

Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program

What does this program do?

The Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP) provides grants to help eligible processors expand their capacity. USDA Rural Development designed the MPPEP to encourage competition and sustainable growth in the U.S. meat processing sector, and to help improve supply chain resiliency.

Who can apply for this program?

Sole proprietor businesses or other entities that engage – or want to engage – in meat and poultry processing.

How can funds be used?

Grant funds can be used to expand processing capacity by supporting activities such as:

- Building new – or modernizing or expanding existing – processing facilities
- Developing, installing, or modernizing equipment and technology
- Ensuring compliance with packaging and labeling requirements
- Upholding occupational and other safety requirements
- Modifying facilities or equipment to protect food safety
- Paying for voluntary grading services on value-added processed products
- Offsetting costs associated with becoming an inspected facility
- Supporting workforce recruitment, training, and retention

What is the maximum grant amount?

The maximum award amount is \$25 million, or 20 percent of total project costs, whichever is less. There is no minimum award amount.

What are some other requirements?

Eligible applicants must:

- Process – or plan to process – one or more species subject to the **Federal Meat Inspection Act** (available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xtzhB>), or the **Poultry Product Inspection Act** (available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xtzhN>)
- Have – or plan to get – a **Federal Grant of Inspection through USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service** (available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xtzhU>), a Grant of Inspection under the **Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program** (available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xtzhG>), or a federal equivalent **Tribal or state-based meat and poultry inspection program** (state-based information available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xtzht>)
- Comply with the **National Environmental Policy Act** (available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xtuqD>) and **Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act** (available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xtuq6> - PDF), and all other applicable state, local or Tribal laws.

What governs this program?

- The **MPPEP** is authorized by Section 1001(b)(4) of the **American Rescue Plan Act** – also known as Public Law 117-2, available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xtuxW>.

How do I apply?

Check the Request for Applications (RFA) at <https://www.grants.gov/>.

Who can answer questions?

- Questions can be submitted to <https://www.rd.usda.gov/mppep>, or by email at MPPEP@usda.gov.

NOTE: Because citations and other information are subject to change, always consult the program instructions listed in the section above, titled “What Governs This Program?” You can also contact your local office (a list is available at this link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices>) for help. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at [rd.usda.gov](https://www.rd.usda.gov). *USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*