

NYS Meat Processing Expansion 2.0 Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL

Q. What activities are eligible under the NYS MPEG 2.0 Grant:

- A.** Funding is available for projects related to the following activities:
- Expansion of meat processing and processed product creation
 - Aggregation and storage, as part of a larger processing expansion project
 - Operational efficiency improvements
 - Improving food safety standards for processing facilities in order to access new markets, with a focus on institutional sales
 - Increase/retain processing capacity through job training

Q. What Entities are Eligible to Apply:

- A.** For-profit businesses currently operating under USDA-Inspected, NYS 20C, or NYS 5A 20,000 Bird Small Enterprise Exemption licenses or who will secure such licensure during the grant period
- Start-up enterprises; applicants must demonstrate sufficient financial and land resources and technical knowledge at the time of application.
 - Nonprofit organizations that are currently generating revenue through the listed licensed meat processing-related activities
 - Municipal Governments and Educational Institutions are not eligible to apply.
 - All applicant types must process meat products in New York State and must comply with all Federal and New York State laws and regulations.

Q. What are the NYS Priorities for the Grant:

A. Funding Priorities

- Projects focused on products marketed to Nourish NY, Farm to School, or other institutional markets
- Businesses with USDA-Inspected facilities
- Further geographic diversity of NYS meat processing capacity

Q. What are the award limits for MPEG 2.0 Grants?

- A.** \$4,714,511 will be available to eligible applicants.
- Maximum award is \$250,000. Applicants may not request more than this amount per project.
 - Minimum award is \$50,000. Applicants must request at least this amount per project.

Match funds will be required and account for 20% of the project. Match funds must be eligible grant expenses and contributed proportionately to each grant budget item at the time of request for reimbursement.

Q. Do I need to be in “Good Standing with the State of New York” to receive funding?

A. Yes. Business entities that are not required to register with the New York Department of State must complete an affidavit of sole proprietor/partnership in place of a certificate of good standing.

Q. Must my business be located in New York State?

A. Yes. All applicant businesses and organizations must be physically located in New York State and domestically owned.

Q. Are matching funds required under the MPEG 2.0 Program?

A. Yes. All projects require a 20% match. Accordingly, grantees are required to directly pay an equal amount of total project costs that they receive in funding.

Q. Are Letters of Support required for this grant?

A. Yes. All applicants must submit a minimum of three and no more than five Letters of Support from businesses either currently supplying or buying from their operation. The letters should describe the business relationship between the applicant and the supplier/buyer (including the number of years working together), confirm the good standing of the applicant, and provide any relevant information on the volume of sourcing from NYS farms, the reliability or the qualities of the business from the buyer’s perspective. For applicants selling to Institutions, Letters of Support **must** be provided from up to five institutional buyers that the applicant intends to supply through this grant.

If applicants submit a proposal that includes multiple sub-awardees, a Letter of Commitment is required from each project partner. These letters should include a brief background on the partner, the roles and responsibilities of the partner, and confirm the resources needed to carry out the project.

Q. Is there a template for the Letters of Support?

A. Yes. The template can be found [HERE](#).

Q. Is there a single reimbursement or can you get reimbursed for phases of the project as it goes along?

A. Reimbursements may be submitted quarterly. Please refer to Pages 16/17 of the RFP to understand the reimbursement process.

Q. Regarding reimbursement - I heard that 10% will be held for project completion. How and when will the other 90% be disbursed? Is there opportunity for an advance?

A. There will be no advances provided. Each reimbursement request will have 10% withheld at the time of payment. The final 10% will be paid to the grantee when the Final Progress Report and all other required documentation is submitted.

Q. Do applicants have to be registered with NYS Vendrep at time of application?

A. No. You will be required to be registered with Vendrep at the time of contracting if you are awarded.

Q. What are the permitting requirements for projects?

A. Applicants are required to know what permitting is required at the time of submission and to provide a detailed description of what permits and approvals are required.

Additional submission requirements are:

- Does your organization currently have control of the land/site on which the project will occur?
- Does the project trigger SEQR, SHPO, or other environmental or state agency review?
- Will the project require permits, and if so, have the required permits been secured?
- What steps have been taken and what is the anticipated timeline for approval.
- Submit any permits secured or official letters waiving permit/environmental review.

Q: Does meeting more than one priority make an application more competitive?

A: Yes. Additional points will be awarded for meeting more than one priority.

Q: What if I cannot source all ingredients of a product regionally or locally but use as much as possible?

A: All projects must work with at least 51% NYS-originated products to be eligible.

Q. When would be the results announced for this grant?

A. We anticipate that the announcement for approved projects will take place in late 2026.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Eligible grant expenses will include the construction, renovation, adaptation, purchase, and/or installation of structures, equipment, supplies, and other expenses related to the processing of meat products (beef, pork, lamb, goat, poultry, and seafood), as well as costs related to NYS

Department of Labor meat processing apprenticeship requirements. ***Expenses paid by the applicant before the start of the grant contract period will be ineligible.***

Q. Can I use funds to purchase or lease land?

A. No. It is unallowable to use grant funds for the acquisition of buildings, facilities, or land.

Q. Can I use funds to construct a new building?

A. Yes. It is allowable to use grant funds to construct a new building provided that the applicant submit a letter of critical infrastructure confirming that they have ownership of the site and buildings in question or have approval from their landlord to perform the works proposed in their application.

Q. Are Professional Service costs allowed?

A. Design, legal, permitting and other professional services, related to project assessment and design, are allowable.

Q. Can land or building purchases count towards match?

A. No. All match funding must be an eligible expense under the program. Any expenses that are not considered an eligible reimbursable expense, are also not considered an eligible match expense.

Q. Are forklifts considered vehicles?

A. No. They are considered Equipment.

BUDGET QUESTIONS

Q: Are applicants required to submit written quotes at the time of submission?

A: Yes. Eligible project costs with a unit price over \$5,000 must be supported by at least one current quote or written estimate.

Q: If an equipment quote changes after the grant is awarded and is therefore more expensive, is there any way to cover that additional cost?

A: No, unfortunately the grantee would need to cover the difference. Contingency of this sort is unallowable.

Q: Will you award less than the requested funds?

A: We will aim to award the full request. We may award less if there are outstanding circumstances or if we are close to running out of funds on the final approved project. Additionally, if items within the requested funds budget do not meet the eligibility requirements, the requested funds total will be reduced by those amounts before consideration.

Q: How do you get quotes for equipment bought on platforms like Craigslist or Facebook Marketplace?

A: It is acceptable to take a screenshot of this. However, the grantee is responsible for ensuring any used equipment is in working condition or it is their responsibility to pay for and integrate in time to get the equipment up and running. Any used equipment must meet the specifications required to meet the impacts detailed in the grant proposal.

Q. Where do we list general contractor costs in the budget?

A. In the Contractual/Consultant section.

Q. Is project associated labor eligible (like an owners rep) for match only?

A. This is a cash match grant. Additionally, only Eligible Expenses may be used for matching funds. Accordingly, as personnel is explicitly ineligible, it cannot be used for match.

Q. I had a question regarding matching funds: would contributions designated by a local government qualify as matching funds for this grant?

A. They could potentially qualify so long as the applicant clearly details how there is no duplication between the costs covered in the two programs.

Q. Can the matching funds be from a loan, or do they need to be from capital already on hand?

A. Matching funds and upfront capital can be from a loan. Projects borrowing capital must submit letters of commitment from lenders at the time of grant application submission. Letters may state that funding is conditional upon the applicant's receiving the grant.