



2025 Food Security Grant
Request for Applications

Applications due 11:59pm on June 8, 2025

Applications received after that time will not be considered.

For more information, email Allison Ross at aross@utah.gov or call 385-549-7987

Purpose

The Utah Food Security Grant (UFSG) was created in 2022 with a \$1 million appropriation from the Utah State Legislature. With these funds, UDAF issued grants to Utah-based businesses to increase processing capacity of agricultural products produced in the state. UDAF received additional funding to continue this program during the 2023, 2024, and 2025 legislative sessions.

The UFSG covers expenses including processing equipment, coolers/freezers, contractor costs (plumbing, draining, electrical work), portion cutters, slaughter equipment, sorting equipment, and bottling equipment, among others.

Individual grant awards will be capped at \$200,000. 50% of the funds will be set aside for meat and poultry processing. \$20,000 will be held for microgrants of \$5,000 or less.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Entities

This grant is open to for-profit, non-profit, and producer co-op. Grants of up to \$200,000 are available to processors located in Utah with no more than 100 employees who use at least 51% of ingredients or product inputs that were grown/raised in Utah, and that sell at least 51% of their products to Utah consumers.

Meat/poultry processors wishing to apply must be either:

- A state-inspected “equal-to” slaughter and/or processing plant,
- A licensed custom-exempt slaughter plant, or
- A Talmadge-Aiken (TA) or very small federally inspected plant.
- A USDA inspected meat plant

Eligible expenses must make an immediate impact on the state’s capacity to process or store Utah-raised protein or Utah-grown products including beef, dairy, pork, eggs, poultry, lamb, bison, fruit, vegetables, honey, etc.

Reimbursement amounts are based on the applicable and reasonable project costs, minus the percentage that will be provided as a match. Reimbursement will be up to the amount stated in the contract and will require actual or copies of receipts, expenses, paid invoices and/or checks.

Ineligible Projects and Costs

- Ineligible grant costs include, but are not limited to:
 - Acquisition of land or buildings
 - Salaries
 - Fringe
 - Research
 - Unrelated supplies and parts
 - General overhead costs
 - Items that were purchased previously to grant contracts being signed

FUNDING AMOUNTS

Individual project awards will be capped at \$200,000. There is no minimum award, but \$20,000 will be held for microgrants of \$5,000 or less.

TIMELINE

Grant applications will be accepted beginning May 1, 2025, and ending at 11:59pm on June 8, 2025. Please see the list of important dates below.

- Applications Open: May 1, 2025
- Applicant Q&A Sessions:
 - May 8, 2025 (6-8pm) - Register [HERE](#)
 - June 4, 2025 (11am - 1pm) - Register [HERE](#)
- Application Close Date: June 8, 2025 at 11:59pm
- Application Review Period: June - July 2025
- Awards Provisionally Announced: End of July 2025
- Contracts signed and completed: End of July 2025
- Project Start Date: End of July 2025

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are required to complete and submit their proposal online using the Submittable system, which can be found through the UDAF Food Security Grant [website](#).

Application Information

The application form on Submittable will require the following elements.

1. **Project Title** - Do not use your organization name in the project title.
2. **What percent of your ingredients/product inputs are grown/raised in Utah:** Select either 51-70%, 71-85%, or 86-100%. Must have a minimum of 50% to be eligible to apply.
3. **Select your project's primary agricultural sector**

4. **How much grant funding are you requesting?** Provide the total dollar amount that you are requesting.
5. **In order of priority, list the facility upgrades and/or equipment you plan to purchase with the grant funding, the cost for each item, whether any are conditional upon a different equipment purchase, and how much of a total match you are providing. Note that a 25% match is required, and preference points will be awarded for a 50% match.** If an item is conditional on the purchase of another item or upgrade, please use the most-right column to explain. Please ensure that you are only adding the dollar amount in the table, do not include the \$ in front of the amount as it will not calculate correctly.
6. **Realistically, how quickly will these upgrades be installed and become operational?** Select either Within 6 months, or 6 months to one year.
7. **How will your proposal impact the overall food supply chain in Utah?**
8. **Describe your processing capacity for products associated with your project request. Share how requested project expenses will increase your processing capacity. Include the expected overall percentage increase. *If this request is for a new facility, describe your expected processing capacity and how it would be impacted by this grant request.**
9. **Describe the source(s) of your products/ingredients.**
10. **Describe your current business plan. Is it viable without this grant funding?**

Review Process

The review process for this round of funding has two stages, an initial eligibility review followed by a selection committee review. Projects may be disqualified if they:

- Are not headquartered in Utah,
- Do not have 100 or fewer employees,
- Sell less than 51% of goods to Utah consumers,
- Cannot cover 25% of the project costs through a cash or direct expenditure match,
- Contain only ineligible costs, or
- Have an incomplete application

Rating Criteria:

Projects will be rating on the following:

- Requests are reasonable (5 points)
- Project is related to either Meat, Poultry, Fruits, or Vegetables (10 points)
- Applicant provided a 50% cost-match (10 points)
- Proposal demonstrates a significant potential to increase consumer access to Utah-grown and processed agricultural products (10 points)
- Project will be implemented and begin having an impact on food security within 6 months (15 points), or 6 months to one year (5 points)

- Project percent of ingredients sourced from Utah-grown/raised products is
 - 51-70% (5 points)
 - 71-85% (10 points)
 - 86-100% (15 points)
- Applicant has a viable business plan/business model and is not reliant on ongoing grant funding (15 points)
- Proposal demonstrates a significant potential to increase applicant's processing and/or storage capacity and will have a strong impact on the overall food supply chain in Utah. (20 points)