

NYS G&C Program			
Date	Section	Question	Answer
12/26/2024	Marketing Grant Link	Can you post the link to the marketing grant?	As discussed at the webinars, participation in NYS G&C may make you eligible for additional grant programs. NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets is currently administering a marketing grant for NYS G&C businesses. More information is available here. https://agriculture.ny.gov/rfa-0331-new-york-state-grown-certified-cooperative-marketing-program
12/26/2024		If there is a NY grown and processed food product for which it is not possible to get G&C certification, is it still recommended to submit a proposal?	All applicants must be able to be NYS Grown & Certified in the food or beverage category that is associated with their project's purpose. If an applicant is interested in becoming NYS G&C but doesn't see their business represented in the current certification categories, they should work with NYS G&C program staff to ensure their business is eligible for certification prior to application. Grant contracts will not be awarded to a business that is not able to become NYS G&C in the category that is aligned with the purpose of the funds.
12/26/2024		Does purchasing NY Grown and Certified products to manufacture consumer goods qualify?	All applicants must be able to be NYS Grown & Certified in the food or beverage category that is associated with their project's purpose. If an applicant is interested in becoming NYS G&C but doesn't see their business represented in the current certification categories, they should work with NYS G&C program staff to ensure their business is eligible for certification prior to application. Grant contracts will not be awarded to a business that is not able to become NYS G&C in the category that is aligned with the purpose of the funds.

12/26/2024		What if a non profit who feeds the community uses ny grown and certified ingredients to produce and package meals can they utilize this program?	All applicants must be able to be NYS Grown & Certified in the food or beverage category that is associated with their project's purpose. If an applicant is interested in becoming NYS G&C but doesn't see their business represented in the current certification categories, they should work with NYS G&C program staff to ensure their business is eligible for certification prior to application. Grant contracts will not be awarded to a business that is not able to become NYS G&C in the category that is aligned with the purpose of the funds.
12/26/2024		Is hemp production allowed	Only if it is able to be certified as a food product in the NYS G&C program.
12/26/2024		can we see a list of people who are NYS Grown and Certified to see if someone down stream in our business would help us qualify? We run a grain elevator that buys crops from farmers and resells them to manufactures. We also produce bulk feeds for dairy farms.	The certified.ny.gov website lists all NYS G&C participants, as well as the categories that have NYS G&C applications. Currently field crops are not eligible for certification, and thus not eligible for this grant program.
12/26/2024		May we confer with you offline (later) to discuss the eligibility for a complex scenario? If so, who should we contact? NYFVI, SBDC, and/or FarmNet?	All applicants must be able to be NYS Grown & Certified in the food or beverage category that is associated with their project's purpose. If an applicant is interested in becoming NYS G&C but doesn't see their business represented in the current certification categories, they should work with NYS G&C program staff to ensure their business is eligible for certification prior to application. Grant contracts will not be awarded to a business that is not able to become NYS G&C in the category that is aligned with the purpose of the funds.
12/26/2024		Can a food testing lab qualify as a processor?	No. A food testing lab is not producing, processing or distributing a NYS G&C product and therefore is not eligible for the grant program.

12/26/2024		Can a feed mill apply?	No. There is not a NYS G&C category for feed mills, nor is it creating a food or beverage product.
12/26/2024		Would sweet cider production for on-site sale be considered a processed food?	Please review the NYS G&C application available on the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets website at certified.ny.gov to make that determination for yourself. If there are still questions, please reach out to Jessica Brooks at Jessica.Brooks@ny.agriculture.gov
12/26/2024		Do you know if the food safety CAP certification through VT veg and berry growers association qualifies in the grown and certified program?	The certification requirements for each category in NYS G&C are available on the program website located here: https://certified.ny.gov/
12/26/2024		If a vegetable farm contracts with a copacker to produce a value-added product that is NYS G&C, and wants to apply for processing equipment to be used by the copacker, should the application be made as a farm or as a processor?	The NYS G&C category must match the use of the funds, copack is a complex area. Please reach out to Jessica.Brooks@ny.agriculture.gov for more guidance on how the copacker may become Grown & Certified.
12/26/2024		How long does the process usually take to become certified?	The process and time frame to become NYS G&C will vary based upon the certification requirements and individual circumstances
12/26/2024	Appendix A Definitions	Is application process the same for distributors? How is distributors defined in the application process?	Distributors are defined in Appendix A of the Technical Requirements document. The grant application process for distributors is the same as for other types of applicants. If you select distributors as your answer to the branching question in Section 1 of the application it will bring up the questions that are appropriate to provide a distributor's business profile. Please work with NYS G&C program staff in advance to ensure you will be able to sign a strategic partnership agreement to serve as your certification.

12/26/2024	Eligibility	Are fruit storage/packing facilities eligible for this funding?	Fruit Storage/packing facilities should work directly with Jessica Brooks with the NYS Grown & Certified program to confirm the certification requirements for their business. If they are eligible to be certified, they are eligible to apply for funding.
12/26/2024	Full RFP	I was wondering what the qualifications were for the grants?	<p>Part of developing an eligible and competitive application is making the case for how your project aligns with your interpretation of the Statewide Priorities.</p> <p>Interested applicants should read the RFP closely to determine: 1) Is your business an eligible applicant. 2) Is your potential project focused on one of the program's priorities. 3) Are the costs associated with the proposal eligible and clearly associated with the purpose of the project? 4) Can you execute within the grant program structure. 5) Is the project likely to be competitive based on the scoring criteria. Applicants are encouraged to read the RFP closely to determine if the NYS G&C IT grant program is right for you. As this is a competitive grant, NYFVI staff cannot engage with applicants individually.</p>

Infrastructure & Technology RFP Questions			
General			
Date	Section	Question	Answer
12/26/2024	Communications	Can you point me to where the PDF on the Grant is located on your website?	All documents related to this RFP can be found at https://nyfvi.org/new-york-state-grown-certified-itrd-grant-program-2024copy/
12/26/2024	Communications	Where does one find the NYS Grown & Certified application?	The application can be found here. Links to the online application and other useful information can be found at the program page https://nyfvi.org/new-york-state-grown-certified-itrd-grant-program-2024copy/
12/26/2024	Communications	Will we be sent the recording of this webinar?	The webinar is available on the website.
12/26/2024	Communications	Will details / contents of a completed and successful application be disclosed publicly?	There are no current plans to share this information. NYFVI will consider if that would be helpful for future grant rounds.
12/26/2024	Communications	Will these recording be available for review. I missed the farmer - producer webinar and would like to review	Yes, the recordings are available online.
12/26/2024	Communications	Will we have access to these slides after the webinar?	Yes. The slides have been posted on the website.
12/26/2024	Other programs	Can you apply for both Beginning Farmer and ITRD?	Yes, eligible applicants can apply to both programs.
12/26/2024	Other programs	We are Grown & Certified and also new farmers. Can we apply for both grants?	Yes, eligible applicants can apply to both programs.

12/26/2024	Resources	Does NY FarmNet have any consultants with expertise in aquaculture and fisheries and provide support to seafood and seaweed producers?	Not yet, but they are eager and able to build some! Please reach out to them directly 1-800-547-3276
12/26/2024	Resources	Do NYFarmNet have anyone who specializes in organic crop production?	Please reach out to NY FarmNet directly to learn about their expertise. 1-800-547-3276
12/26/2024	Resources	Is there a list of institutions or organizations that NY Farm Viability has worked with in the past, that offer bridge loans for these kinds of grants?	This is the first time this RFP has been offered. However, both NY FarmNet and SBDC have a history of working with farms and food system business to help them identify potential sources for bridge loans. NYFVI will also be working to compile a list of potential lenders.
12/26/2024	Reviewers	are the reviewers the same for all current grant opportunities?	While there may be some overlap, overall the programs will rely upon different reviewers.
12/26/2024	Business Profile Section	I am a producer, but I also aggregate and distribute product for several other farms. The grant project will benefit all the businesses. What category do I use for the business profile of the grant application?	Please reach out to Jessica Brooks at NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to confirm the certification category for your operation. For the grant program, the distributor or processor business profile section should be completed.
12/26/2024	Communications	will the recordings be sent to us via email?	The link was not sent via email, but is available at the program page at https://nyfvi.org/new-york-state-grown-certified-itrd-grant-program-2024copy/
1/20/2025	Communications	Will the session be recorded and available to watch later?	The webinar is available on the website.

1/20/2025	Other programs	We have also applied for a grant in a different NYS program, but it has not been awarded yet. Are there any issues if we also apply for this grant?	Eligible applicants may apply for other NYS grants. If your project is selected for funding by this program and another NYS grant program, you will need to document that funds are applied appropriately, as specified in your approved budget, and are not duplicative of any expenses being reimbursed by the other grant.
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Technical Requirements			
Date	Section	Question	Answer
12/26/2024	Appendix A Definitions	Is application process the same for distributors? How is distributors defined in the application process?	Distributors are defined in Appendix A of the Technical Requirements document. The grant application process for distributors is the same as for other types of applicants. If you select distributors as your answer to the branching question in Section 1 of the application it will bring up the questions that are appropriate to provide a distributor's business profile. Please work with NYS G&C program staff in advance to ensure you will be able to sign a strategic partnership agreement to serve as your certification.
12/26/2024	Eligibility	Are fruit storage/packing facilities eligible for this funding?	Fruit Storage/packing facilities should work directly with Jessica Brooks with the NYS Grown & Certified program to confirm the certification requirements for their business. If they are eligible to be certified, they are eligible to apply for funding.
12/26/2024	Allowable costs	So can we purchase a building (which includes the land it is built on) or no because there is no purchasing of land allowed?	The value of the building would be an allowable expense within the grant program, but the value of the land could not be included in the funding request.
12/26/2024	Contracting and Reimbursement	Can we change our budget in the middle of the grant term if something changes or unexpected things happen?	The dollar amount and the purpose of the project may not change. Changes to line item costs would need to be discussed in advance of the expenditure. Applicants should plan their budget carefully.
12/26/2024	Eligibility	We don't have to already be grown and certified to apply but we have to be enrolled with the grown and certified program?	Correct, you may apply without being NYS G&C, but you will need to be certified in the category that is associated with your project's purpose before any reimbursement is made.

12/26/2024	Eligibility	All discussions thus far have been in relation to food items. What about fiber producers?	This program is specific to the farms and food system businesses that are creating a NYS G&C food or beverage product. Fiber is not eligible.
12/26/2024	Eligibility	Is it feasible to apply for this round if we are just beginning the certification process?	While you don't need to be certified before applying, receiving a grant payment does require that a business participate in the NYS Grown & Certified program, so if you are not already enrolled, you should make sure that you understand the certification requirements and it is the right fit for your business. See page 5 of the Technical Requirements for the program eligibility requirements.
12/26/2024	Eligibility	What if you wear both hats? A producer and an aggregator/distributor of NYG&C products (100% of all products)	All applicants must be able to be NYS Grown & Certified in the food or beverage category that is associated with their project's purpose. If an applicant is interested in becoming NYS G&C but doesn't see their business represented in the current certification categories, they should work with NYS G&C program staff to ensure their business is eligible for certification prior to application. Grant contracts will not be awarded to a business that is not able to become NYS G&C in the category that is aligned with the purpose of the funds.
12/26/2024	Eligible costs	Can financing cost, associated to bridge loans, be added as a potential cost and/ or as part of our 10% contribution?	No. Financing costs are considered part of routine operating costs and are not eligible for reimbursement.
12/26/2024	Eligible Costs	Can the interest on a required bridge loan be included as a project cost?	No. Financing costs are considered part of routine operating costs and are not eligible for reimbursement.

12/26/2024	Eligible costs/Priorities	You have mentioned equipment on several occasions and I would like to qualify what is eligible and what is not eligible regarding equipment.	There is no list of eligible equipment. Applicants must justify how the equipment is aligned with the priority areas and be able to measure the outcomes the equipment would have on their business.
12/26/2024	Eligibility	Do I have to already be NYS Grown and Certified in order to apply?	While you don't need to be certified before applying, receiving a grant payment does require that a business participate in the NYS Grown & Certified program, so if you are not already enrolled, you should make sure that you understand the certification requirements and it is the right fit for your business. See page 5 of the Technical Requirements for the program eligibility requirements.
12/26/2024	Key Dates	If you're successful in Track 2 and you have all your funding available at the time of announcement, is there any way to expedite the contracts to be signed during the summer?	The anticipated schedule for the contracting process is included in the Technical Requirements on page 1. Contracts will be executed on an ongoing basis. No commitments to expediting any contract can be made.
12/26/2024	Matching Funds	Is this a matching grant or one that makes up a percentage of the businesses investment ?	This is a matching grant. Both tracks require the applicant to provide and document the use of a 10% financial match. See page 4 of the Technical Requirements document.
12/26/2024	New and Innovative	How are 'new' or 'innovative' defined for grant purposes? Could projects like purchasing equipment or building storage qualify, or must they include features like energy efficiency?	New and innovative will mean different things for different types of projects. Part of developing a competitive grant application is making the case for why and how your project is new or innovative. Applicants are encouraged to think about how these attributes could be part of their project, and read the application instructions for that narrative section.

12/26/2024	Number of Applications	Can you apply more than once with different projects? Or apply for the \$20-50K for 1 project and the 50-250K for another project?	Please review the Number of Applications section on page 4 of the Technical Requirements document.
12/26/2024	Priorities	It says projects must focus on one of the statewide priority areas Distribution capacity enhancement, processing and packaging etc. Can we answer more than one?	No, the applicant must select a single priority area. Part of developing a competitive application is making the case for how your project aligns with your interpretation of the Statewide priorities.
12/26/2024	Priorities	Can you go more in depth with the three RFP Priorities and explain what each of those statements mean/what kinds of projects were awarded in previous RFPs?	Part of developing a competitive application is making the case for how your project aligns with your interpretation of the Statewide priorities.
12/26/2024	Priorities	Can you expand on each of these priorities? What are some projects that have been funded in the past?	Part of developing a competitive application is making the case for how your project aligns with your interpretation of the Statewide priorities.
12/26/2024	Priorities	Can you go into more detail on the three Statewide Priority Areas?	Part of developing a competitive application is making the case for how your project aligns with your interpretation of the Statewide priorities. No further interpretation of the priorities will be provided.

12/26/2024	Priorities	Applicants should focus on one of the three statewide priorities in their application?	<p>Part of developing an eligible and competitive application is making the case for how your project aligns with your interpretation of the Statewide Priorities.</p> <p>Interested applicants should read the RFP closely to determine: 1) Is your business an eligible applicant. 2) Is your potential project focused on one of the program's priorities. 3) Are the costs associated with the proposal eligible and clearly associated with the purpose of the project? 4) Can you execute within the grant program structure. 5) Is the project likely to be competitive based on the scoring criteria.</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to read the RFP closely to determine if the NYS G&C IT grant program is right for you.</p> <p>As this is a competitive grant, NYFVI staff cannot engage with applicants individually.</p>
12/26/2024	Program Structure	Which categories would be strongest for a farm producing a powdered pea product, and for a coated nut business, in terms of NYDG&C certification? What categories are best for each individually or as a team?	Although the application has a section that is structured by category, i.e., farmer, processor and distributor, the program is not awarding funds by type of applicant.
12/26/2024	Program Structure	Where can one find the eligibility requirements to apply for track 1 or track 2?	The eligibility requirements and application for both tracks is the same. The computer will sort the applications into the appropriate tracks based on the size of the requests!
12/26/2024	Project Duration	For a Track 1 project, can we plan for a total project term less than 24 months, like 12 months?	Yes. Track 1 projects have up to 24 months to complete, and Track 2 projects have up to 30 months to complete.

12/26/2024	Project Match	Can the 10% match be demonstrated using funds available in a retirement account?	Yes, retirement funds would be a financial match.
12/26/2024	Project Selection	Will those participating ec dev orgs that will review the RFPs be made public?	No, many of these are small organizations and identifying the organizations would make it easy to identify individual reviewers.
12/26/2024	Project Selection	Can you speak generally to who and how these applications will be reviewed?	Please review the Project Selection information found in the Technical Requirements document on page 8.
12/26/2024	Reporting and Reimbursement	How long after final report is submitted is reimbursement issued?	If the reimbursement request and documentation is satisfactory and the project has successfully completed, grantees may anticipate reimbursement within 3 months from approval of the request.
12/26/2024	Reporting and Reimbursement	To clarify, does the total project have to be completed before reimbursement or can it be refunded as portions of the project are completed and paid for by myself	See the Reporting and Reimbursement information in the Technical Requirements document. Projects longer than 24 months may request an intermediate payment during the contracting process.
12/26/2024	Reporting and Reimbursement Requirements/Final Report	To clarify, does the total project have to be completed before reimbursement or can it be refunded as portions of the project are completed and paid for by myself	Projects lasting longer than 24 months may request to include an intermediate grant reimbursement based upon the achievement of tangible steps in the workplan.
12/26/2024	Reporting and Reimbursement Requirements/Final Report	Are the funds provided upfront, or do I need to pay for something first and get reimbursed?	This is a reimbursement based grant. All projects will need to be able to implement their project prior grant funds being received.

12/26/2024	Scoring Criteria	If the grant also enables us to do contract cider pressing for non G&C clients, will this disqualify us?	Equipment that benefits both NYS G&C products and non-NYS G&C products will need to be able to clearly demonstrate the volume and value of the NYS G&C products to their business and the supply chain to be competitive. A more competitive strategy would be to encourage those cider apple growers to become NYS G&C!
12/26/2024	Scoring Criteria	What scale of operation is the grant looking to support the most?	The grant program hopes to be able to support operations of all sizes. Critical to the success of any application will be to consider the case for the value proposition (size of the award, relative to its financial benefit to the business) for the funds. The SMART goal and the Next Step section of the Application are where that case can be made.
12/26/2024	Contract and Reimbursement Terms: What to Know Before Applying	If we are awarded grant money toward our project and choose to do some of the labor ourselves but the total expenses still exceed the granted amount and our 10% share, would we get the full amount?	Grants are a contract. It is expected that the project will be executed as budgeted in the proposal. Payments are made only on documented expenses. Please review the Contract and Reimbursement Terms on page 9 of the Technical Requirements document.
12/26/2024	Eligibility	Which track does Maple belong to?	Maple is a farmer/producer unless a 20-C license is required for the product, which would move the required NYS G&C participation to the processor category.

12/26/2024	Eligibility	Do you have to be established as a NY Grown and Certified program participant to apply for the grant?	While you don't need to be certified before applying, receiving a grant payment does require that a business participate in the NYS Grown & Certified program, so if you are not already enrolled, you should make sure that you understand the certification requirements and it is the right fit for your business. See page 5 of the Technical Requirements for the program eligibility requirements.
12/26/2024	Eligibility and Use of Funds	If a farm has multiple commodities, do they have to be NY Grown & Certified in each commodity, or is 1 commodity sufficient for eligibility?	Please review the eligibility on page 5 of the Technical Requirements. Keep in mind that the purpose of the grant funds must be aligned with the applicant's NYS G&C certification. For example, a NYS cut flower certification, will not allow for the purchase of vegetable packing equipment.
12/26/2024	Number of Applications	Can you request multiple equipment items such as a tractor and a refer van? this would add diversity or not help?	Part of developing an eligible and competitive application is making the case for how your project aligns with your interpretation of the Statewide Priorities. Interested applicants should read the RFP closely to determine: 1) Is your business an eligible applicant. 2) Is your potential project focused on one of the program's priorities. 3) Are the costs associated with the proposal eligible and clearly associated with the purpose of the project? 4) Can you execute within the grant program structure. 5) Is the project likely to be competitive based on the scoring criteria. Applicants are encouraged to read the RFP closely to determine if the NYS G&C IT grant program is right for you. As this is a competitive grant, NYFVI staff cannot engage with applicants individually.

12/26/2024	Number of Applications	If we self-distribute, does that qualify us for the distributor grant as well as the grower grant?	There is only one competitive pool in each of the four regional groupings., i.e. there are not separate farmer, processor and distributor grants. Applicants are encouraged to review the Number of Applications section on page 4 of the Technical Requirements document
12/26/2024	Number of applications and scoring Criteria	If a company have multiple different projects in different categories, should we submit multiple applications?	Applicants will need to make this decision for themselves after reviewing the Number of Applications information found on page 4 of the Technical Requirements document and considering what would be their most competitive approach. The Scoring criteria can be found on page 7 and 8.
12/26/2024	Program Structure	Can you apply for both the Producer and for the Processor Grants in this first funding round? Or is it one or the other.	There is only one grant being administered. The applicant should carefully read the RFP and the Technical Requirements and determine for themselves which category their project best fits into.
12/26/2024	Reporting and Reimbursement Requirements/Final Report	If a producer wishes to expand an agricultural building to increase production, is there an exemption for the certificate of occupancy due during final reporting?	Not all types of buildings will require Certificates of Occupancy. Any required permits must be in place prior to grant reimbursements.

12/26/2024	Use of Funds/Threshold Criteria	We need to modify an existing building into a storage, packing, worker locker, and tour reception area . Do you think any of our needs can be met with this grant?	<p>Part of developing an eligible and competitive application is making the case for how your project aligns with your interpretation of the Statewide Priorities.</p> <p>Interested applicants should read the RFP closely to determine: 1) Is your business an eligible applicant. 2) Is your potential project focused on one of the program's priorities. 3) Are the costs associated with the proposal eligible and clearly associated with the purpose of the project? 4)Can you execute within the grant program structure. 5) Is the project likely to be competitive based on the scoring criteria.</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to read the RFP closely to determine if the NYS G&C IT grant program is right for you.</p> <p>As this is a competitive grant, NYFVI staff cannot engage with applicants individually.</p>
12/26/2024	Use of Funds/Threshold Criteria	We were looking at putting in a walk-in freezer for our farm store to expand our market. Is this something we could apply for	<p>Part of developing an eligible and competitive application is making the case for how your project aligns with your interpretation of the Statewide Priorities.</p> <p>Interested applicants should read the RFP closely to determine: 1) Is your business an eligible applicant. 2) Is your potential project focused on one of the program's priorities. 3) Are the costs associated with the proposal eligible and clearly associated with the purpose of the project? 4)Can you execute within the grant program structure. 5) Is the project likely to be competitive based on the scoring criteria.</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to read the RFP closely to determine if the NYS G&C IT grant program is right for you.</p> <p>As this is a competitive grant, NYFVI staff cannot engage with applicants individually.</p>

12/26/2024	Use of Funds/Threshold Criteria	Would a project, which involves expanding into bison byproducts and grass-fed beef products, fall within the grant guidelines?	<p>Part of developing an eligible and competitive application is making the case for how your project aligns with your interpretation of the Statewide Priorities.</p> <p>Interested applicants should read the RFP closely to determine: 1) Is your business an eligible applicant. 2) Is your potential project focused on one of the program's priorities. 3) Are the costs associated with the proposal eligible and clearly associated with the purpose of the project? 4) Can you execute within the grant program structure. 5) Is the project likely to be competitive based on the scoring criteria.</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to read the RFP closely to determine if the NYS G&C IT grant program is right for you.</p> <p>As this is a competitive grant, NYFVI staff cannot engage with applicants individually.</p>
12/26/2024	Use of Funds/Threshold Criteria	Does this include energy efficiency? Would a solar panel project meet the requirements?	<p>Part of developing an eligible and competitive application is making the case for how your project aligns with your interpretation of the Statewide Priorities.</p> <p>Interested applicants should read the RFP closely to determine: 1) Is your business an eligible applicant. 2) Is your potential project focused on one of the program's priorities. 3) Are the costs associated with the proposal eligible and clearly associated with the purpose of the project? 4) Can you execute within the grant program structure. 5) Is the project likely to be competitive based on the scoring criteria.</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to read the RFP closely to determine if the NYS G&C IT grant program is right for you.</p> <p>As this is a competitive grant, NYFVI staff cannot engage with applicants individually.</p>

12/26/2024	Scoring Criteria	How should a producer justify their requested grant amount? Is a business plan showing revenue and profit growth necessary for expenses like building a processing facility?	Please review the scoring criteria on page 8 of the Technical Requirements document and the instructions for developing a SMART goal in Section 4 of the application.
12/26/2024	Scoring Criteria and SMART Goal	Should applicants plan to justify large expenses (processing equipment) with sales growth projections and plans for meeting those projections in their applications?	Please review the scoring criteria on page 8 of the Technical Requirements document and the instructions for developing a SMART goal in Section 4 of the application.
1/20/2024	Award Size	I have a fabric hoop-type building used for my beef cattle production. Unfortunately, birds have moved in and are contaminating the cattle food and water sources. I received a quote for \$10,000 to have bird netting installed to prevent them from roosting inside the structure, thereby removing the source of contamination. Is this something that would qualify for the grant?	<p>The minimum grant award for this program is \$20,000, so this program does not seem to be a good fit. Other aspects of the potential project that should also be considered to ensure they meet the program requirements as well. Part of developing an eligible and competitive application is making the case for how your project aligns with your interpretation of the Statewide Priorities.</p> <p>Interested applicants should read the RFP closely to determine: 1) Is your business an eligible applicant. 2) Is your potential project focused on one of the program's priorities. 3) Are the costs associated with the proposal eligible and clearly associated with the purpose of the project? 4) Can you execute within the grant program structure. 5) Is the project likely to be competitive based on the scoring criteria.</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to read the RFP closely to determine if the NYS G&C IT grant program is right for you. As this is a competitive grant, NYFVI staff cannot engage with applicants individually.</p>

1/20/2024	Program Structure	Should a NYS Grown & Certified farm that works with a co-packer to produce a value-added product apply for the grant as a farmer or a processor when seeking funding for equipment to improve production efficiency? The farm would own the equipment and a contract would be drawn up for the lease.	The applicant should select the program category (farmer, processor, distributor) that corresponds with the use of the funds. In this case that would be processor. However, in this scenario as the business profile questions are answered you should provide information specific to any products that would be processed on the machine in question. There is nothing that forbids leasing the equipment paid for by the grant to the co-packer, if it is used primarily, if the grantee sells said equipment within five years of the distribution of funds, they will be subject to repayment. Please see page 11 of the Technical Requirements for further reference.
1/20/2024	Number of Applications	Can businesses submit 2 separate applications?	Applicants will need to make this decision for themselves after reviewing the Number of Applications information found on page 4 of the Technical Requirements document and considering what would be their most competitive approach. The Scoring criteria can be found on page 7 and 8.
1/20/2024	Eligibility	Are costs for software development and implementation eligible? If so, can they be used to pay for the time of farm employees as well as an outside developer? Is software licensing an eligible cost?	Software development costs could be included as Technical Service Provider costs. Software licensing would be considered an ongoing operating expense and would be prohibited. The RFP does not explicitly prohibit an employee's time spent working on an eligible project from being properly compensated as an eligible expense. All activity must be directly in support of the project and it must be clear that the costs are not "routine costs associated with day-to-day operations", as stated in the RFP. Documentation for the time spent and wages must be provided.
1/20/2024	Contracting Requirements	Are there any requirements to use MWBE contractors in order to receive this grant?	No, there are no contracting requirements specific to the use of MWBE contractors.

1/20/2024	Allowable costs	Are staff costs to manage the project allowed?	The RFP does not explicitly prohibit an employee's time spent working on an eligible project from being properly compensated as an eligible expense. All activity must be directly in support of the project and it must be clear that the costs are not "routine costs associated with day-to-day operations", as stated in the RFP. Documentation for the time spent and wages must be provided.
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Application			
Date	Section	Question	Answer
12/26/2024	Section 1: Business Profile Section	If we self distribute, are considered a distributor?	If the only product that the applicant's company distributes is produced by their business, they would be considered a farmer/producer or processor. All applicants are eligible to seek funding aligned with the Distribution Capacity Enhancement priority area.
12/26/2024	Section 1: Business Profile Section	What category does winery use for the business profile section of the grant application?	Wineries, hard cider, beer and mead are all considered processors for the grant application. To become certified in NYS G&C they should use the application specific to their industry.
12/26/2024	Section 7: Project Budget	Can used equipment be purchased for the grant or does everything need to be purchased new?	Used equipment is acceptable. Applicants will describe any equipment, including whether it is new or used in the branching question: narrative description of equipment in the online application.

12/26/2024	Section 7: Project Budget	Can the total project budget exceed 275,000 and only reimburse up to the 275 level?	While the project budget, which equals the grant award and a 10% match must not exceed \$275,000, an applicant should include any funds necessary to complete the project in the other funds column on the Summary budget.
12/26/2024	Section 8: Financial Information	What documentation will be required to determine financial standing for the grant application?	Applicants should review Section 8: Financial Information Section in online application to better understand the information that must be provided. No other information is required with the application. Additional information may be requested if a project is selected for funding.
1/20/2025	Section 1: Business Profile Section	The application wouldn't let me select multiple certification categories in Section 8. How should we answer this question?	This was a technical error and has since been corrected.
1/20/2025	Section 8: Financial Information	Can you please explain what documentation will be required to determine financial standing for the NY Farm Viability grant application.?	Applicants should review Section 8: Financial Information in the online application to better understand the information that must be provided. No other information is required with the application. Additional information may be requested if a project is selected for funding.
1/20/2025	Business Profile	For a new NYS Grown & Certified product without current buyers, should the application list 0 buyers or the potential number expected after building the 20-C Kitchen/Processing facility?	The number of current buyers should be listed. The SMART goal would be the appropriate place to include the business impact of the grant.

1/20/2025	Section 8: Financial Information	We have a farm in operation today, we want to start a new business utilizing excess crop from this farm. The new business is contingent on the grant and buying specialty machine for value added products to generate new revenue. How does Section 8 Financial information apply to this situation? It is asking for historic information but that would be just the farm and not the new business.	Financial information from the current operation should be provided. The SMART goal would be the appropriate place to include the business impact of the grant.
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