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ILLINOIS LOCAL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT  
CSFA NUMBER 406-01-3252

CORRECTED RESPONSE TO APPLICANT QUESTIONS

Questions received by February 25, 2026 at 4:00 PM (CST)

**Day Submitted: 10/14/2025**

Question:

1. Would a County government of Illinois be an eligible applicant if it partnered with local food farmers?
2. If so, would a re-granting program qualify as an edible project? For instance, if the County regranted infrastructure grants to farms within the County? With a local match?

Response:

1. The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "Eligibility". "Who is eligible to apply for LFIG funding?"

An entity that is an Illinois resident. [505 ILCS 92/20(c)]

Applicants must comply with all relevant State and federal laws and rules, including prevailing wage requirements, when applicable.

To be eligible for a grant award, an applicant shall have an active GATA registration and be qualified on the GATA Grantee Portal and SAM.gov at the time the application is submitted.

The entity must store, process, package, aggregate or distribute value-added agricultural products or plan to do so, and must be one of the following [505 ILCS 92/15(1)]:

An Illinois farm with fewer than 50 employees. [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(A)].

An Illinois cooperative with fewer than 50 employees. "Illinois Cooperative" means a co-operative association organized under the Agriculture Co-Operative Act [805-ILCS 315] or the Co-operative Act [805 ILCS 310] or a limited worker cooperative association organized under the Limited Worker Cooperative Association Act [805 ILCS 317].

An Illinois slaughter and/or processing facility with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(C)]. Slaughter and/or processing facilities must be USDA or state licensed or be a custom exempt slaughter and/or processing facility.

An Illinois food business with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(D)].

An Illinois food hub with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(E)].

An Illinois nonprofit organization [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(F)].

A unit of local government in Illinois [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(G)].

2. Collaborative Projects are allowed. "Collaborative" or "Collaboration" means two or more entities working together on a project. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.10(b)]. Each entity working on the project must be identified in the application. Collaborative project applicants must identify which entity is the lead. Lead entities for collaborative project applicants will be responsible for all grant reporting requirements. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.20(c)]. In a collaborative project, only the entity identified as the lead in the application will receive the grant funds. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.40(b)].

**Day Submitted: 10/24/2025**

Question:

We are a public, university-affiliated meat processing and teaching facility that harvests and fabricates livestock, conducts value-added processing (e.g., sausages, bacon, ham), and sells products to the local community through our on-campus retail store. We also collaborate with community partners and local producers to increase market access for Illinois-raised livestock products. Would a public university unit (departmental laboratory and its retail outlet) qualify under "local government," "nonprofit," or "processing facility/food business"?

Response:

The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "Eligibility". "Who is eligible to apply for LFIG funding?"

An entity that is an Illinois resident. [505 ILCS 92/20(c)]

Applicants must comply with all relevant State and federal laws and rules, including prevailing wage requirements, when applicable.

To be eligible for a grant award, an applicant shall have an active GATA registration and be qualified on the GATA Grantee Portal and SAM.gov at the time the application is submitted.

The entity must store, process, package, aggregate or distribute value-added agricultural products or plan to do so, and must be one of the following [505 ILCS 92/15(1)]:

An Illinois farm with fewer than 50 employees. [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(A)].

An Illinois cooperative with fewer than 50 employees. "Illinois Cooperative" means a co-operative association organized under the Agriculture Co-Operative Act [805-ILCS 315] or the Co-operative Act [805 ILCS 310] or a limited worker cooperative association organized under the Limited Worker Cooperative Association Act [805 ILCS 317].

An Illinois slaughter and/or processing facility with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(C)]. Slaughter and/or processing facilities must be USDA or state licensed or be a custom exempt slaughter and/or processing facility.

An Illinois food business with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(D)].

An Illinois food hub with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(E)].

An Illinois nonprofit organization [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(F)].

A unit of local government in Illinois [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(G)].

Collaborative Projects are allowed. "Collaborative" or "Collaboration" means two or more entities working together on a project. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.10(b)]. Each entity working on the project must be identified in the application. Collaborative project applicants must identify which entity is the lead. Lead entities for collaborative project applicants will be responsible for all grant reporting requirements. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.20(c)]. In a collaborative project, only the entity identified as the lead in the application will receive the grant funds. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.40(b)].

**Day Submitted: 11/24/2025**

Question:

I wanted to ask about the match requirements. What are the conditions for high need?

I am a small indoor farming business looking to break into a commercial space so I can sell to commercial customers. My revenue is small and I'm unable to match what I would otherwise request for a lease agreement.

Response:

"High-Need" means the project is: filling a gap in critical infrastructure for its region or community that is unlikely to be resolved without the grant investment; or the grant investment will primarily serve underserved farmers and underserved communities. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.10(b)]

**Day Submitted: 12/2/2025**

Question:

My dad and I are starting a small dairy and creamery on our family farm in Illinois. We have operated mainly as a grain farm for the past 70+ years with beef cattle and hogs. I would like to explore what grant options we might have to reduce our capital outlay, whether that be at the local, state, regional, or federal level.

Response:

The Notice of Funding Opportunity and Application are available through Amplifund. Pre-Registration is required. Vist <https://agr.illinois.gov/assistance/grant-programs/grantrequirements.html>

[Points will be awarded for proposals from established farmers and food businesses. \[8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.60\(b\)\]](#)

"Established" means an entity that has been doing business in the agricultural or food sectors for at least three years. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.10(b)]

For proof of "established": at least two types of documentation per year for at least three years, including:

- A) Documentation from a source other than the applicant of the date the business was started in Illinois.
- B) Documentation from government agencies of the business' operations or activities; tax records; media coverage describing the project or business's first actions (or prior actions so long as they meet the definition of "established" in the rules). [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.60(c)]

**Day Submitted: 12/12/2025**

Question:

Does this grant support with the purchase and/or rent of a parcel of land in Chicago that is owned by a community member? Please advise.

Response:

The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "Eligibility". "What expenditures do not qualify for reimbursement through LFIG funding?"

Labor, marketing, or promotion or for the costs of production agriculture, including the costs for the purchase of hoop houses, irrigation, breeding, animal housing or other infrastructure related to starting or increasing agricultural production. [505 ILCS 92/15(4) [and 8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30\(b\)\(1\)](#)]

Wages or travel costs.

Portions of a project that have already received funding or been reimbursed by another federal or state grant program.

Purchase or rental of a building or facility.

Land acquisition or associated fees.

Grant funding cannot be used to recoup previously-spent money on the project

**Day Submitted: 12/18/2025**

Question:

I'm wondering if I would meet the "established business" qualification? I would like to turn my restaurant into a commissary kitchen. The LLC has been in existence for a long time as a restaurant, but the commissary is new. Does this meet the requirement? I'm also wondering how this would meet the number of employees requirement since the change in business model would reduce the employees only to me, and perhaps one other person.

Response:

"Established" means an entity that has been doing business in the agricultural or food sectors for at least three years. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.10(b)]

[Points will be awarded for proposals from established farmers and food businesses. \[8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.60\(b\)\]](#)

For proof of "established": at least two types of documentation per year for at least three years, including:

- A) Documentation from a source other than the applicant of the date the business was started in Illinois.
- B) Documentation from government agencies of the business' operations or activities; tax records; media coverage describing the project or business's first actions (or prior actions so long as they meet the definition of "established" in the rules). [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.60(c)]

**Day Submitted: 12/30/2025**

Question:

We're a small Illinois organic farm specializing in heirloom organic grains, flours and more. Let me know how to proceed from here if you think we would be a good fit and the program still exists.

Response:

This funding opportunity provides grants on behalf of the State for the development of local food processing, aggregation, and distribution.

Learn more about this funding opportunity: <https://agr.illinois.gov/assistance/grant-programs/grantrequirements.html>

**Day Submitted: 1/8/2026**

Question:

I have created an account at the GATA Grantee Portal, but am unable to create an account in Amplifund. When I click on the Amplifund button, a page comes up saying "403 - Forbidden: Access is denied."

Can I receive assistance with the Internal Controls Questionnaire?

Response:

A 403 Error can be cleared by deleting your recent browsing history, including cache and cookies.

Please refer to the Amplifund/Euna support area: <https://il-amplifund.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/27454533681683-11-10-2025-Euna-Grants-Applicant-Portal-Application-Overview-and-Submission>

**Day Submitted: 1/16/2026**

Question:

Would the purchase of equipment and building cost be eligible through this grant program?

Response:

The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "Eligibility". "What expenditures qualify for reimbursement through LFIG funding?"

All grant funding must be used for purchasing, leasing to own, renting, building or installing infrastructure related to the processing, storage, aggregation, or distribution of value-added agricultural products. [505 ILCS 92/15(4)]

Allowable expenses include, but are not limited to, costs to purchase, lease, or install:

Equipment used in the production of value-added agricultural products [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(A)].

Sanitizing equipment.

Milling or pressing equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(B)].

Honey processing equipment and packaging including mini extractors lines, extractors, uncappers, dehydrators, creamers, warmers, heated sumps, bottling tanks and bottlers.

Syrup processing equipment and packaging including syrup evaporators, cookers, finishers, canners and bottlers.

Creamery or milk product processing and packaging equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(C)].

Food hub development or expansion [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(D)].

Cooler walls, freezers and refrigeration units [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(E)].

Grading, packing, labeling, packaging, or sorting equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(F)].

Refrigerated trucks [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(G)].

Custom exempt mobile slaughter units that meet all Federal and State regulations, including being licensed as an IDOA Type II slaughter/processing facility [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(H)].

Livestock, meat, and poultry, processing equipment (including fixtures or equipment necessary to expand animal throughput, processing capacity, the amount or type of products produced or processing speed, equipment necessary for compliance with federal hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) plan) [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(H)].

Agroforestry processing equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(I)].

Local fish, wild caught fish, and shrimp processing [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(J)].

Aquaponic and or hydroponic equipment.

Equipment for school meal scratch cooking (including, but not limited to refrigerators, freezers, ovens (convection, combi, or steamer), warming/holding equipment, serving tables (hot or cold), milk coolers, or dish machines.

Grant funding cannot be used for any of the following parts of a proposal:

Labor, marketing, or promotion or for the costs of production agriculture, including the costs for the purchase of hoop houses, irrigation, breeding, animal housing or other infrastructure related to starting or increasing agricultural production. [505 ILCS 92/15(4) [and 8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30\(b\)\(1\)](#)]

Wages or travel costs.

Portions of a project that have already received funding or been reimbursed by another federal or state grant program.

Purchase or rental of a building or facility.

Land acquisition or associated fees.

Grant funding cannot be used to recoup previously-spent money on the project. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30]

**Day Submitted: 1/29/2026**

Question:

I am interested in applying for this for popcorn storage/grain bin. I have my SAM, GATA and the Amplifund. My question is that the Aplifund is blank. What do I need to do to "see" it and pre-register for it. Thank you for your time.

Response:

Grantees should complete SSO setup by following the guide 'How to Add New Users as a Grantee and Single-Sign-On (SSO) Process' at <https://il-amplifund.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/27588129343507-How-to-Add-New-Users-as-a-Grantee-and-Single-Sign-On-SSO-Process>. After completing all steps, please check the GATA account for issues and confirm that you are signing in using the public option.

If issues persist after completing these steps, please submit a ticket on the Euna Grants Zen Desk at <https://il-amplifund.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>.

**Day Submitted: 1/29/2026**

Question:

I have read that there are other qualifications such as proving that my farm business has been in business for so many years and etc. Can you tell me what kind of documentation i need to prove this?

Response:

"Established" means an entity that has been doing business in the agricultural or food sectors for at least three years. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.10(b)]

[Points will be awarded for proposals from established farmers and food businesses. \[8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.60\(b\)\]](#)

For proof of "established": at least two types of documentation per year for at least three years, including:

- A) Documentation from a source other than the applicant of the date the business was started in Illinois.
- B) Documentation from government agencies of the business' operations or activities; tax records; media coverage describing the project or business's first actions (or prior actions so long as they meet the definition of "established" in the rules). [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.60(c)]

**Day Submitted: 2/1/2026**

Question:

I wanted to reach out as I am working with a business that is interested in applying to your Illinois Local Food Infrastructure Grant Program. It is a local business that has gotten prepared to apply to this program. The owner has been working to align themselves and their business with the requirements of this program, such as:

- SAM.gov account is created and active
- GATA, he is in good standing
- Amplifund he has created an account

I see that an ICQ and PRAQ are requirements as well, however, the website does not provide a copy of those documents. I am familiar with both documents as most of the municipal clients I work with are required to complete them. With that said, can you provide us with those two forms? I want to ensure that we are using the proper forms.

Also, when I look through the site, I cannot find an application or paperwork to start populating an application. Is this application compiled and submitted through Amplifund? We are early in our conversations to apply, and I want to ensure that we are meeting and completing any/all grant program requirements.

Any input is greatly appreciated.

Response:

The ICQ is a digital item reviewed and completed within the GATA Applicant Portal.

The Programmatic Risk Assessment is the final step grantees must complete before receiving a grant award from the State of Illinois. The LFIG Grant is a competitive award that requires each application to be evaluated and selected. Once applicants are notified in writing by the grant administrator that their application has been accepted, the Programmatic Risk Assessment will be scheduled with the grantee.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity and Application are available through Amplifund. Pre-Registration is required. Visit <https://agr.illinois.gov/assistance/grant-programs/grantrequirements.html>

**Day Submitted: 2/2/2026**

Question:

There is a restriction when it comes to repeat projects.

An entity whose project is funded in a grant cycle is not eligible to apply for grant funding for that project in the next funding cycle, nor is any other person eligible to apply for grant funding for the same project in the next funding cycle. [505 ILCS 92/15(1)]. We received a previous award under the Local Infrastructure Grant.

This means we can't ask for money for the same project as last year, correct? We were awarded LFIG last year, but this year want to do a collaborative application with farmers this year.

Response:

The Local Food Infrastructure Grant is being administered by the Illinois Department of Agriculture for the first time. Grant awards under the Local Food Infrastructure Grant administered by an organization other than the Illinois Department of Agriculture do not impact eligibility.

**Day Submitted: 2/3/2026**

Question:

Would the purchase of a truck that is not refrigerated but would be used to transport the product be covered under this grant?

Response:

The entity must store, process, package, aggregate or distribute value-added agricultural products or plan to do so. All grant funding must be used for purchasing, leasing to own, renting, building or installing infrastructure related to the processing, storage, aggregation, or distribution of value-added agricultural products. [505 ILCS 92/15(4)]. "Value-added agricultural product" is "any farm or agricultural product or by-product that has its value enhanced through processing in Illinois, packaging in Illinois, or any other activity in Illinois." [505 ILCS 92/5].

**Day Submitted: 2/4/2026**

Question:

The Illinois Grantee Portal is showing "UEI not found."

Could you please refresh or advise if any additional action is needed on our end?

Response:

For assistance with your SAM.gov account, please visit the Federal Service Desk Federal Service Desk Home Page - Federal Service Desk [https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd\\_sp/en?id=fsd\\_index](https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp/en?id=fsd_index).

Review the GATA New User Guide [https://gata.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/gata/documents/resource-library/support-accessible/GATA%20New%20User%20Guide\\_accessible.pdf](https://gata.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/gata/documents/resource-library/support-accessible/GATA%20New%20User%20Guide_accessible.pdf), which explains the SAM.gov process. A SAM.gov assigned Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) is required to complete Organization Registration in the GATA Grantee Portal. SAM.gov is a federal clearing house. Illinois has no authority or influence in their processing. Once all required information has been submitted in SAM.gov, it may take up to 10 business days to obtain a UEI.

- How to register an organization in SAM.gov - [https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd\\_sp?id=gsafsd\\_kb\\_articles&sys\\_id=7241d4831b0ecd940ca4a97ae54bcbe3](https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=gsafsd_kb_articles&sys_id=7241d4831b0ecd940ca4a97ae54bcbe3)
  - o This link includes a list of the information needed to complete the SAM.gov registration.
  - o Because SAM.gov is a federal website, the requirements and the SAM.gov registration process comes from the federal government. Illinois cannot expedite or change the SAM.gov requirements.
- Determine if your organization is SAM.gov registered - [https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd\\_sp?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0016414&sys\\_kb\\_id=7064190c1bbe41d4937fa64ce54bcb85&spa=](https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0016414&sys_kb_id=7064190c1bbe41d4937fa64ce54bcb85&spa=)
- Additional support Links for the SAM.gov registration process - [https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd\\_sp?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0039524&sys\\_kb\\_id=85a2ba061b0bcd500ca4a97ae54bcb7&spa=1](https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0039524&sys_kb_id=85a2ba061b0bcd500ca4a97ae54bcb7&spa=1)

All individual Illinois.gov Accounts must be associated with an Organization in the Grantee Portal.

**Day Submitted: 2/5/2026**

Question:

Hello, I am inquiring as to whether Farmers Markets are eligible for the Illinois Local Food Infrastructure Grant?

Response:

The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "Eligibility". "Who is eligible to apply for LFIG funding?" An entity that is an Illinois resident. [505 ILCS 92/20(c)]. Applicants must comply with all relevant State and federal laws and rules, including prevailing wage requirements, when applicable. To be eligible for a grant award, an applicant shall have an active GATA registration and be qualified on the GATA Grantee Portal and SAM.gov at the time the application is submitted. The entity must store, process, package, aggregate or distribute value-added agricultural products or plan to do so, and must be one of the following [505 ILCS 92/15(1)]:

An Illinois farm with fewer than 50 employees. [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(A)].

An Illinois cooperative with fewer than 50 employees. "Illinois Cooperative" means a co-operative association organized under the Agriculture Co-Operative Act [805-ILCS 315] or the Co-operative Act [805 ILCS 310] or a limited worker cooperative association organized under the Limited Worker Cooperative Association Act [805 ILCS 317].

An Illinois slaughter and/or processing facility with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(C)]. Slaughter and/or processing facilities must be USDA or state licensed or be a custom exempt slaughter and/or processing facility.

An Illinois food business with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(D)].

An Illinois food hub with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(E)].

An Illinois nonprofit organization [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(F)].

A unit of local government in Illinois [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(G)].

**Day Submitted: 2/5/2026**

Question:

We have a pork producer cooperative processing plant that employs 125 people. This is a union facility interested in seeking funding to modernize equipment. Would they be disqualified due to the number of employees or should we proceed with development of a request for funding?

Response:

The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "Eligibility". "Who is eligible to apply for LFIG funding?"

An entity that is an Illinois resident. [505 ILCS 92/20(c)]

Applicants must comply with all relevant State and federal laws and rules, including prevailing wage requirements, when applicable.

To be eligible for a grant award, an applicant shall have an active GATA registration and be qualified on the GATA Grantee Portal and SAM.gov at the time the application is submitted.

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An Illinois slaughter and/or processing facility with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(C)]. Slaughter and/or processing facilities must be USDA or state licensed or be a custom exempt slaughter and/or processing facility.

An Illinois food business with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(D)].

An Illinois food hub with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(E)].

An Illinois nonprofit organization [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(F)].

A unit of local government in Illinois [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(G)].

**Day Submitted: 2/5/2026**

Question:

How do we go about setting up a phone interview for the PRA with the IDOA?

Response:

The Programmatic Risk Assessment is the final step grantees must complete before receiving a grant award from the State of Illinois. The LFIG Grant is a competitive award that requires each application to be evaluated and selected. Once applicants are notified in writing by the grant administrator that their application has been accepted, the Programmatic Risk Assessment will be scheduled with the grantee.

**Day Submitted: 2/6/2026**

Question:

For proof of "entity," would our Articles of Incorporation filed with the State qualify or our IRS Non-Profit Determination letter?

For proof of "established", do we need to provide one "a" doc and one "b" doc for each of the past three years, or could we submit two "b" docs for each year? (ie tax records and media coverage)

Could you offer examples of what type of docs fall under "a"?

Response:

Two documents that fall under (b) are allowed. There will be only one business start date under (a). If the entity is organized in the State of Illinois, the Articles of Incorporation/Organization with the filing confirmation from the Secretary of State are sufficient to qualify under (a).

**Day Submitted: 2/6/2026**

Question:

I am looking to confirm the methodology used to determine eligibility based on headcount for the Local Food Infrastructure Grant opportunity.

- 1) Does the program consider temporary contract employees, or other agency-employees in the total headcount for the company?
- 2) Does the program count part-time employees at all, and if so are they counted as a percentage of full-time?
- 3) In cases of collaborative projects qualifying for up to \$250,000 in funding, are all collaborating parties required to each have fewer than 50 employees?

Response:

1. The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "Eligibility". "Does the eligibility requirement of 'less than 50 employees' mean all at the same time or does it encompass all employees over a given period of time?" The 50-employee threshold refers to the concurrent number of employees over a year, not the maximum number working at the same time. Seasonal or temporary increases (e.g., harvest, agritourism weekends, deer season) do not affect eligibility.
2. The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "Collaborative Projects". "Do all entities need to meet the eligibility requirement of "less than 50 employees?"
3. Yes, each entity must meet the eligibility requirements. The 50 employee threshold refers to the total number of employees working at the same time during the year, not the cumulative number employed over the entire year. Seasonal or temporary increases (e.g., harvest, agritourism weekends, deer season) do not affect eligibility.

**Day Submitted: 2/10/2026**

Question:

I saw a post on Facebook about grants for growers. I am wondering what grants maybe available and how I could apply.

Response:

The Notice of Funding Opportunity and Application are available through Amplifund. Pre-Registration is required. Vist <https://agr.illinois.gov/assistance/grant-programs/grantrequirements.html>

**Day Submitted: 2/13/2026**

Question:

I believe I have completed steps 1-4 on the website, but do not know how to get to step 5, Programmatic Risk Assessment.

Response:

The Programmatic Risk Assessment is the final step grantees must complete before receiving a grant award from the State of Illinois. The LFIG Grant is a competitive award that requires each application to be evaluated and selected. Once applicants are notified in writing by the grant administrator that their application has been accepted, the Programmatic Risk Assessment will be scheduled with the grantee.

**Day Submitted: 2/13/2026**

Question:

Illinois-based farm (S-Corporation). The plan is to purchase and install a used truck scale on the farm to support shipping and distribution of hay.

1. Is a truck scale purchase/installation (including associated concrete/foundation, repairs, and transport) an eligible project expense under this program?
2. I know the project needs to demonstrate benefit beyond a single farm. Would documenting use by other farms/truckers or providing letters of support be enough?

Response:

The entity must store, process, package, aggregate or distribute value-added agricultural products or plan to do so. All grant funding must be used for purchasing, leasing to own, renting, building or installing infrastructure related to the processing, storage, aggregation, or distribution of value-added agricultural products. [505 ILCS 92/15(4)]. "Value-added agricultural product" is "any farm or agricultural product or by-product that has its value enhanced through processing in Illinois, packaging in Illinois, or any other activity in Illinois." [505 ILCS 92/5]. Hay does not meet the definition of a value-added agricultural product.

**Day Submitted: 2/17/2026**

Question:

Where is the form and questions and essay to write?

Response:

The Notice of Funding Opportunity and Application are available through Amplifund. Pre-Registration is required. Visit <https://agr.illinois.gov/assistance/grant-programs/grantrequirements.html>

**Day Submitted: 2/18/2026**

Question:

As a startup small business, would I be eligible for the LFIG grant? We're finalizing a property with the intent to launch Aug/Sep of this year. However, I saw the requirements include prior years' business tax returns.

The unique aspect of my project though is that I am sponsored by and partnering with a non-profit.

Response:

"Established" means an entity that has been doing business in the agricultural or food sectors for at least three years. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.10(b)].

[Points will be awarded for proposals from established farmers and food businesses. \[8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.60\(b\)\]](#)

For proof of "established": at least two types of documentation per year for at least three years, including:

- A) Documentation from a source other than the applicant of the date the business was started in Illinois.
- B) Documentation from government agencies of the business' operations or activities; tax records; media coverage describing the project or business's first actions (or prior actions so long as they meet the definition of "established" in the rules). [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.60(c)]

**Day Submitted: 2/18/2026**

Question:

How long is the project period? Award end date is 06/30/2026 does that mean the project has to be completed in full by that date?

What would be considered a high need project (matching funds not required)?

Is this a reimbursement grant?

Response:

1. Funds must be spent for the project by 6/30/2026.
2. "High-Need" means the project is: filling a gap in critical infrastructure for its region or community that is unlikely to be resolved without the grant investment; or the grant investment will primarily serve underserved farmers and underserved communities.
3. Grants awarded from this opportunity will cover reimbursement for eligible expenses made during the grant period of performance.

**Day Submitted: 2/18/2026**

Question:

Are administrative costs, such as the fees associated with incorporating a business, an allowable expense?

Response:

The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "Eligibility". "What expenditures qualify for reimbursement through LFIG funding?"

All grant funding must be used for purchasing, leasing to own, renting, building or installing infrastructure related to the processing, storage, aggregation, or distribution of value-added agricultural products. [505 ILCS 92/15(4)]

**Day Submitted: 2/18/2026**

Question:

I click on the link and I don't see any application or paperwork. Does this mean we make our own proposal for submission once the pre-approval process is complete?

Response:

The Notice of Funding Opportunity and Application are available through Amplifund. Pre-Registration is required. Vist <https://agr.illinois.gov/assistance/grant-programs/grantrequirements.html>

**Day Submitted: 2/19/2026**

Question:

Can a Fiscal Sponsor apply for a Capacity-building Grant on behalf of a farm or food hub?

Response:

Vist <https://agr.illinois.gov/assistance/grant-programs/grantrequirements.html> for guidance on the Local Food Infrastructure Grant.

Collaborative Projects are allowed. "Collaborative" or "Collaboration" means two or more entities working together on a project. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.10(b)]. Each entity working on the project must be identified in the application. Collaborative project applicants must identify which entity is the lead. Lead entities for collaborative project applicants will be responsible for all grant reporting requirements. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.20(c)]. In a collaborative project, only the entity identified as the lead in the application will receive the grant funds. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.40(b)].

**Day Submitted: 2/19/2026**

Question:

A business needs to be established. However, since I am partnering with a non-profit who has been established for years, could I apply through them for this infrastructure grant?

Response:

~~Being an established entity is a requirement of this opportunity.~~ [Points will be awarded for proposals from established farmers and food businesses. \[8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.60\(b\)\]](#)

-"Established" means an entity that has been doing business in the agricultural or food sectors for at least three years. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.10(b)]

The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "Collaborative Projects". "Do all entities need to meet the eligibility requirement of "less than 50 employees?"

Yes, each entity must meet the eligibility requirements. The 50 employee threshold refers to the total number of employees working at the same time during the year, not the cumulative number employed over the entire year. Seasonal or temporary increases (e.g., harvest, agritourism weekends, deer season) do not affect eligibility.

**Day Submitted: 2/19/2026**

Question:

When I click on the (Apply) button it simply redirects me and states the word "Administrator".

Response:

Pre-registration is required to apply for an Illinois Grant Opportunity. Visit <https://agr.illinois.gov/assistance/grant-programs/grantrequirements.html> for guidance on completing these steps.

**Day Submitted: 2/19/2026**

Question:

Please describe matching funds in regard to LFIG?

How much is required?

Response:

The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "General LFIG information". "Is a match required for LFIG funding?" Matching funds (i.e. comparable investments) are not required for high need projects.

All other projects require a 25% match.

The recipient's comparable investments may be provided in cash, cash-equivalent investments, bonds, irrevocable letters of credits, time and labor, or any combination of those matching fund sources. Acceptable providers of matching funds include, but are not limited to, commercial, municipal, and private lenders; leasing companies; and grantors of funds. [505 ILCS 92/15(3)]

**Day Submitted: 2/19/2026**

Question:

1. Just to confirm, is the application deadline 11:59 p.m. on March 27, 2026? I ask because the application template, downloaded from this page (<https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/482c857e-6783-47bb-b473-9de57fbe7024>) lists the deadline as 12:00 a.m. on March 28, 2026.
2. Should all attachments be uploaded with the online application? I ask because page 27 of the application template states files must be uploaded, but also includes a physical address, mailing address, and email address below the list of attachments.
3. Can the matching requirement be met via cash and/or in-kind contributions?

Response:

1. The application deadline is 11:59pm, March 27, 2026.
2. Attachments should be uploaded through the online application. The other options were provided in the event of a technical issue with uploads.
3. The recipient's comparable investments may be provided in cash, cash-equivalent investments, bonds, irrevocable letters of credits, time and labor, or any combination of those matching fund sources.

**Day Submitted: 2/20/2026**

Question:

I'm going through the applications for the LFIG, and there's an 11 character limit on the UEI field, but UEI's are 12 characters.

Response:

The application has been updated to allow 12 characters.

**Day Submitted: 2/20/2026**

Question:

Is being an 'established' (3 yrs) company a hard yes/no for this grant, or is it simply part of the points system for the grading criteria?

Response:

~~Being an established entity is a requirement of this opportunity.~~ [Points will be awarded for proposals from established farmers and food businesses. \[8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.60\(b\)\]](#)

-"Established" means an entity that has been doing business in the agricultural or food sectors for at least three years. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.10(b)]

**Day Submitted: 2/21/2026**

Question:

In the Uniform Grant application, they require you to submit your UEI Number. In the box it only allows 11 characters to be entered. When entering the UEI, it is 12 characters long. How would you like us to work through this?

Response:

The application has been updated to allow 12 characters.

**Day Submitted: 2/23/2026**

Question:

We are non profit that prepares food for older adults. We serve food on site at our congregate centers and also provide hot meals on wheels and frozen meals as needed. Woud we be eligible to apply?

Response:

The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "Eligibility". "Who is eligible to apply for LFIG funding?"

An entity that is an Illinois resident. [505 ILCS 92/20(c)]

Applicants must comply with all relevant State and federal laws and rules, including prevailing wage requirements, when applicable.

To be eligible for a grant award, an applicant shall have an active GATA registration and be qualified on the GATA Grantee Portal and SAM.gov at the time the application is submitted.

The entity must store, process, package, aggregate or distribute value-added agricultural products or plan to do so, and must be one of the following [505 ILCS 92/15(1)]:

An Illinois farm with fewer than 50 employees. [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(A)].

An Illinois cooperative with fewer than 50 employees. "Illinois Cooperative" means a co-operative association organized under the Agriculture Co-Operative Act [805-ILCS 315] or the Co-operative Act [805 ILCS 310] or a limited worker cooperative association organized under the Limited Worker Cooperative Association Act [805 ILCS 317].

An Illinois slaughter and/or processing facility with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(C)]. Slaughter and/or processing facilities must be USDA or state licensed or be a custom exempt slaughter and/or processing facility.

An Illinois food business with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(D)].

An Illinois food hub with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(E)].

An Illinois nonprofit organization [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(F)].

A unit of local government in Illinois [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(G)].

**Day Submitted: 2/23/2026**

Question:

I am working on the Illinois Local Food Infrastructure Grant and I have one question. I do not see where the Realistic Budget Projection Form is to fill out on the application. Can you help me find this?

Response:

The budget section is located within the forms section of the application. This video provides an overview of how to complete the budget. <https://il-amplifund.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/27454533681683-11-10-2025-Euna-Grants-Applicant-Portal-Application-Overview-and-Submission> (26 minute mark)

**Day Submitted: 2/23/2026**

Question:

I am contacting you to clarify the resident qualification for the grant. We are located in Illinois, but our owner is in California. Do we qualify for this grant?

Response:

The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "Definitions". "How does an entity meet the Illinois Resident requirement?"

"Illinois Resident" means an entity that is registered to do business in Illinois and has its home-base of operations in Illinois as proven by a valid W9. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.10(b)]

**Day Submitted: 2/23/2026**

Question:

We are attempting to fill out the LFIG grant application and it won't accept our UEI number and it says it is 1 character too long and only accepts 11 characters.

Response:

The application has been updated to allow 12 characters.

**Day Submitted: 2/24/2026**

Question:

I am receiving an error in amplifund. When I click on the Amplifund button, a page comes up saying "403 - Forbidden: Access is denied."

Response:

A 403 Error can be cleared by deleting your recent browsing history, including cache and cookies.

**Day Submitted: 2/24/2026**

Question:

We own two small independent grocery stores in two different Illinois communities. Both stores individually have less than 50 employees, but are owned by the same entity. Does the grant look at the individual store for qualification and application purposes since they are serving different communities or the overall entity ownership?

Response:

The entity must store, process, package, aggregate or distribute value-added agricultural products or plan to do so, and must be one of the following [505 ILCS 92/15(1)]:

An Illinois farm with fewer than 50 employees. [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(A)].

An Illinois cooperative with fewer than 50 employees. "Illinois Cooperative" means a co-operative association organized under the Agriculture Co-Operative Act [805-ILCS 315] or the Co-operative Act [805 ILCS 310] or a limited worker cooperative association organized under the Limited Worker Cooperative Association Act [805 ILCS 317].

An Illinois slaughter and/or processing facility with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(C)]. Slaughter and/or processing facilities must be USDA or state licensed or be a custom exempt slaughter and/or processing facility.

An Illinois food business with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(D)].

An Illinois food hub with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(E)].

An Illinois nonprofit organization [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(F)].

A unit of local government in Illinois [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(G)].

For proof of the number of employees:

A) Applicant's payroll logs showing how many people were paid by the applicant for each pay period for the 12 months preceding application; and

B) IRS Form 941 for the four quarters preceding application, Illinois Form UI-3/40 Employer's Contribution and Wage report for the four quarters preceding application. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.60(c)(5)]

**Day Submitted: 2/24/2026**

Question:

Could you please clarify the line between allowed renovations and disallowed construction?

If building out a shared kitchen space and wash / pack space, can we build new? Put up an addition?  
Renovate existing space?

Response:

All grant funding must be used for purchasing, leasing to own, renting, building or installing infrastructure related to the processing, storage, aggregation, or distribution of value-added agricultural products. [505 ILCS 92/15(4)]

Allowable expenses include, but are not limited to, costs to purchase, lease, or install:

Equipment used in the production of value-added agricultural products [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(A)].

Sanitizing equipment.

Milling or pressing equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(B)].

Honey processing equipment and packaging including mini extractors lines, extractors, uncappers, dehydrators, creamers, warmers, heated sumps, bottling tanks and bottlers.

Syrup processing equipment and packaging including syrup evaporators, cookers, finishers, canners and bottlers.

Creamery or milk product processing and packaging equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(C)].

Food hub development or expansion [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(D)].

Cooler walls, freezers and refrigeration units [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(E)].

Grading, packing, labeling, packaging, or sorting equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(F)].

Refrigerated trucks [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(G)].

Custom exempt mobile slaughter units that meet all Federal and State regulations, including being licensed as an IDOA Type II slaughter/processing facility [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(H)].

Livestock, meat, and poultry, processing equipment (including fixtures or equipment necessary to expand animal throughput, processing capacity, the amount or type of products produced or processing speed, equipment necessary for compliance with federal hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) plan) [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(H)].

Agroforestry processing equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(I)].

Local fish, wild caught fish, and shrimp processing [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(J)].

Aquaponic and or hydroponic equipment.

Equipment for school meal scratch cooking (including, but not limited to refrigerators, freezers, ovens (convection, combi, or steamer), warming/holding equipment, serving tables (hot or cold), milk coolers, or dish machines.

Grant funding cannot be used for any of the following parts of a proposal:

Labor, marketing, or promotion or for the costs of production agriculture, including the costs for the purchase of hoop houses, irrigation, breeding, animal housing or other infrastructure related to starting or increasing agricultural production. [505 ILCS 92/15(4) [and 8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30\(b\)\(1\)](#)]

Wages or travel costs.

Portions of a project that have already received funding or been reimbursed by another federal or state grant program.

Purchase or rental of a building or facility.

Land acquisition or associated fees.

Grant funding cannot be used to recoup previously-spent money on the project. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30]

**Day Submitted: 2/24/2026**

Question:

I am receiving an error in amplifund. When I click on the Amplifund button, a page comes up saying "403 - Forbidden: Access is denied."

Response:

A 403 Error can be cleared by deleting your recent browsing history, including cache and cookies.

**Day Submitted: 2/24/2026**

Question:

I was made aware of this grant and wanted to check our eligibility for applying. As a distillery, we're more of a beverage manufacturer than a food manufacture, but we use a lot of local Illinois ingredients, from pecans to grain to herbs, as well as packaging materials that are sourced from Illinois companies.

Would we be a good fit for this program? I just wanted to check eligibility before going through the registration process.

Response:

The entity must store, process, package, aggregate or distribute value-added agricultural products or plan to do so, and must be one of the following [505 ILCS 92/15(1)]:

An Illinois farm with fewer than 50 employees. [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(A)].

An Illinois cooperative with fewer than 50 employees. "Illinois Cooperative" means a co-operative association organized under the Agriculture Co-Operative Act [805-ILCS 315] or the Co-operative Act [805 ILCS 310] or a limited worker cooperative association organized under the Limited Worker Cooperative Association Act [805 ILCS 317].

An Illinois slaughter and/or processing facility with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(C)]. Slaughter and/or processing facilities must be USDA or state licensed or be a custom exempt slaughter and/or processing facility.

An Illinois food business with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(D)].

An Illinois food hub with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(E)].

An Illinois nonprofit organization [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(F)].

A unit of local government in Illinois [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(G)].

"Value-added agricultural product" is "any farm or agricultural product or by-product that has its value enhanced through processing in Illinois, packaging in Illinois, or any other activity in Illinois." [505 ILCS 92/5].

**Day Submitted: 2/24/2026**

Question:

Can LFIG funds be used as part of the matching funds required for Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure grants?

Response:

The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "Eligibility". "Can I use grant funds for a project that has already received other state or federal funding?" No. Portions of a project that have already received funding or been reimbursed by another federal or state grant program are ineligible. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30(b)(3)]

**Day Submitted: 2/24/2026**

Question:

A food co-op foundation uses a fiscal sponsor. Can the foundation apply for the LFIG grant using the fiscal sponsor, with the fiscal sponsor using its SAM, GATA, and Amplifund account?

Response:

Vist <https://agr.illinois.gov/assistance/grant-programs/grantrequirements.html> for guidance on the Local Food Infrastructure Grant.

Collaborative Projects are allowed. "Collaborative" or "Collaboration" means two or more entities working together on a project. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.10(b)]. Each entity working on the project must be identified in the application. Collaborative project applicants must identify which entity is the lead. Lead entities for collaborative project applicants will be responsible for all grant reporting requirements. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.20(c)]. In a collaborative project, only the entity identified as the lead in the application will receive the grant funds. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.40(b)].

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

Is being an 'established' (3 yrs) company a hard yes/no for this grant, or is it simply part of the points system for the grading criteria? To sum up - my business was registered in January of this year and I don't have activity previous to that date, however I would meet most of the other grading criteria.

Response:

~~Being an established entity is a requirement of this opportunity.~~ [Points will be awarded for proposals from established farmers and food businesses. \[8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.60\(b\)\]](#)

- "Established" means an entity that has been doing business in the agricultural or food sectors for at least three years. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.10(b)]

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

I tried logging in to begin the grant process but it keeps coming up an authentication error and I can't get past it. Can you help please?

Response:

Pre-registration is required to apply for an Illinois Grant Opportunity. Vist <https://agr.illinois.gov/assistance/grant-programs/grantrequirements.html> for guidance on completing these steps.

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

What type of entities are able to provide the 'letter of support' requirement?

Response:

For this opportunity, community support must be from entities that do work in the community. Letters of support must include:

A) A summary of the relationship between the entity and the applicant;

- B) A description of the entity's operations and community impact;
- C) Address of the entity;
- D) Description of the geographic area the entity operates in or impacts;
- E) A summary of the applicant's proposed project. This can be provided by the applicant to the entity but must be included with and or referenced in the letter; and
- F) Anything else identified in the application. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.60(c)(7)]

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

When and how do you provide the "important documents" (showing that you've done the preregistration work for SAM, GATA, etc.)? Is that part of the application process?

Response:

To be eligible for a grant award, an applicant shall have an active GATA registration and be qualified on the GATA Grantee Portal and SAM.gov at the time the application is submitted.

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

Where can I find the Amplifund application?

Response:

<https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/482c857e-6783-47bb-b473-9de57fbe7024>

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

How is "high-need" defined? Is it only determined by the social vulnerability index? USDA definition of historically underserved?

Response:

"High-Need" means the project is: Filling a gap in critical infrastructure for its region or community that is unlikely to be resolved without the grant investment; or

the grant investment will primarily serve underserved farmers and underserved communities. "Underserved farmer" means a farmer or rancher who meets the United States Department of Agriculture criteria to be designated as a beginning farmer, socially disadvantaged farmer, veteran farmer, or limited resource farmer. "Rancher" means a type of farmer that focuses on raising livestock.

For proof of "high need":

- A) Identification of the critical infrastructure that is needed in the community: what it is, why it is needed, and what other projects or resources are available in the community in that space; or

B) Explanation of who the proposed project will primarily serve, with specific focus on how the project will serve underserved farmers and underserved communities, and an estimate of what percentage of the project's intended beneficiaries will be underserved.

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

Does the no-match awardees' funding deduct from the gross available?

Response:

The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "General LFIG information". "Is a match required for LFIG funding?" Matching funds (i.e. comparable investments) are not required for high need projects.

All other projects require a 25% match.

The recipient's comparable investments may be provided in cash, cash-equivalent investments, bonds, irrevocable letters of credits, time and labor, or any combination of those matching fund sources. Acceptable providers of matching funds include, but are not limited to, commercial, municipal, and private lenders; leasing companies; and grantors of funds. [505 ILCS 92/15(3)]

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

Does contracted support count as wages? (e.g. can contractors be reimbursed)

Response:

All grant funding must be used for purchasing, leasing to own, renting, building or installing infrastructure related to the processing, storage, aggregation, or distribution of value-added agricultural products. [505 ILCS 92/15(4)]

Allowable expenses include, but are not limited to, costs to purchase, lease, or install:

Equipment used in the production of value-added agricultural products [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(A)].

Sanitizing equipment.

Milling or pressing equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(B)].

Honey processing equipment and packaging including mini extractors lines, extractors, uncappers, dehydrators, creamers, warmers, heated sumps, bottling tanks and bottlers.

Syrup processing equipment and packaging including syrup evaporators, cookers, finishers, canners and bottlers.

Creamery or milk product processing and packaging equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(C)].

Food hub development or expansion [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(D)].

Cooler walls, freezers and refrigeration units [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(E)].

Grading, packing, labeling, packaging, or sorting equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(F)].

Refrigerated trucks [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(G)].

Custom exempt mobile slaughter units that meet all Federal and State regulations, including being licensed as an IDOA Type II slaughter/processing facility [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(H)].

Livestock, meat, and poultry, processing equipment (including fixtures or equipment necessary to expand animal throughput, processing capacity, the amount or type of products produced or processing speed, equipment necessary for compliance with federal hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) plan) [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(H)].

Agroforestry processing equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(I)].

Local fish, wild caught fish, and shrimp processing [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(J)].

Aquaponic and or hydroponic equipment.

Equipment for school meal scratch cooking (including, but not limited to refrigerators, freezers, ovens (convection, combi, or steamer), warming/holding equipment, serving tables (hot or cold), milk coolers, or dish machines.

Grant funding cannot be used for any of the following parts of a proposal:

Labor, marketing, or promotion or for the costs of production agriculture, including the costs for the purchase of hoop houses, irrigation, breeding, animal housing or other infrastructure related to starting or increasing agricultural production. [505 ILCS 92/15(4) [and 8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30\(b\)\(1\)](#)]

Wages or travel costs.

Portions of a project that have already received funding or been reimbursed by another federal or state grant program.

Purchase or rental of a building or facility.

Land acquisition or associated fees.

Grant funding cannot be used to recoup previously-spent money on the project. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30]

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

Should cost of contractors use “prevailing wage rates”?

Response:

All fixed works constructed by any public body or paid in whole or in part with public funds, including all projects funded or financed in whole or in part with bonds, grants, loans or other funds made available by or through the State or any of its political subdivisions, or undertaken by an institution supported in whole or in part by public

funds. Landscape or modifications to real estate are included within the definition of fixed work. A project does not have to be for public use to be covered. <https://labor.illinois.gov/laws-rules/conmed/prevaling-wage-act.html>

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

Can my organization be contracted to provide support to businesses for overcoming regulatory hurdles (e.g. HACCP plans, product development, navigating commercial kitchen regulations, getting permits, etc.)

Response:

All grant funding must be used for purchasing, leasing to own, renting, building or installing infrastructure related to the processing, storage, aggregation, or distribution of value-added agricultural products. [505 ILCS 92/15(4)]

Allowable expenses include, but are not limited to, costs to purchase, lease, or install:

Equipment used in the production of value-added agricultural products [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(A)].

Sanitizing equipment.

Milling or pressing equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(B)].

Honey processing equipment and packaging including mini extractors lines, extractors, uncappers, dehydrators, creamers, warmers, heated sumps, bottling tanks and bottlers.

Syrup processing equipment and packaging including syrup evaporators, cookers, finishers, canners and bottlers.

Creamery or milk product processing and packaging equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(C)].

Food hub development or expansion [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(D)].

Cooler walls, freezers and refrigeration units [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(E)].

Grading, packing, labeling, packaging, or sorting equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(F)].

Refrigerated trucks [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(G)].

Custom exempt mobile slaughter units that meet all Federal and State regulations, including being licensed as an IDOA Type II slaughter/processing facility [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(H)].

Livestock, meat, and poultry, processing equipment (including fixtures or equipment necessary to expand animal throughput, processing capacity, the amount or type of products produced or processing speed, equipment necessary for compliance with federal hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) plan) [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(H)].

Agroforestry processing equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(I)].

Local fish, wild caught fish, and shrimp processing [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(J)].

Aquaponic and or hydroponic equipment.

Equipment for school meal scratch cooking (including, but not limited to refrigerators, freezers, ovens (convection, combi, or steamer), warming/holding equipment, serving tables (hot or cold), milk coolers, or dish machines.

Grant funding cannot be used for any of the following parts of a proposal:

Labor, marketing, or promotion or for the costs of production agriculture, including the costs for the purchase of hoop houses, irrigation, breeding, animal housing or other infrastructure related to starting or increasing agricultural production. [505 ILCS 92/15(4) [and 8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30\(b\)\(1\)](#)]

Wages or travel costs.

Portions of a project that have already received funding or been reimbursed by another federal or state grant program.

Purchase or rental of a building or facility.

Land acquisition or associated fees.

Grant funding cannot be used to recoup previously-spent money on the project. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30]

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

Is construction not allowed at all, and where is the line between construction and contractor (building out a shared kitchen or wash / pack facility, for example)?

Response:

All grant funding must be used for purchasing, leasing to own, renting, building or installing infrastructure related to the processing, storage, aggregation, or distribution of value-added agricultural products. [505 ILCS 92/15(4)]

Allowable expenses include, but are not limited to, costs to purchase, lease, or install:

Equipment used in the production of value-added agricultural products [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(A)].

Sanitizing equipment.

Milling or pressing equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(B)].

Honey processing equipment and packaging including mini extractors lines, extractors, uncappers, dehydrators, creamers, warmers, heated sumps, bottling tanks and bottlers.

Syrup processing equipment and packaging including syrup evaporators, cookers, finishers, canners and bottlers.

Creamery or milk product processing and packaging equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(C)].

Food hub development or expansion [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(D)].

Cooler walls, freezers and refrigeration units [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(E)].

Grading, packing, labeling, packaging, or sorting equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(F)].

Refrigerated trucks [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(G)].

Custom exempt mobile slaughter units that meet all Federal and State regulations, including being licensed as an IDOA Type II slaughter/processing facility [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(H)].

Livestock, meat, and poultry, processing equipment (including fixtures or equipment necessary to expand animal throughput, processing capacity, the amount or type of products produced or processing speed, equipment necessary for compliance with federal hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) plan) [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(H)].

Agroforestry processing equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(I)].

Local fish, wild caught fish, and shrimp processing [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(J)].

Aquaponic and or hydroponic equipment.

Equipment for school meal scratch cooking (including, but not limited to refrigerators, freezers, ovens (convection, combi, or steamer), warming/holding equipment, serving tables (hot or cold), milk coolers, or dish machines.

Grant funding cannot be used for any of the following parts of a proposal:

Labor, marketing, or promotion or for the costs of production agriculture, including the costs for the purchase of hoop houses, irrigation, breeding, animal housing or other infrastructure related to starting or increasing agricultural production. [505 ILCS 92/15(4) [and 8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30\(b\)\(1\)](#)]

Wages or travel costs.

Portions of a project that have already received funding or been reimbursed by another federal or state grant program.

Purchase or rental of a building or facility.

Land acquisition or associated fees.

Grant funding cannot be used to recoup previously-spent money on the project. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30]

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

Does plumbing, HVAC, electricity, etc. count as construction? Are we allowed to contract these services out? Is that reimbursable?

Response:

All grant funding must be used for purchasing, leasing to own, renting, building or installing infrastructure

related to the processing, storage, aggregation, or distribution of value-added agricultural products. [505 ILCS 92/15(4)]

Allowable expenses include, but are not limited to, costs to purchase, lease, or install:

Equipment used in the production of value-added agricultural products [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(A)].

Sanitizing equipment.

Milling or pressing equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(B)].

Honey processing equipment and packaging including mini extractors lines, extractors, uncappers, dehydrators, creamers, warmers, heated sumps, bottling tanks and bottlers.

Syrup processing equipment and packaging including syrup evaporators, cookers, finishers, canners and bottlers.

Creamery or milk product processing and packaging equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(C)].

Food hub development or expansion [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(D)].

Cooler walls, freezers and refrigeration units [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(E)].

Grading, packing, labeling, packaging, or sorting equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(F)].

Refrigerated trucks [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(G)].

Custom exempt mobile slaughter units that meet all Federal and State regulations, including being licensed as an IDOA Type II slaughter/processing facility [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(H)].

Livestock, meat, and poultry, processing equipment (including fixtures or equipment necessary to expand animal throughput, processing capacity, the amount or type of products produced or processing speed, equipment necessary for compliance with federal hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) plan) [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(H)].

Agroforestry processing equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(I)].

Local fish, wild caught fish, and shrimp processing [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(J)].

Aquaponic and or hydroponic equipment.

Equipment for school meal scratch cooking (including, but not limited to refrigerators, freezers, ovens (convection, combi, or steamer), warming/holding equipment, serving tables (hot or cold), milk coolers, or dish machines.

Grant funding cannot be used for any of the following parts of a proposal:

Labor, marketing, or promotion or for the costs of production agriculture, including the costs for the purchase of hoop houses, irrigation, breeding, animal housing or other infrastructure related to starting or increasing agricultural production. [505 ILCS 92/15(4) [and 8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30\(b\)\(1\)](#)]

Wages or travel costs.

Portions of a project that have already received funding or been reimbursed by another federal or state grant program.

Purchase or rental of a building or facility.

Land acquisition or associated fees.

Grant funding cannot be used to recoup previously-spent money on the project. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30]

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

Is SQF (safe quality food) training & audit costs okay?

Response:

All grant funding must be used for purchasing, leasing to own, renting, building or installing infrastructure related to the processing, storage, aggregation, or distribution of value-added agricultural products. [505 ILCS 92/15(4)]

Allowable expenses include, but are not limited to, costs to purchase, lease, or install:

Equipment used in the production of value-added agricultural products [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(A)].

Sanitizing equipment.

Milling or pressing equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(B)].

Honey processing equipment and packaging including mini extractors lines, extractors, uncappers, dehydrators, creamers, warmers, heated sumps, bottling tanks and bottlers.

Syrup processing equipment and packaging including syrup evaporators, cookers, finishers, canners and bottlers.

Creamery or milk product processing and packaging equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(C)].

Food hub development or expansion [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(D)].

Cooler walls, freezers and refrigeration units [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(E)].

Grading, packing, labeling, packaging, or sorting equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(F)].

Refrigerated trucks [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(G)].

Custom exempt mobile slaughter units that meet all Federal and State regulations, including being licensed as an IDOA Type II slaughter/processing facility [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(H)].

Livestock, meat, and poultry, processing equipment (including fixtures or equipment necessary to expand animal throughput, processing capacity, the amount or type of products produced or processing speed, equipment necessary for compliance with federal hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) plan) [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(H)].

Agroforestry processing equipment [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(I)].

Local fish, wild caught fish, and shrimp processing [505 ILCS 92/15(4)(J)].

Aquaponic and or hydroponic equipment.

Equipment for school meal scratch cooking (including, but not limited to refrigerators, freezers, ovens (convection, combi, or steamer), warming/holding equipment, serving tables (hot or cold), milk coolers, or dish machines.

Grant funding cannot be used for any of the following parts of a proposal:

Labor, marketing, or promotion or for the costs of production agriculture, including the costs for the purchase of hoop houses, irrigation, breeding, animal housing or other infrastructure related to starting or increasing agricultural production. [505 ILCS 92/15(4) [and 8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30\(b\)\(1\)](#)]

Wages or travel costs.

Portions of a project that have already received funding or been reimbursed by another federal or state grant program.

Purchase or rental of a building or facility.

Land acquisition or associated fees.

Grant funding cannot be used to recoup previously-spent money on the project. [8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30]

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

Is this funding applicable to 501c3 projects?

Response:

An entity that is an Illinois resident. [505 ILCS 92/20(c)]. Applicants must comply with all relevant State and federal laws and rules, including prevailing wage requirements, when applicable. To be eligible for a grant award, an applicant shall have an active GATA registration and be qualified on the GATA Grantee Portal and SAM.gov at the time the application is submitted. The entity must store, process, package, aggregate or distribute value-added agricultural products or plan to do so, and must be one of the following [505 ILCS 92/15(1)]:

An Illinois farm with fewer than 50 employees. [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(A)].

An Illinois cooperative with fewer than 50 employees. "Illinois Cooperative" means a co-operative association organized under the Agriculture Co-Operative Act [805-ILCS 315] or the Co-operative Act [805 ILCS 310] or a limited worker cooperative association organized under the Limited Worker Cooperative Association Act [805 ILCS 317].

An Illinois slaughter and/or processing facility with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(C)]. Slaughter and/or processing facilities must be USDA or state licensed or be a custom exempt slaughter and/or processing facility.

An Illinois food business with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(D)].

An Illinois food hub with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(E)].

An Illinois nonprofit organization [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(F)].

A unit of local government in Illinois [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(G)].

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

Are collaborative projects prioritized?

Response:

No. The funding opportunity does not provide additional points for collaborative projects.

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

Are quotes required for equipment or contractors?

Response:

Projects will be evaluated for an adequate and realistic budget projection. For "realistic budget projection": a budget that identifies the total amount requested; accounts for each dollar spent; and provides explanations/assumptions of how the numbers were determined, with supporting documentation for those explanations/assumptions as appropriate.

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

Should I get Letters of Support?

Response:

Letters of support are a required document of the application. At least two letters of support for the project or business, written in the six months preceding application, from different entities that do work in the community. Letters of support must include:

- A) A summary of the relationship between the entity and the applicant;
- B) A description of the entity's operations and community impact;
- C) Address of the entity;
- D) Description of the geographic area the entity operates in or impacts;

E) A summary of the applicant's proposed project. This can be provided by the applicant to the entity but must be included with and or referenced in the letter; and

F) Anything else identified in the application.

**Day Submitted: 2/27/2026**

Question:

Some of the type of food businesses in the Food & Beverage pollution prevention sector that we are working with are bakeries; breweries (they also prepare some food from locally sourced ingredients); juice processing and packaging; spice processing, blending and packaging; grocery stores (less than 3 locations); and commercial kitchens preparing ready to eat packaged foods. We would like to confirm that these types of businesses would fall under the definition of food business for the program eligibility.

Response:

The response to this question is currently listed in the Frequently Asked Questions, under the heading of "Eligibility". "Who is eligible to apply for LFIG funding?"

An entity that is an Illinois resident. [505 ILCS 92/20(c)]

Applicants must comply with all relevant State and federal laws and rules, including prevailing wage requirements, when applicable.

To be eligible for a grant award, an applicant shall have an active GATA registration and be qualified on the GATA Grantee Portal and SAM.gov at the time the application is submitted.

The entity must store, process, package, aggregate or distribute value-added agricultural products or plan to do so, and must be one of the following [505 ILCS 92/15(1)]:

An Illinois farm with fewer than 50 employees. [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(A)].

An Illinois cooperative with fewer than 50 employees. "Illinois Cooperative" means a co-operative association organized under the Agriculture Co-Operative Act [805-ILCS 315] or the Co-operative Act [805 ILCS 310] or a limited worker cooperative association organized under the Limited Worker Cooperative Association Act [805 ILCS 317].

An Illinois slaughter and/or processing facility with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(C)]. Slaughter and/or processing facilities must be USDA or state licensed or be a custom exempt slaughter and/or processing facility.

An Illinois food business with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(D)].

An Illinois food hub with fewer than 50 employees [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(E)].

An Illinois nonprofit organization [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(F)].

A unit of local government in Illinois [505 ILCS 92/15(1)(G)].

\* Disclaimer: Any questions received prior to February 25, 2026, at 4:00 PM that have not been answered in this response posting will be answered in a supplemental response posting.

\*\*Any references to “Amplifund” herein are to “Euna Grants powered by Amplifund”.

Corrections made March 6, 2026.