

FACT SHEET:

INDEPENDENT PROCESSOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE INDEPENDENT PROCESSOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM?

The Independent Processor Assistance Program (IPAP) is designed to improve and expand Nebraska's meat-processing capabilities. Grants are available through the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) for **new and existing small- and medium-sized meat processors** to facilitate improvements or expansions that will increase harvest capacity or production.



ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

- Must operate as either a U.S. Department of Agriculture - Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS) facility or a federally regulated custom-exempt slaughter and processing facility, while also complying with federal regulations.
- Must have existing annual sales revenue under \$2.5 million.
- Must employ fewer than 25 employees.
- Must be in Nebraska and registered in good standing with the Secretary of State to do business.

ELIGIBLE IPAP EXPENSES

(Note: Grant funding may be used for expenses incurred after Aug. 28, 2021, and obligated before June 30, 2024. Past receipts or invoices are not required to prove past eligible expenses.)



Expansion of existing buildings or construction of new buildings.



Upgrades to utilities, including water, electric, refrigeration, freezing.



Livestock intake and storage equipment.



Processing and manufacturing equipment such as grinders or smokers.



Packaging and handling equipment, including sealing, bagging, boxing, labeling.



Warehouse equipment, including storage and curing racks.



Waste treatment and management equipment.



Technology upgrades, such as website design that enables e-commerce.



Rental of buildings or equipment including mobile slaughter or refrigeration units.



Costs associated with increased inspections or becoming USDA-inspected.

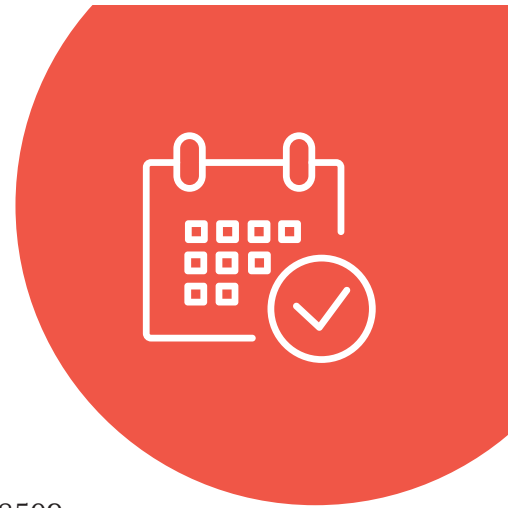


Workforce training provided by the facility or by an institution of higher education.



GRANT AMOUNTS & TIMELINE

- The NDA will award approximately \$9.8 million in grants.
- If necessary, applications will be taken in separate rounds until funding is exhausted.
- Applications for the first round are due on **Aug. 12, 2022**.
- The first round allows for requests up to **\$80,000**.
- The application can be found at nda.nebraska.gov/promotion/meat_processors.
- Completed applications should be submitted via email to breanna.wirth@nebraska.gov; or by mail to Nebraska Department of Agriculture P.O. Box 94947, Lincoln, NE 68509.
- NDA will notify applicants of approval or denial via email.
- Round 1 funds are expected to be paid after **Oct. 1, 2022**.
- Future rounds of funding will give preference to applicants who have not already received a grant.



HOW CAN I MAKE MY APPLICATION COMPETITIVE?

Preference may be given to proposals increasing harvest capacity, advancing technological systems, and providing opportunity for workforce development.

HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE?



Find documents offering guidance for meat processing plant grants and answers to frequently asked questions at nda.nebraska.gov/promotion/meat_processors.

Center for Rural Affairs staff are also available to assist.

Contact Tim Mussack, senior policy associate, at 402.687.2100 ext. 1032 or tim@cfra.org.



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