Discrimination Financial Assistance Program

Application Flow

Applicants

Submit applications online, by mail, or in-person.

Note: Application period closed January 17, 2024.

Receipt

Regional Hubs or National Administrator

Log and acknowledge application. Scan and enter data from paper applications.

Regional Hubs

- Check applications for signatures, social security numbers, verification of address/identity.
- Seek supplemental information if these items are missing or inconsistent.

National Administrator

Two independent teams each assess eligibility by asking:

- Did the applicant farm or ranch or try to farm or ranch?
- Did the applicant participate in USDA farm lending or try to participate in USDA farm lending?
- Did the applicant experience discrimination by USDA before 2021?

YES

If yes, the team scores the application using the USDA-approved guidance.

NO

If the answer to any of these questions is no, the team deems applicant ineligible.

Reconciles differences between the two teams.

USDA

Sets and enforces standards; oversees payment integrity with a focus on higher-risk areas, including applications where review teams disagree; and endorses final decisions on awards and denials.

National Administrator

Makes payments.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Updated March 22, 2024