



Transportation and Marketing



Grant Opportunities

Regional Food System Partnerships Program

The Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP) Program is implemented under the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP), a program authorized by subtitle A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. § 1627c), as amended. RFSP supports partnerships that connect public and private resources to plan and develop local or regional food systems. The program focuses on strengthening the viability and resilience of regional food economies.

Historically, RFSP funds two project types: 1) Planning and Design and Implementation and Expansion. Planning projects support partnerships in the early stages of convening, envisioning, and planning. Implementation and Expansion projects support partnerships building on prior or ongoing efforts within local and regional food systems. Through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, RFSP received supplemental funds to expand farm to institution. This resulted in a third project type: Farm to Institution. These projects support public-private partnerships in planning and developing relationships between local and regional producers, processors, intermediaries, and institutions, such as schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, and local, tribal, and state governments, to increase local and regional foods in institutional cafeterias and meal programs.

Approximately \$56.5 million will be available to fund RFSP projects in FY 2023, \$35 million from ARP.

Important Dates:

Application opens: Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Program Webinar: Wednesday, March 29, 2023, from 1 – 3 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/webinars>

Application Closes: Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

Who Is Eligible?

Partnerships are eligible to apply to RFSP. A partnership is an agreement between one or more eligible entities and one or more eligible partners. Eligible entities include producers, farmer or rancher cooperatives, producer networks or associations, majority-controlled producer-based business venture, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks and associations, food councils, local governments, nonprofit and public benefit corporations, economic development corporations, regional farmers' market authorities, and tribal governments. Eligible partners include state agencies or regional authorities, philanthropic corporations, private corporations, institutions of higher education, and commercial, federal, or Farm Credit System Lending Institutions.

An application may be submitted either by an eligible entity or an eligible partner on behalf of the partnership. The partnership must specify in its application which organization(s) in the partnership are responsible for receiving and managing the award.

What is the Maximum Grant Amount?

For Planning projects, applicants may request \$100,000 to \$250,000 for 24 months. Implementation and Farm to Institution projects may request \$250,000 to \$1,000,000 for 36 months.

Is there a Cost Share or Match required?

RFSP requires matching funds from non-Federal sources in the form of cash in an amount equal to or greater than 25% of the total Federal portion of the grant.

What Can I Use the Funding For?

RFSP projects may fund Planning and Design, Implementation and Expansion, and Farm to Institution projects. Planning and Design activities may include activities like convening partners, creating and conducting feasibility studies, implementation plans, and assessments, conducting market or financing research. Implementation and Expansion project activities may involve the development of value chains and community engagement processes or identifying and applying for resources. Farm to Institution projects can cover a variety of activities ranging from, but not limited to value chain coordination, community and business engagement, and food safety certification and upgrades to meet institutional requirements.

More Information

Visit the RFSP web site for the application and more information:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/rfsp>. For questions about RFSP, please see the program's [FAQs](#).

Contact Us

For questions about RFSP after closely reviewing the RFA and FAQs, please email IPPGrants@usda.gov.