Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program

What does this program do?
The Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program (MPILP) provides grant funding to intermediary lenders who finance – or plan to finance – the start-up, expansion, or operation of meat and poultry. The MPILP’s objective is to strengthen the financing capacity for independent meat processors, and to create a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain.

What types of intermediaries can apply for this program?
Private, nonprofit corporations, public agencies, federally-recognized Tribes, and cooperatives that finance – or plan to finance – the start-up, expansion, or operation of meat and poultry processing are eligible to apply.

Who are eligible ultimate recipients?
Businesses engaged, or proposing to engage, in the processing of meat or poultry – either directly, or through agreements with other entities - can apply for a loan from the intermediary lender as an ultimate recipient.

Ultimate recipients must:
• Be a business engaged, or proposing to engage, in commercial meat or poultry processing projects; either directly, or through agreements with other entities
• In addition to residing in the U.S., MPILP ultimate recipients’ projects must be located in the U.S., as well
• Comply with USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service requirements (information available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xz755), or be custom exempt

How can funds be used?
Grant funds to intermediaries can be used to operate and expand meat and poultry processing capacity by supporting activities such as:

• Purchasing and developing land
• Constructing a new facility
• Modernizing or expanding an existing facility
• Developing, installing, or modernizing equipment and technology
• Improving leaseholds
• Ensuring compliance with occupational and other safety requirements
• Modernizing equipment or facilities to ensure food safety
• Refinancing debt
• Purchasing cooperative stock (by individual farmers or ranchers in a farmer or rancher cooperative)
• Purchasing transferable cooperative stock
• Making loans to a fund that invests primarily in cooperatives (in accordance with the provisions of the program)
• Qualifying taxable corporate bonds
• Paying for feasibility studies
• Undertaking pollution control and abatement
• Handling waste management
• Offsetting start-up costs, working capital, fees, and other expenses related to federal inspection
What is the maximum grant amount?
The maximum, aggregate grant award is $15 million, and applicants can apply for funds up to this aggregate amount in more than one cycle. The minimum grant award is $500,000. No more than $10 million in MPILP grant funds can be used for any single loan.

Are there any other requirements?
Eligible applicants must:

- Have – or plan to develop – capacity and expertise in meat and poultry processing lending
- Have the capacity to conduct outreach and marketing, underwrite loan applications, and provide the servicing and monitoring of the proposed portfolio
- Have the legal authority to carry out the proposed grant purposes, including operating and administering a revolving loan

How do I apply?
Check the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) at https://www.grants.gov/.

Who can answer questions?
Questions can be submitted to https://www.rd.usda.gov/mpilp under the contact tab, or by email at MPILP@usda.gov.

What governs this program?
The MPILP is authorized by Section 751 of Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xtuxW.

NOTE: Because information is subject to change, always consult official program instructions or contact your local Rural Development Office for help. A list is available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xzSKbYou. You will find additional resources, forms, and program information at https://rd.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.