

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Value-Added Producer Grant Accepting Applications

The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) Notice of Funding Opportunity ([NOFO](#)) was published Wednesday, January 17, 2024 and an [announcement](#) distributed. Please read the NOFO in its entirety, as it contains all the pertinent information for the application process. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- Applicants must be agricultural producers.
- There are two types of grants:
 - Planning with a maximum award amount of \$75,000.
 - Working Capital with a maximum award amount of \$250,000.
- Applications will compete nationally.
- The anticipated award announcement date is September 30, 2024.
- There is approximately \$30 million available in program funding.
 - There is a match requirement of \$1 for every \$1 in grant funds.
 - Matching funds may be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions.
- Please pay particular attention to the points for commitments and support and how they pertain to cash and in-kind match:
 - No cash match: 0 points.
 - Cash match equals less than 50% of matching contribution: 1 point.
 - Cash match equals 50% or more of the matching contribution: 2 points.
 - Cash match equals 100% of matching contribution: 4 points.

The FY24 application toolkits have been posted and can be downloaded from the [USDA RD website](http://tinyurl.com/vnwx6987) (<http://tinyurl.com/vnwx6987>).

Paper applications need to be postmarked by **April 16, 2024**. They may also be hand-delivered, or emailed, to the State Office by close of business **(4:30p.m. EST) on April 16, 2024**. Electronic applications that are submitted through grants.gov are due by **11:59p.m. EST on April 11, 2024**.

Interested applicants may have questions about the application process, forms, etc. Please do not hesitate to contact Loan Specialist Ivana Hernandez-Clukey with any questions or concerns you may have:

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