



News Release

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USDA Announces Availability of an Additional \$35 Million for the Value-Added Producer Grant Program to Support COVID-19 Relief Efforts

San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 15, 2021 – The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that it is making an additional \$35 million available this year in the [Value-Added Producer Grant Program](#) to support agricultural producers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is made possible through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. In total, \$76 million is available.

Luis R. García, Acting State Director for Puerto Rico indicated, that USDA is extending the application deadline to **May 4, 2021**. USDA originally opened the application window on Dec. 21, 2020, with an application due date of March 22, 2021. García indicated that last October 2020, Puerto Rico received \$2,336,486 for 11 Rural Business & Agricultural Producers.

The amended notice published today also reduces the matching requirement for applicants seeking the \$35 million in COVID-19 relief funding.

Applicants are encouraged to start the application process now. Before you apply:

- request a [Data Universal Number System \(DUNS\)](#) number if your organization does not already have one; and
- register your organization with the [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) if you are not already registered.

Application toolkits are available on the [Value-Added Producer Grant](#) program webpage. Applicants must follow requirements in both the [original notice](#) and the amended notice. For additional information on the amended notice, see page 12905 of the March 5, 2021, [Federal Register](#).

Value-Added Producer Grants may be used to develop new products from raw agricultural products or to promote new markets for established products. Veterans, socially disadvantaged groups, beginning farmers and ranchers, operators of small- and medium-sized family farms and ranches, and farmer and rancher cooperatives are given special priority.

If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our [GovDelivery subscriber page](#) or follow us at [@RD_PuertoRico](#).

For additional information, see the notice in the [Federal Register](#) or contact Miguel Ramírez at miguel.ramirez@usda.gov .

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