

if the lead applicant organization serves those populations, is that sufficient for the reduction?

- **No**

is the match letter from the applicant's accounting department or the funder directly?

- **The letter should come from the Funder**

but we are a nonprofit so there's no "owner".

- **Then it should come from you funding department**

Does in-kind match also apply to those who qualify for reduced match?

Infrastructure grant recipients are required to contribute 50% of the total project costs a match to federal funding.

This may be as cash, in-kind, or a combination of the two.

This applies to all applicants except those who qualify for the reduced match. All applicants will be required to certify their match through submission of a Letter of Match Verification for EACH source of match.

Are farms the only eligible business or are processors also eligible?

Agricultural producers or processors, or groups of agricultural producers and processors

- **Nonprofit organizations operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural products**
- **For-profit entities operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, or distribution of targeted agricultural products, whose activities are primarily focused for the benefit of local and regional producers, and that meet the eligibility requirements of the SBA small business size standards are eligible. o For-profit entities must meet the eligibility requirements of the SBA small business size standards matched to industries described in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For more information on these size standards, please visit [SBA's Size Standards webpage](#). For a quick check on whether your business qualifies, please use the [Size Standards Tool](#).**
- **Local government entities operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural products**

- Tribal governments operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural products.
- Institutions such as schools, universities, or hospitals bringing producers together to establish cooperative or shared infrastructure or invest in equipment that will benefit multiple producers middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural product.

All applicant businesses and organizations must be domestically owned, and applicants' facilities must be physically located within the 50 States of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Does minority owned business status need to be certified by the SBA? How do we "self-certify"?

- **You will self-certify by checking the box on the application.**

With a board of directors can it qualify if there's a combination of minority females, veterans, POC etc.. or only 1 classification ?

- **Combination of minority board members if fine.**

so no federal funds can be used as match, correct?

- **Correct**

will this grant come back each year? If so, will the winners be able to reapply to expand the project later on?

- **If it comes back, then yes you can reapply**

Would something like peanut butter be eligible?

- **No peanuts are not eligible**

Salsa? How can we get a full list?

No, unfortunately there is not a list and yes Salsa would qualify.

question on slide 15; the individual producer benefitting the larger local food system--can you cshare an example of that?

- **Cost sharing or matching is the portion of project costs not paid by the Federal funds, which could be cash and/or in-kind contributions. Cash can be a financial outlay, or cash donations from non-Federal third parties. Inkind can be the value of non-cash contributions typically in**

the form of value of personnel, goods, and services, including direct and indirect costs. Other Federal funds cannot be used as match.

do value-added products qualify? (e.g. fermented foods)

- **Yes**

Is there a list of value added that might or might not qualify? eg: grains to flour, fermented foods, salsa, jams, etc?

- **Unfortunately, there is not a list.**

for construction projects, what additional planning documents are required to be submitted with the application?

- **Please do your best to provide accurate quotes for new equipment or for updating current equipment to reflect an accurate budget for the project. Any project selected by MDAR for funding also must go through USDA for secondary approval, so the budgets.**

and supporting documentation are important for understanding the scope of the project being proposed. o For all equipment, contractual and construction services applicants must submit documentation to substantiate the costs, which can include contracts, catalog pricing, or binding quotes provided by licensed commercial entities.

Are recipients of afid infrastructure grants eligible if the funds would be used to continue a partially complete project?

- **Yes but please keep in mind program income or any other Federal funds is an ineligible source of match or cost share.**

Any idea how much it costs to get certified for NEPA?

- **Unfortunately I do not. I would check their website**

On the infrastructure grant amount, if the top award is \$3M is that in total? In other words, \$1.5M federal funds and \$1.5M match or \$3M federal funds and \$3M match?

- **The match would be \$1.5M federal funds and \$1.5M match**

Simplified equipment grants would not be subject to NEPA or Section 106 , right?

- **Correct**

Can you put multiple pieces of equipment on one proposal if it's under \$100k.

- **Equipment only grants do not have a minimum requirement of \$5,000 for each piece of equipment. You can purchase multiple pieces of equipment as long as it remains under \$100,000/ meets the \$10,000**

minimum in total, the purchases are made at the same time, and they support middle of the supply chain efforts. All pieces of equipment must fit under one project.

If your equipment purchases are greater than \$100,000, you must be able to prove you are able to pay the overage.

Can infrastructure grants include equipment cost as part of the project? Alf yes, any limitations on the type of equipment?

Special purpose equipment purchases are allowable when provided in the approved budget or with prior written approval for acquisitions costs and rental costs of special purpose equipment provided the following criteria are met:

Allowable:

- **Purchases of special purpose equipment (such as, canners, hulling processors, reverse osmosis systems, egg packing machines, flotation tanks, roasters, or other processing equipment, packing and labeling equipment, or delivery vehicles) are allowable when approved in the agreement budget or with prior written approval. All equipment purchases must meet the following criteria:**
 - **Equipment is necessary for the technical activities of the agreement and is not otherwise reasonably available and accessible.**
 - **Equipment is normally charged as a direct cost by the organization and is acquired in accordance with organizational practices.**
 - **Equipment must be used solely to meet the purpose of the program and objectives of the agreement.**
 - **Equipment is subject to the full range of acquisition, use, management, and disposition requirements under 2 CFR § 200.313 as applicable.**

Unallowable:

- **Purchases of general-purpose equipment (e.g., general use motor vehicles, office furniture, office air conditioners, printers, and copiers) or lease agreements to own (i.e., lease-to-own or rent-to-own).**

The entities need to be domestic? Equipment suppliers, that is.

- **Yes**

no equipment at all in the infrastructure grant?

- **The Infrastructure Grant allows for new equipment purchases, new production facility costs, and new storage facility costs..**

just to clarify if one piece of equipment is less than 5K does it still count and only buying one piece for say 4K? could this program still be used?

- **Equipment only grants do not have a minimum requirement of \$5,000 for each piece of equipment. You can purchase multiple pieces of equipment if it remains under \$100,000/ meets the \$10,000 minimum**

in total, the purchases are made at the same time, and they support middle of the supply chain efforts. All pieces of equipment must fit under one project.

If your equipment purchases are greater than \$100,000, you must be able to prove you are able to pay the overage.

Infrastructure grants can be used for technology? IT system to manage a warehouse, for instance?

Yes

Did you define middle of the supply chain?

- **The food supply chain involves the following stages: 1. Production, 2. Processing, 3. Aggregation/Distribution, and 4. Markets/Consumers.**

For the purposes of RFSI, “middle-of-the-supply-chain” refers to the middle stages: 2. Processing and 3. Aggregation/Distribution.

I am working on a RFSI Simplified-Equipment Only grant request for Southside Virginia Fruit and Vegetable Producers. They have several large equipment pieces they are requesting. They need a stationary backup generator to operate their coolers when power is lost to the facility. Given their location in rural Charlotte County this is a real risk to their Association. In the summer months it's not uncommon for the Association to have more than \$10K+ in produce processed and aggregated in just one cooler waiting for pickup or delivery. Would purchase of this stationary back-up generator qualify as equipment for the grant?

- **Yes, the stationary back up generator would be allowable for the RFSI grant.**