inventory, utilities, supplies, shipping, marketing, etc.)• Business plan and feasibility study required for working capital grants
Grant expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant recipients are expected to provide annual reports and a comprehensive final report with findings and analysis of project work.• Grants must have measurable outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant recipients must provide a progress report after one year and a final report.• Recipients must send in a final budget at the end of the project detailing how funds were used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning grant must report estimated increase in revenue, customer base and jobs created.• Working capital must report increase in customer base, revenue number and number of jobs created.

Program Name	DATCP Dairy Processor Grant	DATCP Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant	DATCP Buy Local Buy Wisconsin Grants
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Webpage	DATCP Home Dairy Development (wi.gov)	http://datcp.wi.gov Key Word: producer-led	DATCP Home Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin Grants
Application Deadline	Request for applications opens in September. Due in October.	Applications were due September 15, 2023 for 2024 funding. RFP for 2025 funding will be released July 2024.	Request for applications opens in July. Applications due in August
Purpose	Improve the long-term viability of Wisconsin’s dairy industry through services to dairy processing plants to facilitate operational changes, improve profitability and foster innovation and economic growth.	Increase locally-led conservation efforts and improve water quality through the development of producer-led watershed improvement groups throughout the state.	To strengthen Wisconsin’s agricultural and food industries by reducing marketing, distribution, and processing hurdles that impede sales of Wisconsin’s food products to local purchasers.
Eligible Applicants	Eligible applicants must operate a licensed dairy processing plant engaged in pasteurizing, processing or manufacturing milk or dairy products that is located in WI	At least 5 producers that meet the eligible farm definition who operate a farm within the same watershed project area: An "eligible farm" means a farm that produced at least \$6,000 in gross farm revenues during the taxable year or a total of at least \$18,000 in gross farm revenues during the preceding three years.	Individuals, groups, businesses and organizations involved in Wisconsin agriculture, food processing, food distribution, food warehousing, retail food establishments, or agricultural tourism. Proposals may involve collaborations or partnerships between producers, food businesses, industry, academia or organizations.
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dairy plant modernization and expansion efforts Food safety New technology, including new processes, wastewater treatment or handling, new uses for whey, or other innovations Efforts to improve/enhance staff retention, training, supervisory skills, and knowledge Other dairy processing projects may be considered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand cost-share programming to promote innovative practices and management such as precision conservation management, rotational grazing, agroforestry, no-till, cover crops, alternative forage systems etc. Education efforts to learn about conservation practice benefits for specific watershed areas through on-farm demonstrations, trials and research Targeted outreach that promotes the financial and environmental benefits of conservation to farmers and other industry professionals Other projects that demonstrate innovation in conservation agriculture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing WI local food sales Local food market development Enhancement of production, processing, marketing and distribution of Wisconsin food products Development of supply chain infrastructure.
Available Funds	\$500,000 per fiscal year	\$1,000,000 per fiscal year	\$200,000 per fiscal year
Grant Amount	maximum \$75,000	Maximum of \$40,000 per group	\$5,000 to \$50,000
Match	20% of the grant request	1:1	1:1
Other Notes		Projects must complete a final report using the DATCP approved template including tracking spreadsheet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects must be driven by or supported by local food producers
Grant expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects must be completed within two years of the start date Projects must complete a semi-annual and final reports highlighting project results and benefits to the WI dairy industry 	All project expectations are outlined in grant contract.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning grant must report estimated increase in revenue, customer base and jobs created. Working capital must report increase in customer base, revenue, and number of jobs created.

Program Name	DATCP Meat Processor Infrastructure Grant	DATCP Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Direct-to-Farmer Grant	DATCP Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Community Partner Grant
Staff Contact	Jeff Swenson (608) 590-7239 brianp.williams@wisconsin.gov	Katie Kracht (608) 224-9932 katie.kracht@wisconsin.gov	Katie Kracht (608) 224-9932 katie.kracht@wisconsin.gov
Webpage	https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/MeatProcessorInfrastructureGrants.aspx	https://www.wilocalfood.org/apply-for-wi-lfpa	https://www.wilocalfood.org/apply-for-wi-lfpa
Application Deadline	Opens in February. Due in March	Due November 22	Due November 22
Purpose	The Meat Processor Infrastructure Grant aims to grow Wisconsin's meat industry and improve the long-term viability of the state's livestock industry. Funding can be used for operating expenses, including engineering, architectural design, construction, food safety consultation, equipment, and equipment installation.	WI LFPA Direct to Farmer Grant Program works to engage social disadvantaged and Historically Underserved Producers to develop a more equitable local food system in which communities most in need have access to locally produced, culturally appropriate food.	The purpose of the WI-LFPA program is to strengthen food and agricultural supply chain resiliency, support Wisconsin farmers, and distribute fresh nutritious foods to underserved communities.
Eligible Applicants	Eligible applicants must operate or intend to operate a DATCP or USDA licensed meat-processing establishment in Wisconsin and be engaged in livestock harvest or processing. Open to new or existing processors to facilitate changes and expansion to grow harvest capacity and/or increase product throughput.	Farmers or food processors (Processed foods must contain at least 90% ingredients from Wisconsin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-profit organizations• Food access/hunger relief distribution organizations• Food aggregators or distributors (non-profit and for profit)• Local, Regional, or Tribal Governments
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Priorities will be set based on future stakeholder meetings with industry partners and input gathered from the industry.• Projects must increase harvest capacity or production.• Demonstrates industry-wide benefit.	Contracts are prioritized with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small to medium sized farms in communities affected by hunger and food insecurity• Black, Indigenous, and farmers of color• Veteran and/or under-resourced farmers• Farmers interested in scaling up their businesses by selling into hunger relief efforts and wholesale markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procure local food from socially disadvantaged producers and processors.• Distribute local food in the same community where it was grown, raised or processed to support local food supply chain networks.• Distribute local food to underserved communities not normally served through traditional food distribution networks.• Distribute food to underserved communities in the most food insecure counties listed at https://foodsecurity.wisc.edu
Available Funds	\$1,800,000 in 2024, then \$200,000/year going into the future.	Approximately \$2,000,000	\$1,500,000
Grant Amount	maximum \$150,000 in 2024 and \$50,000 in subsequent years	\$5,000 to \$25,000 direct to farmer for food procurement only	\$30,000 - \$300,000
Match	1:1	No match required	No match required
Other Notes		Contracts coordinated by Marbleseed	
Grant expectations	Progress report due every 6 months		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 70% of grant award must be spent on food procurement.• 80% of food purchased is from socially disadvantaged/historically underserved producers/processors.

Program Name	Regional Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Infrastructure Grant	Wisconsin Farm to School	
Staff Contact	Andrew Bernhardt <i>(although a new person will be hired)</i> (608) 572-0512 andrew.bernhardt@wisconsin.gov	April Yancer (608) 852-6327 april.yancer@wisconsin.gov	
Webpage	https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/RFSI.aspx	https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/FarmToSchool.aspx Info on the website is forthcoming.	
Application Deadline	Projected timeline: Opens in December. Due in early February	Opens and due in early spring 2024	
Purpose	The purpose of Wisconsin's Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Grant Program is to expand middle of the supply-chain capacity and infrastructure for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of local food products.	The goal of the Wisconsin Farm to School Grant Program is to enable communities to develop farm to school partnerships, implement farm to school initiatives, and strengthen Wisconsin's statewide farm to school network.	
Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Food businesses including farmers, processors, aggregators, and distributorsNonprofit organizations; Local and tribal governmentsInstitutions (ex. School, university, hospitals) or other buyers working toward improving infrastructure for middle of supply chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">K-12 schools/school districts; Afterschool Programs; Early Childcare Education (ECE) centers; Summer Community Nutrition ProgramsContracted school meal vendors or food service companiesFarm businesses (producing or composting), processors or aggregators and distributorsNon-profit organizations; Local and tribal governmentsStatewide organizations that work in a community or with a specific school/school district	
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Will fund capital expenses, including construction, equipment, building upgrades, training, market development, related personnel, systems implementation, and worker training.Benefit underserved farmers, processors and other middle-of-the-supply businesses owned by socially disadvantaged individualsOffer family-supporting job quality and treatment/safety of workers;Focus on small and medium-sized enterprises that add options and choices for consumers and producers (emphasis on value-added);Demonstrate local support for the project; and supports community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Build, strengthen or expand Farm to School TeamsIncrease equitable F2S access in underserved communitiesIncrease culturally appropriate, locally sourced foods served to student through meal and snack programsIncorporate farm to school education into food service, snack and mealtimes as well as core curriculum and elective activitiesImplements lessons on farm to school careersBuild school gardens or expand food production and processing for F2S	
Available Funds	\$27,000,000	\$250,000	
Grant Amount	Standard Grant Equipment-Only Grant	\$10,000 up to \$40,000.	
Match	Standard Grant starting match is 50% of total budget (1:1) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduced to 25% of total budget for underserved and disadvantaged applicants. Equipment-Only Grant – NO match required	25% of the award (or 20% of the total budget)	
Other Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This excludes meat, poultry and live-caught fish/seafoodMatch can be loans, even a FSA loan	Only 10% of the grant award may be used for food procurement. Food procurement must be used for educational or promotional uses.	
Grant expectations	Site visits will be conducted if awarded	Applicants must have a plan to capture success stories in various formats (video, photo, written, etc.) and gather impact and outcome data.	