

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 slaughter, or other processing 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.