

2027 FVI Competitive Grant Q&A

Overview

This document provides answers to questions that are submitted by applicants over the course of the 7-week RFP application window.

This Q&A will be revised weekly on Friday afternoons and is designed to facilitate questions that may fall outside of the FAQ posted as part of this RFP.

Week One – 9/18/2026

- No questions this week

Week Two – 9/25/2026

Q: Would an [entity based outside of New York State] be eligible to lead an FVI Grant Program application if the proposed work takes place entirely in New York [and benefits New York agriculture], or does the applicant need to be New York-based?

A: An applicant can be based out of New York State. All project work must take place in New York State. In addition, project outcomes must benefit New York's agricultural community. You will need to make a clear case in your proposal for both, not just one.

If you meet this eligibility requirement and are unable to go further on your application in the portal, contact Lucy Bush at lbush@nyfvi.org to get access. It may take a few days.

Q: Can you give details of this grant? I would like to see if we are eligible.

A: All of the information for this grant, including eligibility are available on our website: <https://nyfvi.org/fvi-grant-program/>

[Week Two – 9/25/2026 \(cont.\)](#)

From our technical requirements document on our website:

Eligibility NYFVI welcomes applications from:

- Technical assistance providers
- Researchers and educators from academic organizations
- Ag membership groups and businesses
- Nonprofit or for-profit organizations

Ineligible applicants are encouraged to participate as project partners. Additional eligibility requirements include:

- All project work must take place in New York State
- Project outcomes must benefit New York's agricultural community
- Project leader has no current NYFVI-funded project(s) delinquent in quarterly or final financial reports, progress narratives, or associated reimbursement requests.
- Project leaders must be willing to share all findings associated with the project's work.

Q: Are the character limits in our grant interface on the online application include spaces or does not include spaces?

A: It does include spaces. You can download the Word document version of our application and check your character counts and just make sure everything is within limits.

Q: If your proposed project is not commodity specific but would work with farmers across many commodities, would you recommend selecting “other” and then expanding on that choice in the application?

A: Yes, but it is recommended to explain why you chose “other” in the application and make it clear how it will impact across commodities. In the past, we have had projects that do span across multiple commodity crops.

Week Two – 9/25/2026 (cont.)

Q: Many of the past projects have a very specific scope and are mostly researched based. Could you speak about the eligibility of educational projects for beginning farmers?

A: This is not a beginning farmer focused program. This is the appropriate place for that type of project. You will have to make the case why this is imperative to be funded, and that now is the time to do it. To speak to eligibility of educational projects for beginning farmers, the FVI program is completely researched based, defined by mostly scientific research into crops and to some extent, educational programs.

Q: How would you balance the real current agricultural problem that is global, for example, the risk of antibiotic transfer from manure to soil which applies to New York but is not New York specific against a more New York focused proposal?

A: This grant opportunity is funded from an agreement with Ag and Markets. The NY legislature and governor, who support this work, are interested in promoting New York Agriculture. If you are trying to solve a problem greater than something for New York farms, then this isn't the funding opportunity for you. If there is a global issue that is filtering down to New York farms, then I would focus on how you are going to address New York farms with this project.

It is worth mentioning that the results will have a broader impact, but it is not going to give the proposal additional merit because there are benefits outside of New York. Keep in mind who your audience is, which is a group of experts in your field of interest, and other New York farmers. So, they need to be convinced that New York agriculture is going to benefit from the work.

Week Three – 10/02/2026

Q: Could you please confirm whether your group has new information regarding the application process?

A: All of the information regarding the 2027 FVI Competitive Grant Program can be found on our website here: <https://nyfvi.org/fvi-grant-program/> , including weekly updates to questions we receive about the program.

Two webinars that walk through the application can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/poHNGJavnsE>

For the full technical requirements for the 2027 FVI Competitive Grant Program (eligibility, key dates, funding details, and scoring criteria) click [here](#).

Q: Would an out-of-state based company be eligible to lead an FVI Grant Program application if the proposed work takes place entirely in New York and benefits New York Farmers, or does the applicant need to be based in New York?

A: If you are an out of state applicant, please contact our Grants Coordinator, Lucy Bush, at lbush@nyfvi.org. She will need to create an account for you. Once you have an account, you will be able to update your password, organization information, and profile.

Q: I am interested in submitting two grants for the FVI grant program. One as a PI and one as a collaborator. Is this allowed?

A: The answer is, "Yes", in many cases. The FVI RFP does not limit how many proposals one person can participate in during a funding cycle. However, whether it's appropriate depends on your role in each project. Please consider the following:

Serving as a collaborator is generally acceptable. You may lead one proposal and also be a collaborator on another. Collaborators support a project through activities such as research trials, outreach, or evaluation. The contract, quarterly reports, and reimbursement requests remain the responsibility of the project lead and lead organization.

[Week Three – 10/02/2026 \(cont.\)](#)

Leading more than one project is discouraged. If your role on a second proposal would be as a PI or co-lead, with leadership and reporting responsibilities, NYFVI would generally not support that level of commitment in a single funding cycle. Review panelists and the board consider whether a project team has the capacity to deliver, and it's unlikely they would fund multiple projects led by the same individual.

Avoid overlapping topics. Reviewers are also unlikely to fund more than one proposal on the same or a similar topic in the same funding cycle.

Staying current on existing projects. Applicants with a current NYFVI-funded project that is behind on required reports or reimbursement requests are not eligible for new funding until those obligations are brought current. A PI who is lead on more than one project raises the stakes of taking on too much.

Q: Can Outcome Two, which is fostering industry-wide innovation, involve a New York-based processor for a farmer-specific commodity? They are a nonprofit, the only of its kind that serves the entire state, and we want to help them develop an innovative technology that increases throughput (The rate or speed at which a system processes work, data, or items over a specific period).

A: Likely yes, provided the justification clearly demonstrates how the proposed innovation addresses an industry-wide problem and benefits other farmers of the same commodity. You must establish that similar challenges exist across the sector and that the solution will generate value beyond the single farm involved. Approval depends on the strength of evidence regarding broader industry impact and adoption potential among comparable producers.

Q: Are no-cost extensions allowed? My field work would finish right at the end of two years, and some extra time would be helpful to promote adoption.

A: Yes, no cost extensions are allowed, up to a year.

Week Three – 10/02/2026 (cont.)

Q: For clarity within the second webinar: Did I understand the presenter correctly that the reviewers only see the budget and the budget narrative, not the rest of the proposal?

A: Reviewers see the entire proposal, including the budget narrative and the numbers entered into your online application. In the presentation, the speaker tried to point out that reviewers do not see the budget spreadsheet itself. It is critical that the budget narrative clearly aligns with the numbers in your online application and that the numbers are clearly explained.

Q: I have two strong projects that I could submit this year to address the emerging issue related to corn rootworm damage across New York State. How do I determine which project to submit?

A: Consult with farmers and commodity groups to determine which project best addresses their most pressing needs. While the board may approve two projects on the same topic in exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely. We recommend selecting the single project that farmers identify as the highest priority based on your outreach.

If farmers equally support both projects, use the following criteria to differentiate between them:

- **Feasibility and timeline:** Which project can be completed more efficiently and with fewer obstacles?
- **Innovation and impact:** Which project offers greater potential for innovation or broader industry application beyond the immediate issue?
- **Cost-effectiveness:** Which project provides better value and return on investment relative to project scope?
- **Urgency:** Which project addresses the most time-sensitive aspect of the corn rootworm problem?
- **Readiness:** Which project has stronger preliminary data, established partnerships, or clearer implementation pathways?

Week Three – 10/02/2026 (cont.)

Q: What reporting is involved, and what is the schedule for reimbursements?

A: All reporting and reimbursement requests are submitted electronically through the NYFVI online portal used for grant applications.

- **Progress Reports and Reimbursement Requests:** Projects must submit quarterly progress reports and reimbursement requests every three months. Progress reports describe work completed and progress toward project goals. Reimbursement requests are submitted as invoices with supporting documentation (receipts, invoices, or cancelled checks showing zero balance and company name/location).
- **Payments:** Payments are processed only after both the quarterly progress report and reimbursement request are approved by NYFVI staff, typically within three weeks for progress reports. Reimbursement processing times vary, as NYFVI coordinates with New York State for fund release. While reimbursements are usually processed promptly, state processing can occasionally take several months.
- **Final Reporting:** A final report is due within 60 days of project completion and must include a narrative summary and photos of the completed project. NYFVI retains 10% of the total project budget until the final report is approved. A final report and reimbursement request may be submitted early if project objectives are achieved before the deadline.

For detailed information on required documentation and submission procedures, refer to the [Claim Submission Guidance for Vendors](#) on the NYFVI website.

Q: Will the slides be made available after the webinar?

A: The slide deck will not be made available. However, all webinar content is available through the following resources:

- Webinar 1 recording: [YouTube](#)
- Webinar 2 recording: [YouTube](#)
- Complete technical requirements: [FVI 2027 Technical Requirements](#)

The technical requirements document contains detailed information on all topics covered in the webinar.

Week Four – 10/09/2026

Q: Does NYFVI require a faculty member to serve as the official PI, or can a faculty advisor participate as a collaborator on a postdoc-led project?

A: The short answer is NYFVI does not explicitly require a faculty member to serve as PI. A postdoc can be PI on an NYFVI application, provided your institution, agency, or board approves it.

Since your application must be submitted through a university, their Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) controls who can serve as official PI. You should first reach out to OSP to confirm whether the postdoc can be listed as the PI/project lead on NYFVI applications and whether faculty approval or a co-PI arrangement is required. Once the university approves the structure, NYFVI's eligibility requirements should be satisfied.

An additional point worth considering:

Postdoc positions are temporary by nature and therefore there could be a perception that the PI may leave during the course of the project. Make a clear case in your proposal for why you're the better choice as PI rather than the faculty member.

Q: Could nonprofits conduct applied research and develop practical tools for farmers that combine educational programming with tools similar to the University of Minnesota's AgPlan (<https://agplan.umn.edu/>)?

A: Yes, this type of project could be eligible, provided it's structured correctly around one of the available outcomes outlined in the word version of our RFP found [here](#). I suggest you consider the "Develop Human Capital" outcome. It explicitly includes:

- "Creation of new educational tools that will create value for producers"
- "Establishment of a strong curriculum with demonstrated value to producers"
- And "indicators measuring adoption, knowledge gains, and producer intent"

Week Four – 10/09/2026 (cont.)

The project would need to be more than educational programming alone. All proposals, including your AgPlan-type tool concept, are strongest when framed around:

1. **A research or validation component:** Testing the tool's effectiveness with NY farmers (not just adopting an existing external tool)
2. **Farmer engagement from the start:** The tool needs to address a real problem NY farmers identified with you
3. **Measurable outcomes:** Adoption rates, knowledge gains, cost/revenue impacts, or intent to adopt
4. **Educational programming that's integral:** This should not be add-on training, but core to how farmers learn and implement the tool
5. **Statewide applicability:** Not solving for one farm operation or region

Our scoring criteria emphasizes “demonstrated value to producers,” so proposals are more competitive when they demonstrate that farmers are saying, “we need this tool” and have participated in its development or early testing.

Q: Can some project funds be used to subsidize the costs of out-of-state travel for participating NY farmers (and project staff) to learn from farmers and others in another (state or) country as one part of a larger project?

A: The default answer is "no". Out-of-state travel, including international travel, is not an eligible project expense under this RFP unless it is approved in advance, prior to contracting. The RFP requires that all project work take place in New York State, and the travel budget line covers New York State travel only. Applicants should consider whether the learning can be brought into New York through visiting speakers, virtual exchanges, or farm tours within the state. Applicants who propose such travel must identify it in the application, explain how it is necessary to achieve the project's selected outcome and indicators, and describe the travel fully in the workplan and budget

Week Four – 10/09/2026 (cont.)

narrative. This includes the following details:

1. **Necessity:** Why the learning can't be done in New York, and which selected outcome and indicator the trip advances, with numeric targets.
2. **Destination and hosts:** The country, the specific farms or institutions to be visited, and who they are.
3. **Participants:** Each NY farmer by name (producers only, one per farm business, per the Project Network section), each staff member, and the role each plays.
4. **Dates and sequence:** Trip dates, all falling after contract execution and inside the project period.
5. **Itemized costs:** Airfare, lodging, ground transport, meals, visas, and insurance, with the budget line each falls under (not the NYS travel line). Documentation must meet the reimbursement rules (itemized, company name and location, proof of payment).
6. **Proportion:** The trip's share of the total budget, and why it is a reasonable investment relative to the benefit.
7. **Return on investment for New York:** How the learning reaches NY farmers in state (field days, workshops, written materials), and how that is measured.
8. **Broad benefit:** Why the benefit goes to the broader NY industry and not to a single business, farm or individual.

Providing this information does not guarantee that out of state travel will be approved; it just gives information necessary for reviewers, NYFVI staff, and Ag and Markets to evaluate whether the travel is valuable to New York State farmers.

Week Five – 10/16/2026

Week Six – 10/23/2026

Week Seven – 10/30/2026

Question Submission

If you have any questions that were not addressed here or in the FAQ, our team is here to help. Please send any questions related to the RFP application to Lucy Bush at lbush@nyfvi.org.