VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANT
Locally Produced Agricultural Food Products

General

- Grants funds are available for economic planning activities or working capital activities related to the processing and/or marketing of locally produced agricultural food products.

- An agricultural food product can be a raw, cooked, or processed edible substance, beverage, or ingredient intended for *human consumption*. These products cannot be animal feed, live animals (except for seafood products customarily sold and/or consumed live), non-harvested plants, fiber, medicinal products, cosmetics, tobacco products, or narcotics.

- Applications for locally produced agricultural food products must demonstrate how local distribution and sales of the raw agricultural food product results in increased value to the commodity, and how it expands markets for, and increases financial returns to, the agricultural producer applicants. For example, does identification of the product as a 'local food' result in a willingness by consumers to pay higher prices?

- To qualify as a locally produced agricultural food product, ALL of the agricultural food product must be raised, produced, and distributed (1) in the locality or region in which the final product is marketed, so that the total distance the product is transported is less than 400 miles from the origin of the product, or (2) within the State in which the product is produced.

- The grant applicant must be an eligible agricultural producer defined by the program: Agricultural Producer, Agricultural Producer Group, Farmer or Rancher Cooperative, or Majority-Controlled Producer Based Business

Resources: Applications must meet ALL program requirements

- VAPG website: http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants
- Application Toolkits
- Program Regulation 7 CFR 4284-J published September 16, 2024
- Program Information Sheets
- Rural Development State Offices: 1-800-670-6553, then press "1" or http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices.
- Agricultural Marketing Resource Center website: http://www.agmrc.org