

Agriculture and Markets

NYS Grown & Certified Infrastructure, Technology, Research and Development Grant Program

Q. Is this Program subject to the July 28, 4pm deadline?

A. Applicants applying to be Program Administrators must meet the July 28, 4pm deadline. Agricultural entities wishing to apply for funding for a capital or research and development project will have a separate deadline. An application deadline for agricultural projects will be announced after a Program Administrator has been selected and program details established/finalized.

Q. If I am an agricultural producer or processor, how do I apply to this program?

A. A program administrator will be selected to administer a grant program for each REDC regional grouping. Using the requirements detailed in the Program Description, each administrator will have a separate application process for agricultural entities to follow. Selected administrators will be posted on the REDC website at a future date.

Q. What are the match requirements for agricultural projects?

A. An eligible agricultural entity must provide at least 10% of the total project cost. Total individual capital project costs can range between \$20,000 to \$250,000 each. Total individual research and development project costs can range between \$10,000 to \$50,000 each.

Q. How far along is too far along in an agricultural project? For example, you have paid for architectural plans, but construction hasn't advanced.

A. A project should not begin and expenses should not be incurred before funding awards have been announced. Expenses incurred prior to submission of a CFA should not be included in CFA project budgets, nor should expenses that will be incurred after submission of a CFA but prior to an award announcement. But multi-component or multi-phase projects may apply without those pieces completed prior eligible for funding.

Q. How much emphasis is placed on MWBE requirement?

A. If a project is funded, MWBE goals will be established for the project. The goal ascribed depends on eligible expenses as identified by our MWBE team.

Q. Because multiple REDCs are grouped for fund distribution, which REDC will score the applications?

A. The address of the applicant will determine/correspond with which REDC rates the application.

Q. Do agricultural entities interested in this grant program, including distributors, have to be currently enrolled in NYS Grown & Certified?

A. Individual agricultural entities applying to this program must be currently enrolled in the NYS Grown & Certified program (NYS G&C) or provide a letter of commitment stating they will be enrolled by the conclusion of the project.

Distributors wishing to participate in this grant program must represent at least ten NYS G&C producers and have applied to NYS G&C as a Strategic Retail Partner.

Additional details are provided in the Eligible Applicants and Eligible Agricultural Entities sections of the Program Description.

Q. How should letters of support be submitted? There does not seem to be an area specified for attaching these documents.

A. Letters of support are not required for this program.

Q. Is this anticipated to be continued funding in the future or a one-time here and gone?

A. Funding is anticipated in future years; however, it is dependent on approval of the NYS budget on an annual basis.

Q. Is there any requirement that the product that is developed continue to be marketed, or asset purchased remain in production for some period?

A. Assets should remain in production at least throughout the term of the contract (5 years). Program Administrators should explain how they will ensure that projects have direct and timely benefit to New York agricultural producers/processors, including any application requirements, such as business plans. We would expect beyond the five years of the contract that the equipment continue to be used for the same or similar purpose.

Q. Are the projects funded up front or on a reimbursement basis?

A. Funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis; however, selected not-for-profit Program Administrators will be eligible to receive a 25% advance.

Q. Will the grants go out in one or more competitive grant rounds or will it be first come first served with an open application period until the money is gone?

A. The administrators will be awarded competitively. Each Program Administrator proposal should explain the timeline and structure of their proposed regional application process and this is not prescribed in the program description.

Q. Based on our reading, we don't qualify as a Program Administrator, but we do think we'd be a good candidate for a subgrantee. Do you know of any way we could connect with entities that are planning to apply so we could pursue that possibility? Or would subgrantees come into the process *after* the block grants are awarded to Program Administrators?

A. Subgrantees could potentially come into the process after the Program Administrators are selected and announced. Program Administrators will make the decision whether to work with subgrantees.

Q. Is it possible to apply as a Program Administrator for all the regional REDC groupings?

A. Yes, applicants may apply as an administrator for more than one regional grouping. Applications for each regional grouping must be submitted separately.

Q. Is it possible to apply to be a Program Administrator for just one REDC region rather than the entire regional grouping?

A. No, the regional groupings outlined in the RFP will not be split.