

Agriculture Innovation Center Program

What does this program do?

The Agriculture Innovation Center Program (AICP) awards grants to eligible Agriculture Innovation Centers that help ag producers develop and market value-added agricultural products. Here are some examples of value-added activities:

- **Jams and jellies made from produce grown on your farm**
- **Textiles woven from fleece harvested on your ranch**

Who can apply?

- **Local and state governments**
- **Tribes as defined in 2 CFR 200 (available at this link: [tinyurl.com/RD-2CFR-200](https://www.tinyurl.com/RD-2CFR-200))**
- **Institutions of higher education**
- **Commercial and nonprofit organizations**



QR code to the AICP webpage

How can funds be used?

Grant and matching funds can be used to operate Agriculture Innovation Centers, and to provide services to eligible ag producers. For example:

- Business development services such as creating feasibility studies and business plans
- Marketing services such as developing marketing plans, branding, and customer identification
- Organizational assistance such as legal and technical advisory services for business development, operation, or expansion
- Financial advisory services, including such things as finding credit for operating costs, training on financial management software systems, and cash flow guidance
- Process development services including engineering, scale production assessments, and systems development
- Product development such as idea generation, concept testing, and consumer analysis, including demographics and brand development

- Value chain coordination such as connecting ag producers to distribution systems, processing facilities, or commercial kitchens

What are some other grant terms?

Individual grants to agricultural producers cannot exceed \$5,000

How do we get started?

- The first step is to ensure your organization has a valid, free, Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) in the System for Award Management (SAM).
- Before you register for this free service, we encourage you to read the SAM.gov help materials available at this link: [tinyurl.com/SAM-Help](https://www.tinyurl.com/SAM-Help).

Who can answer questions?

Email your questions to: SM.RBCS.AIC@usda.gov.

What governs this program?

The AICP is authorized by 7 CFR 4284, Subpart K, available at this link: [tinyurl.com/7CFR-4284-K](https://www.tinyurl.com/7CFR-4284-K).

NOTE: Because information changes, always consult official program instructions or contact your local Rural Development office for help. A list is available at this link: [go.usa.gov/xJHPE](https://www.go.usa.gov/xJHPE). You will find additional resources, forms, and program information at [rd.usda.gov](https://www.rd.usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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