

**Overview: Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI) Technical Assistance Available for USDA Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP) - Phase 2**

To learn how AURI can support your Federal grant efforts at no charge, please see the Technical Assistance on page 2.

**Program Schedule**

Grant	Request for Application Start Date	Request for Application Closing Date
Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP)	August 24, 2023	November 22, 2023 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time Zone

**Program Goals and Priorities**

- To make loans and grants and provide other assistance to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency
- Promote competition and contribute to resilient food agriculture supply chains by expanding processing options within the applications market
- Provide more processing capacity by accommodating different species or increase overall processing volume for agriculture producers of meat and poultry
- Provide meat and processing for human consumption
- Support projects that are technically feasible, financially viable and have already identified other sources of funding for completion

**Project Overview:**

For the MPPEP program, key information and requirements are described below.

	Grant Program 10.381 "RD-RBS-23-02-MPPEP" Details	RFA Section/Page
<b>Grant Administration</b>	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)- Rural Development Business- Cooperative Service (RBCS)	
<b>Application Submission</b>	<a href="http://www.grants.gov">www.grants.gov</a>	
<b>Total Program Funding</b>	\$123 million	Section 2.2- Pg 10
<b>Minimum Grant Amount</b>	\$250,000	Section 2.2 – Pg 10
<b>Maximum Grant Amount</b>	\$10 million or 30% of the total project costs, whichever is less Construction (and equipment) or other source activities associated with the project are eligible Projects that only require equipment purchases are eligible for grants from \$5 million to \$10 million	Section 2.2 – Pg 10
<b>Cost Share</b>	70% cost share Example: a \$1,000,000 project would qualify for a \$300,000 grant and require \$700,000 in matching funds	Section 3.1 – Pg 13
<b>Feasibility Study Requirements</b>	Third party analysis required for processors that have operated less than one year	Section 4.2.3 – Pg 17
<b>Business Plan Requirements</b>	Provide a plan that includes business goals and objectives, market analysis and the rationale for the proposed project	Section 4.2.2 – Pg 14
<b>National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements</b>	Complete environmental checklist to identify potential environmental impacts for NEPA	Section 1.5 – Pg 10
<b>Performance Period</b>	48 months	Section 2.3 – Pg 11
<b>Grant Review</b>	Competitive Panel Review	Section 5.2 – Pg 24
<b>Page Requirements</b>	Maximum 35 page Example: 15 original pages project narrative + 20 pages of applicant content Forms, environmental information, financial and all supporting documents do not count toward the 20-page limit	Section 4.2.2 – Pg 14

**Eligible and Non-Eligible Applicants:**

<b>Eligible Applicants</b>	<b>Non-Eligible Applicants</b>
Tribes and tribal entities	Meat and poultry processing entities that are exclusive for non-commercial use
For-profit businesses and non-profit entities, corporations, producer-owned cooperatives and corporations, certified benefit corporations, state or local government entities	Hold a market share equal to or greater than the fourth largest share of the national market for beef, pork, chicken or turkey processing
Private entities must be independently owned and operated	Source the aggregate, or provide the aggregate of more than 20% of inputs, from entities that hold a market share equal to or greater than the fourth largest share of the national market for beef, pork, chicken or turkey processing
Must process or plan to process one or more species subject to the Federal Meat Inspection Act or the Poultry Products Inspection Act	Propose to, or engage in, further processing that does not expand primary processing capacity at the applicant's facility
Must process or plan to obtain Federal Grant of Inspection, a grant of inspection under the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program (CISP) or a state meat and poultry inspection program	Will remain custom-exempt or otherwise uninspected, with no plans to operate under Federal inspection or state equivalent
Must demonstrate a project increases demand for animals; increases opportunities for producers to access value-added markets and improves the viability of an existing processing operation	Have received a grant award from MPPEP round 1, Local MCap or IAG grants. If they are awarded a grant from one of the named programs, they are ineligible to receive funding from MPPEP under the notice

**AURI Technical Assistance:**

As a Technical Assistance Provider under the Meat and Poultry Processing Technical Assistance (MPPTA) Network, we encourage applicants and processors to contact AURI. Oure staff can provide a variety of capabilities with assistance at no-cost to meat and poultry processors. AURI can assist in the following areas:

- 1) **Federal Grant Management**
  - Obtaining grants.gov Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number and Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)
  - Navigating application process
  - Determining applicant eligibility
  - Determining project eligibility
  - Offering referrals to grant writers and business plan writers
  - Providing commentary and project narrative review before application submission
- 2) Business Development Assistance
- 3) Meat and Poultry Processing Technical Assistance
- 4) Supply Chain Development

**AURI Contact Information:**

<b>Organization</b>	<i>Agricultural Utilization Research Institute</i>	<i>USDA- Rural Development</i>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.auri.org">www.auri.org</a>	<a href="https://www.rd.usda.gov/">https://www.rd.usda.gov/</a>
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:knesvig@auri.org">knesvig@auri.org</a> (Kim Nesvig) <a href="mailto:lbachmeier@auri.org">lbachmeier@auri.org</a> (Laura Bachmeier)	<a href="mailto:mppep@usda.gov">mppep@usda.gov</a>

For more information on the MPPEP grant information, please visit: [Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)

For more information on the grant Request for Applications (RFA) guidelines, please visit: [View Opportunity | GRANTS.GOV](#)