

Agriculture Innovation Center Program

What does this program do?

The Agriculture Innovation Center Program awards grants to eligible Agriculture Innovation Centers that provide technical assistance to agricultural producers to help them develop and market value-added agricultural products. Grant funds cannot be used to promote joint marketing efforts.

Who may apply for this program?

- **Public bodies**
- **Federally-recognized Tribes**
- **Institutions of higher education**
- **Nonprofit organizations**
- **For-profit corporations**

How may funds be used?

Grant and matching funds can be used to operate an Agriculture Innovation Center, and to provide the following services and support to agricultural producers:

- Financial advisory services to promote the development, expansion, or operation of a business owned by an agricultural producer
- Process development services, including engineering services, scale production assessments, and systems development
- Organizational assistance, including legal and technical advisory services
- Outreach assistance
- Technical assistance for product development (excluding research and development)

How do we get started?

Before you apply:

- If your organization doesn't already have one, you must get a Data Universal Number System (**DUNS**) number prior to completing the pre-application step listed below. It's best to request your DUNS at least a month before the application deadline.
- If your organization doesn't already have an active number in the System for Award Management (**SAM**), you will need to register for one. This free

process requires several steps, so plan to start at least a month before the application deadline.

Prior to registering, we encourage you to read the HELP materials available on the SAM website at this link: <https://sam.gov/content/help>. Keep in mind you'll need a DUNS number in order to complete your SAM registration.

Also, if your business or organization supplies (or plans to supply) goods to the federal government, NATO member nations, or other foreign governments, you'll need to provide your Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) code and expiration date on your application. You can learn more about CAGE codes by visiting this link: <https://cage.dla.mil/>.

Who can answer questions?

- If you have questions, you can contact your nearest **RD office**.

Where can I get more information about the program?

Please read the Federal Register Notice for important information needed before applying for the grant. You can find Agriculture and Innovation Center regulations on the **e-CFR**.

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please contact your local office for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at rd.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.