

Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program Phase 2

What does this program do?

The Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP) Phase 2 provides grants to help eligible processors expand their capacity.

USDA Rural Development designed the MPPEP to encourage competition and sustainable growth in the U.S. meat processing sector, and to help improve supply chain resiliency.

Who can apply?

The MPPEP is open to for-profit and other businesses and organizations that engage - or propose to engage - in meat and poultry processing.

How can funds be used?

Grant funds can be used to expand processing capacity by supporting activities such as:

- Building new – or buying and modernizing an inoperable facility
- Modernizing or expanding existing processing facilities

- Developing, installing, or modernizing equipment and technology
- Modernizing or installing equipment to ensure worker safety
- Modifying facilities or equipment to protect food safety
- Offsetting costs associated with becoming an inspected facility
- Ensuring compliance with packaging and labeling requirements
- Supporting workforce recruitment, training, and retention

What are the grant minimums and maximums?

- The maximum award amount is \$10 million, or 30 percent of total project costs, whichever is less.
- The minimum grant is \$250,000 for projects that include both construction and equipment purchases.
- The minimum grant for equipment-only projects is \$5 million.

What are some other grant requirements?

Eligible applicants must:

- Process - or plan to process - one or more species subject to the Federal Meat Inspection Act (information is available at tinyurl.com/yeyh9d6s), or the Poultry Products Inspection Act (information is available at tinyurl.com/4yjvc2by)

- Not hold market share equal to or greater than the entity holding the fourth largest share of the market for the species to be processed
- Have – or plan to get – a Federal Grant of Inspection through USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS – information is available at tinyurl.com/bdcn459t), a Grant of Inspection under the Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program, (information is available at tinyurl.com/2bpxhtvs), or a state-based, federal-equivalent meat and poultry inspection program.
- Comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (you will find USDA Rural Development-specific information at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/mrvjuyn>) and all other applicable state, local or Tribal laws.

What governs this program?

The MPPEP is authorized by Section 1001(b)(4) of the American Rescue Plan, available at this link: tinyurl.com/3wdw59aj – PDF.

How do we apply?

Check the Request for Applications (RFA) at <https://www.grants.gov/>.

Who can answer questions?

You can submit your questions by email to MPPEP@usda.gov.

NOTE: Because information changes, always consult official program instructions or contact your local USDA Rural Development office for help. A list is available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xJHPE>. You will find additional resources, forms, and program information at <https://rd.usda.gov>. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.