



Local Food Infrastructure Grant

Resource Slides

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FY2027 Grant Details

What is LFIG?

- Local Food Infrastructure Grant
- Created through Public Act 103-772
- Administrative Rules
- Purpose: development of local food processing, aggregation, and distribution
- Fiscal Year 27: \$1.8m available in grants

Pre-registration Requirements

- **Illinois resident**
- **Comply with all relevant State and federal laws and rules, including prevailing wage requirements, when applicable**
- **Active GATA registration and be qualified on the GATA Grantee Portal**
- **Active SAM.gov registration at the time the application is submitted**

Grant Accountability & Transparency Act

- State law requires entities to register and pre-qualify online with GATA before applying for a state grant.
- Please verify that your organization/entity is in good standing with GATA and has an account on the [GATA Grantee Portal](#).
- [GATA account creation training video](#)



- Register in SAM.gov
- SAM (System for Award Management) is a government-wide registry for vendors doing business with the Federal government. You must register your entity (you as an individual or your organization) to be able to bid on contracts or apply for federal assistance (e.g., grants, loans) from the federal government.
- Registration is free.
- SAM registration requires annual renewal.

Reimbursement Grant

- This grant operates on a reimbursement basis.
- A reimbursement grant requires the grant recipient to spend their own funds first on project activities, such as supplies, equipment, or contracted services, then submit documentation to the granting agency to receive payment for those expenses.
- Once a contract is fully executed, grant funding will be distributed to grantees after the approved expenses have been paid for, support provided for the payment, and receipt of required reporting.
- Reimbursement requests may be submitted monthly.

Required Supporting Documents

- Grant recipients will be required to submit all supporting documentation related to the grant awarded funds and, if applicable, the 25% match for eligible costs. Required supporting documentation includes:
 - Proof of Payment: Bank statements or credit card statements showing the check/payment has cleared (with your bank and organization name visible and any non-grant-related information redacted) or submit copies of both the front and back of the canceled check.
 - Purchase of items and services: Signed purchase contracts, itemized bills or invoices, proof of delivery or service completion, and quotes or bids as required by contract amount.

Grantee Eligibility

Must store, process, package, aggregate, or distribute value-added agricultural products or plan to do so

AND BE...

- **An Illinois farm with fewer than 50 employees**
- **An Illinois cooperative with fewer than 50 employees**
- **An Illinois slaughter and/or processing facility with fewer than 50 employees. MUST be USDA or state licensed or be a custom exempt slaughter and/or processing facility.**

Grantee Eligibility (continued)

- An Illinois food business with fewer than 50 employees
- An Illinois food hub with fewer than 50 employees
- An Illinois nonprofit organization
- A unit of local government in Illinois

Who can apply?

- Individuals
- Corporations
- Partnerships
- Collaborations
 - Collaborative project applicants must identify the lead entity and all collaborating entities.

Who can NOT apply?

- 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
- An entity awarded funds in FY 26 can only apply for an award in FY 27 IF the application is for a different project.
- No person or entity is allowed to apply for funding in FY 27 for a project that was funded in FY 26.

Allowable Costs

Allowable expenses include, but are not limited to, costs to purchase, lease, or install equipment used in the production of value-added agricultural products.

Allowable Costs Examples

- Sanitizing equipment
- Milling or pressing equipment
- Honey or syrup processing equipment and packaging
- Creamery or milk product processing and packaging equipment

Allowable Costs Examples (continued)

- Food hub development and expansion
- Cooler walls, freezers and refrigeration units
- Grading, packing, labeling, packaging or sorting equipment
- Refrigerated trucks
- Custom exempt mobile slaughter units

Allowable Costs Examples (continued)

- Livestock, meat and poultry, processing equipment
- Agroforestry processing equipment
- Local fish, wild caught fish, and shrimp processing
- Aquaponic and hydroponic equipment
- Equipment for school scratch meal cooking

Ineligible Costs

- Labor, marketing or promotion, or the costs of production agriculture including costs for the purchase of hoop houses, irrigation, breeding, animal housing, or other infrastructure related to starting or increasing agricultural production
- Wages or travel costs
- Portions of a project that have already received funding or been reimbursed by another federal or state grant program

Ineligible Costs (continued)

- 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
- Grant funding can only be used for expenses incurred after the date of the application

Award Amounts

- Individual Project: \$1,000-\$75,000
- Collaborative Project: \$1,000-\$250,000

Matching Funds

- Matching funds are not required for high need projects
- All other projects require a 25% match
 - The recipients' comparable investments ("match") 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 grantor of funds

Application Process

The application process is through the Euna (formerly Amplifund) grant system.

Please visit the link below for information on using the Euna system.

 [Euna Grants Training](#)

Project Evaluation

- Projects will be evaluated based on the following considerations:
 - Reasonable assurance of increasing the availability and accessibility of Illinois agricultural products among Illinois communities
 - Adequate and realistic budget projection
 - Eligibility requirements
 - Cost eligibility

Points Awarded

- Points will be awarded to proposals that:
 - have established favorable community support
 - increase the availability of Illinois agricultural products to underserved communities in Illinois
 - positively impact underserved farmers in Illinois
 - are from established farmers and food businesses

Points Awarded (continued)

- Points will be awarded to proposals that:
 - facilitate long-term economic development in the local food sector
 - demonstrate comparable investments by the anticipated recipient
 - high need projects
 - submitted by small and very small farms and food businesses
 - organizations led by historically underserved farmers and food business owners

Required Attachments

Applicants must complete and upload all required supporting documents below, or the application will be automatically disqualified:

- i. IRS W-9**
- ii. IDOA Conflict of Interest Disclosure**
- iii. IDOA Mandatory Disclosure**
- iv. Proof of Entity**
- v. Proof of Number of Employees**
- vi. Supporting Documentation for Proof of Realistic Budget Projection**

Application Disqualification

Applications missing any required documents will be automatically disqualified. See previous slide for list of required documents.

Collaborative Projects

Every participating entity must meet all eligibility requirements and be fully qualified. If any listed entity is found to be ineligible, the entire project application will be automatically disqualified:

- i. IRS W-9
- ii. IDOA Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- iii. IDOA Mandatory Disclosure
- iv. Proof of Entity
- v. Proof of Number of Employees
- vi. Supporting Documentation for Proof of Realistic Budget Projection

Proof of Entity

Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) issuance letter from the Internal Revenue Service or registration with the Illinois Secretary of State to do business in Illinois.

Proof of “Established”

Established is defined as an entity that has been doing business in the agricultural or food sectors for at least three years

- **At least two types of documentation per year for at least three years, including:**
 - **Documentation from a source other than the applicant of the date the business was started in Illinois.**
 - **Documentation from government agencies of the business' operations or activities; tax records; media coverage describing the project or business's first actions**

Proof of “High Need”

- Explain and identify the need for critical infrastructure in your community. Discuss in detail what it is and why it is needed; include information about other projects or resources that are available in the community.

OR

- Explain who the project will serve. Discuss in detail how the project will help underserved farmers and/or underserved communities

Long-term Economic Development

Documentation describing or demonstrating how the project will accomplish any of the following:

- Investment in infrastructure to support business growth;
- Training, education, and skill development in an underserved community;
- Promote environmental sustainability and responsible resource management;
- Local community involvement in decision making and or identification of specific needs; or
- Providing opportunities not currently available to individuals in underserved communities.

Proof of Number of Employees

- IRS Form 941 for the four quarters preceding application

OR

- Illinois Form UI-3/40 Employer's Contribution and Wage report for the four quarters preceding application

OR

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

Favorable Community Support

Provide 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.

High Need Determination and Review

- **“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.**

High Need Determination and Review (continued)

If an applicant identifies their project as "high need" and the grant administrator determines the project does not meet the definition of "high need", the grant administrator shall notify the applicant in writing of that determination and its basis.

High Need Determination and Review (continued)

The applicant will have five business days from the date of the notification to inform the grant administrator in writing of whether the applicant intends to submit additional documentation. No response will be taken to mean the applicant does not intend to provide additional documentation, and the application will be denied. Applicants must identify, in their notification, whether they intend to provide matching funding (required of projects not determined to be high need) or additional information to support their identification as a high need project.

High Need Determination and Review (continued)

The grant administrator will acknowledge receipt of the applicant's notification and inform the applicant at that time if the notification is insufficient. If the notification is insufficient, applicant will have two business days to remedy. Grant administrator will provide written confirmation to the applicant if their notification was sufficient.

High Need Determination and Review (continued)

An applicant that timely provides sufficient notification will then have 15 business days from the date of the grant administrator's confirmation of sufficiency and receipt to submit additional information to support its self-identification as high need, and or additional information to show proof of matching fund availability. Failure to provide the documentation in the required time will result in the application being denied.

Realistic Budget Projection

- A complete detailed and attainable budget will:
 - Identify the total amount requested for reimbursement;
 - Account for how each dollar will be spent;
 - Provide explanation for how the numbers were determined; and
 - Provide supporting documentation for those explanations.

- **REQUIRED:** A proposed budget for the project, outlining anticipated or estimated costs of supplies or equipment for the project. If matching funds will be utilized, the budget should also include the matching funds and the source of the matching funds.

Proposed Budget *include matching funds if applicable*

The budget section of the application includes major expenditure categories:

- Equipment
- Supplies
- Contractual Services and Subawards
- Construction, Training and Education
- Other or Miscellaneous Costs

Applicants must complete the budget by adding itemized line-item expenses, providing the required narrative, and uploading supporting documents under "Budget Item Information Attachments" for each allowable category.

Proposed Budget *include matching funds if applicable (continued)*

- Eligible costs must be incurred by June 30, 2027.
- For purposes of this grant funding, an incurred cost is an eligible cost for which the grantee has become committed or obligated to pay. A cost is considered incurred when the grantee has done any of the following:
 1. Received the goods, services, or other deliverables associated with the cost;
 2. Ordered the goods, services, or other deliverables associated with the cost and can provide proof of the order, such as a dated purchase order or unpaid invoice; or
 3. Entered into a binding contract that creates a legal obligation for future performance related to the goods, services, or other deliverables associated with the cost.
- A cost does not need to be paid to be considered incurred. The existence of a valid obligation is sufficient.

Proposed Budget *include matching funds if applicable (continued)*

Proposed Budget

Expense Budget

Category	Grant Funded	Non-Grant Funded	Total Budgeted
+ 4. Equipment (2 CFR 200.439)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
+ 5. Supplies (2 CFR 200.94)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
+ 6. Contractual Services & Subawards (2 CFR 200.318 & 200.92)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
+ 8. Construction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
+ 12. Training and Education (2 CFR 200.472)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
+ 14. Other or Miscellaneous Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expense Budget Cost	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

- As a rule, construction costs are not allowable without prior written approval. In some cases, minor repairs or renovations may be allowable. Consult with the program office before budgeting funds in this category. Estimated construction costs must be supported by documentation including drawings and estimates, formal bids, etc.
- 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
 - "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."

- Allowable expenses are outlined on slides 12-15
- Labor, wages, and travel costs are ineligible expenses pursuant to 505 ILCS 92/15(4) and 8 Ill. Adm. Code 340.30(b). Accordingly, items included in the budget of the application should not include labor, wages, and travel costs. Installation fees and/or construction costs that can be classified as labor, wages, and travel costs are ineligible for grant funding.

- Please refer to the FAQ section prior to emailing, as you may find your answer more quickly there.
- In the event you do not find your answer, please keep in mind the following:
 - Technical Questions regarding prequalification, Euna issues, etc., should be sent to agr.grants@illinois.gov. They will be answered directly from that email.
 - Program Specific Questions will not be answered individually to ensure equity in distribution of information. Rather, look for the answers to be posted on the FAQ section of the website.

Contact the LFIG Grant Administrator
agr.lfig@illinois.gov

Thank you!