The New York Farm Viability Institute (NYFVI) is partnering with NYS Grown & Certified to launch a grant program to assist NYS food producers, processors, distributors, and other eligible entities bring innovative NYS Grown and Certified product to market. All projects selected for funding under this grant opportunity must implement new and innovative practices or approaches to meet industry needs and consumer demands.

Priority areas for this $5.8 million award include:
- Production automation and labor efficiency,
- Distribution capacity enhancement,
- Processing and packaging,
- Food safety,
- Environmental sustainability related to NYS G&C participation,
- New product development.

Funding will be awarded within 4 groups:
- Finger Lakes & Central NY: $1 million for capital projects;
- Western NY & Southern Tier: $1 million for capital projects;
- North Country, Mohawk Valley, & Capital District: $1.5 million for capital projects;
- Mid-Hudson, NYC, & Long Island: $1.5 million for capital projects;

Each regional group will also have an additional $200,000 available for research and development projects.

What to Expect

- Nearly $6 million will be available.
- Grants will be available for infrastructure and technology projects
- Many capital costs will be allowed
- Grant size will range from $20,000 to $250,000
- Funds will be awarded by region.
- Applications from current NYS Grown & Certified participants or businesses actively working to become certified will be prioritized.

NYFVI is working to design a program that spurs the adoption of innovative practices and approaches while meeting the needs of all potential applicants. To be considered, all projects must have a direct and timely benefit to the NY agricultural industry and significance to the region served by the eligible applicant. Additionally, all applicants must be current NYS Grown & Certified participants or be actively working to become certified.
A QuickStart Guide for Preparing for Upcoming NYS Grown & Certified Grant Opportunities.

There are steps you can take NOW to ensure that your business is positioned for success

1. Maintain Updated and Accurate Financial Records

Financial records allow you to accurately assess the financial health of your business and to make reasonable financial projections based on past history. Ensuring that your financial records are up to date will make it easier to complete the grant application once it is released.

2. Review (and Revise) your Business Plan

Your business plan provides both a snapshot of the current state of your business as well as a roadmap for your future plans. Additionally, the business plan is a comprehensive document that quickly communicates the current status as well as the future goals and feasibility of those goals to outsiders.

3. Think about how the needs of your business align with the priorities of this program

Would your business benefit from becoming NYS Grown & Certified? Are there innovative technologies or practices that you would like to apply to your operation or that would lower the barrier to being NYS Grown & Certified? Keep these and other similar questions in your mind as you move through the upcoming growing season. What are your pain points? What innovative tools or strategies could you use to overcome them?

Want to be the first to hear about upcoming grant opportunities? Check www.nyfvi.org frequently and join our e-mail list.