



# News Release

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## USDA Makes \$123 Million Available for Meat and Poultry Processors

*Grants Made Possible with Help from New Hampshire Community Loan Fund; Will Increase Efficiency and Ease Bottlenecks of Meat Processing*

**MONTPELIER, VT, Aug. 24, 2023** – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development State Director Sarah Waring today announced that USDA is making more funding available for meat and poultry processors to expand operations, transform the food supply chain and create new and better markets for producers. Through a partnership with the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund, USDA is freeing up \$123 million in grants through the [Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program](#). The Biden-Harris Administration created the program to promote a fairer, more competitive and more resilient meat and poultry supply chain.

“The Biden-Harris Administration and USDA are committed to transforming our food system to one that creates new markets for our small and mid-sized farming operations while protecting opportunity in our rural communities for generations to come,” Waring said. “The funding we’re making available today to meat and poultry processors will not only give producers more options, but also create good paying jobs and build greater resilience in our overall food system.”

The grants will help independent businesses build and modernize processing facilities and equipment, adopt new technologies and train workers, advancing President Biden’s commitment to grow the economy from the bottom up and middle out with good-paying jobs and opportunities in every community.

Eligible projects may receive grants from \$250,000 up to \$10 million, while applicants must cover 70% of the total project cost. Applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](#) by 11:59pm ET on Nov. 22, 2023. Eligibility details are available on [Grants.gov](#).

### Background: Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program

The [Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program](#) provides grants to help eligible independent processors to expand their capacity. USDA Rural Development designed the program to encourage competition and sustainable growth in the U.S. meat processing sector, and to help improve supply chain resiliency. USDA already has awarded more than \$200 million to independent businesses under the program, including a [\\$1.09 million investment in Vermont Livestock Slaughter & Processing](#) in November, 2022 during the MPPEP’s initial funding round. These projects have created thousands of jobs across the country. Learn more about USDA’s investments to strengthen the meat and poultry supply chain at [usda.gov/meat](http://usda.gov/meat). To subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit the [GovDelivery subscriber page](#).

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