

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
- Comply with USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service requirements (information available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xz755>), or be custom exempt
- Not hold a market share greater than – or equal to – the entity that holds the fourth largest share of the market for beef, pork, chicken, or turkey

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.

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 1001(b)(4) of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), also known as Public Law 117-2, available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xtuxW>

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 may 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. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.