

## STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

### **USDA Seeks Applications for Grants to Help Agricultural Producers and Small Rural Businesses Develop and Market New Products**

**WASHINGTON**, Dec. 11, 2019 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Donald “DJ” LaVoy today announced that USDA is accepting applications for grants to help farmers, ranchers and producer-based businesses nationwide develop new products and expand marketing opportunities.

USDA is making \$37 million in grants available under the [Value-Added Producer Grant](#) (VAPG) program to develop new products from raw agricultural products or promote new markets for established products. Veterans, socially-disadvantaged groups, beginning farmers and ranchers, operators of small- and medium-sized family farms and ranches, and farmer and rancher cooperatives are given special priority.

Electronic applications must be submitted to [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by March 5, 2020, at midnight eastern time. Paper applications must be submitted to the applicant’s [nearest USDA office](#) by March 10, 2020. Additional information is available on page 67703 of the Dec. 11, 2019, [Federal Register](#).

USDA encourages applications that will support recommendations made in the [Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#) (PDF, 5.4 MB) to help improve the quality of life in rural America. Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable economies through strategic investments in infrastructure, partnerships and innovation. Key strategies include:

- Achieving e-Connectivity for Rural America
- Developing the Rural Economy
- Harnessing Technological Innovation
- Supporting a Rural Workforce
- Improving Quality of Life

USDA invites non-federal independent grant reviewers to evaluate and score applications submitted under this notice.

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