- **USDA Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP):**
  - The MPPEP provides grants to help eligible processors expand their capacity. Applicants may apply for up to $25 million in funding or 20% of their project cost, whichever is less.
  - On March 25, the USDA announced a 30-day extension for the Phase 1 Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program. The new deadline is May 11th, 2022.
  - Applicants must have a System for Award Management (SAM) number. Note: This may take 2 to 3 weeks to process. Register at: [https://sam.gov/content/home](https://sam.gov/content/home); for additional support call 1.800.518.4726 or email support@grants.gov
  - An additional round of funding is expected later this summer.
  - Helpful links:
    - MPPEP FAQs
    - MPPEP Application Checklist
    - Program Overview Webinar: Recording; Slides
    - Application Recruitment Webinar: Recording; Slides

- **USDA AMS Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG):**
  - The MPIRG program assists currently operational meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities with obtaining a Federal Grant of Inspection under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA), or to operate a State-inspected facility that is compliant with FMIA or PPIA under a respective Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) program.
  - USDA AMS is accepting applications now through May 24, 2022 for the second round of Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grants program funding, totaling $23.6 million.
  - The MPIRG focuses on:
    - Improving meat and poultry slaughter and processing capacity and efficiency;
    - Developing new and expanding existing markets;
    - Increasing capacity and better meet consumer and producer demand;
    - Maintaining strong inspection and food safety standards;
    - Obtaining a larger commercial presence; and
Increasing access to slaughter/processing facilities for smaller farms and ranches, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers, veteran producers, and/or underserved communities.

- **USDA AMS Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity - Technical Assistance (MPPTA)**
  - The MPPTA ensures meat and poultry grant applicants have access to full-range technical assistance to help applicants navigate the application process and to assist grant recipients throughout their project in four key areas:
    - **Federal Grant Application Management**: Navigating federal grants processes and procedures, from pre-award applications processes through post-award grant management compliance;
    - **Business Development and Financial Planning**: Business and financial planning resources, market intelligence, and project/concept feasibility analyses;
    - **Meat and Poultry Processing Technical and Operation Support**: Advice and resources to support the operational needs—including workforce development--of processing plant development and utilization; and
    - **Supply Chain Development**: Support for the development and maintenance of successful supply chain and marketing relationships—between suppliers, processors, distributors, and customers.

The following is a list of steps and resource experts for those considering whether or not to apply for a USDA grant and/or business loan.

- **Considerations when working with a lender for growth financing:**
  - A business plan (including a marketing section)
  - A financial plan
  - A loan guarantee
  - Collateral
  - Federal, state, county, or other grants
  - A demonstration of supply and demand; this could include MOUs or contracts from both suppliers (e.g. ranchers) and purchasers (e.g. existing and potential customers).

- **Other resources for business planning:**
  - Business/marketing/financial plans:
    - Accounting firms
- Local lending institution
- **Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)**
  - SBDC services are free & confidential across the state
  - UDAF Meat and Poultry Inspection Program information and requirements
  - Sample meat plant building plans
  - Environmental plans to address waste water, etc: engineering firms
  - Building permits: county/city Planning & Zoning staff

*Note: This resource list is not comprehensive, but is intended only to be a reference for businesses new to loan and grant processes.*