



Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



AMS

Indigenous Animals Harvesting
and Meat Processing Grant
Program (IAG)



Summary

- Overview- What does this program entail?
- Eligibility- Who can apply for funds?
- Additional Information

www.ams.usda.gov/IAG



Overview

Legislative Authority

The Indigenous Animals Harvesting and Meat Processing Program (Indigenous Animals Grants) is authorized by Section 1001(b)(4) of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) (Pub. L. No. 117—2), which funds “loans and grants and other assistance to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency.”

Funding Source	Available Funding	Award Period (Months)	Minimum Amount	Maximum Amount	Match/Cost Share
ARPA	\$50 million	36	None	None	None

Grant Administration

- Administered by the Rural Business- Cooperative Service (RBCS), an agency within USDA Rural Development, in partnership with the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and in consultation with the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR).
- This program is designed to support the priorities articulated by tribal nations to USDA throughout consultations in 2021 and 2022.

Coordination with Tribal Governments

- USDA hosted a series of consultations where tribal leaders prioritized the need for food system and indigenous animal resources.
- Consulting Officials from USDA Rural Development and the Marketing and Regulatory Programs participated to hear concerns and input from elected tribal leaders, proxies, and tribal organizations.
- Input from meetings formed the drafting of the request for applications.

Program Goals

- To support traditional harvesting methods, indigenous animals, and community animal protein processing operations.
- Address needs for local animal protein processing capacity in Tribal communities and Tribal food supply chains.
- Expand or enhance animal protein processing in Indian Country.
- Portfolio representing geographic diversity, indigenous animal diversity, model diversity (mobile processing, multi-tribal, etc.), and scale diversity.

Program Priorities

- **Focus:**
 - Strengthening tribal food access
 - Incorporating indigenous animals
 - Using indigenous-informed design principles which focus on market-based profitability.
- **Project profitability plans are not expected or required.**
- **Project sustainability plans will be required.**
- **Project Prioritization:**
 - Projects that maximize meat processing and indigenous animal diversity based on geography, operation size and species or operating model.
 - Projects that focus predominantly on developing harvesting and processing activities around indigenous animals.

Tentative 2023 Program Schedule

Grant	RFA Publication Date	RFA Closing Date
Indigenous Animals Harvesting and Meat Processing Grant Program (IAG)	April 19, 2023	July 19, 2023



Eligibility

Eligible Entities

Tribal Governments of Indian tribes as defined by the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act (List Act) of 1994 (Pub. L. No. 103-454), their wholly owned arms and instrumentalities, and joint or multi tribal government entities are eligible to apply.

Ineligible Entities

- Processing businesses owned by non-tribal-governmental entities or individual tribal members are not eligible for this program.
- Ineligible entities may qualify for Local MCap or other USDA funding opportunities.
 - Other opportunities can be found at: [Grants & Opportunities | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#) or [Federal Funding Opportunities | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#).

Examples of Eligible Activities

- Refer to RFA for additional examples.
- Applications must include indigenous animals & meat processing activities such as:
 - Build, expand, or upgrade community indigenous meat, food-sovereignty harvesting/processing facilities (fixed or mobile)
 - Purchase, renovation and modernization of an inoperable or outdated processing facility
 - Enhance infrastructure to improve humane handling and humane slaughter
- Applications may also include secondary activities related to expansion:
 - Initiate or upgrade waste management and wastewater solutions
 - Purchase or upgrade composting or rendering equipment related to the processing of the animal protein
 - Develop packaging and labeling capacities (e.g., sealing, bagging, boxing, labeling, conveying, and product moving equipment)



Equipment Costs

- Equipment purchases that support indigenous animals' harvest and meat processing are generally allowable as special purpose equipment
 - Processing, aggregation, or storage investments;
 - Value chain/supply chain innovation or upgrades, including equipment or technology upgrades or investments to support process adaptations;
 - Special purpose vehicles, meaning only those vehicles specifically meant for mobile processing units or to transport animals for the purpose of harvest; and,
 - Product development, packaging, and marketing of agricultural products.
- Purchases over \$5,000 must be approved by USDA

Unallowable Costs

- Grant recipients may not use funds to:
 - Purchase or lease land;
 - Purchase personal or other vehicles that are not integral to the indigenous meat processing operation;
 - Pay for technical assistance;
 - Cover project planning or feasibility study expenses;
 - Duplicate activities of a project that has received a Federal award from another Federal award program; or
 - Claim expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal, state, or local government funding.

Eligible Species

- **Amenable Species**- including Siluriformes, that fall within the regulatory jurisdiction of the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service
- **Non- Amenable Species**- including but not limited to bison, reindeer, game meat, seafood processing including wild-caught fish and other ‘exotic” species that may fall under the jurisdiction of the US Food and Drug Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services

Review Process

- AMS will conduct the initial evaluation and then final award approvals will be completed by Rural Development
- Evaluation Criteria (*located in section 5.1 of the RFA*):
 - Alignment and Intent (25pts)
 - Technical Merit (20pts)
 - Achievability (15pts)
 - Expertise and Technical Management (15pts)
 - Fiscal Plan, Financial Viability and Resources (10pts)
 - Community Impact and Support (15pts)

Review and Selection Process

- **Step 1: Initial Qualification Screening:**
 - Each application is reviewed for completeness, compliance with eligibility and program requirements
- **Step 2: Technical Review:**
 - Evaluated by a panel of independent reviewers
 - Independent reviewers score based on application criteria
 - Scores serve as discussion for awarding and allocating grant funds

Step 3: Administrative Review:

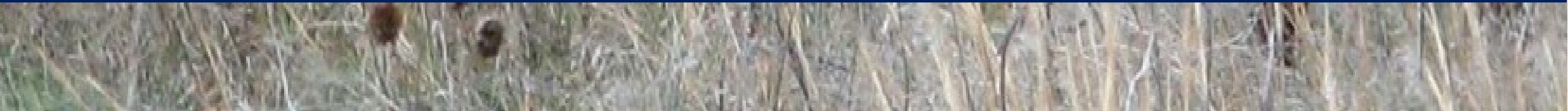
- AMS will conduct a final administrative evaluation of each review panel's top rankings and recommendations.

National Environmental Policy Act and Other Federal Laws and Regulations

- **NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act)**
 - USDA Rural Development is responsible for ensuring that funded activities comply with NEPA, related applicable agency regulations and instructions, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), other laws and regulations as outlined in 7 CFR Part 1970, and any additional applicable state, local, or tribal laws.
- **RBCS (Rural Business Cooperative Service)**
 - Requires NEPA and NHPA Section 106 compliance reviews prior to awarding grant funds.
 - RBCS may request additional information to complete the environmental review.



Application Information



What You Need to Apply

Required Action	Timing to Obtain/Submit
AMS Application Deadline	July 19th, 2023- 11:59PM (EST)
Obtain a TIN/EIN (if you do not already have one)	Up to 2 weeks
Make sure SAM.gov account is Active (if you do not already have one)	7-10 business days
**Obtain your Organization's UEI Number (if you do not already have one)	1-2 business days
Create your Grants.gov profile and register organization and Authorized Representative	Up to 2 weeks

Available Technical Assistance

- **Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity Technical Assistance**
 - Federal Grant Application Management
 - No cost technical assistance
 - <https://www.ams.usda.gov/mppta>
- **SAM.gov**
 - Federal Service Desk
 - Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET
 - Phone: 866-606-8220
 - https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp/?id=gsa_landing
- **Grants.gov**
 - Email: support@grants.gov
 - Phone: 800-518-4726
 - Keep a record of any correspondence, including any ID or case number provided.

Helpful Links and Contact Information

- IAG Program Website: www.usda.gov/iag
 - General Application Information- Including RFA, FAQs, Webinar Recordings, etc.
- Email: IAG@usda.gov

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