



# 2024 Underserved, Value-Added, and Regional Food Systems Grant Program Webinar

Agriculture Development Bureau  
Food & Agriculture Business Development Division -  
Grant Programs

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## Agenda

- MiAgGrants System Registration & Applicant User Process
- Funding Areas
  - Demographic
- Grant Guidelines
- Program Timeline
- Application Review Process
- Question & Answer

# MiAgGrants System Registration & Applicant User Process

- [MiLogin – Login \(Michigan.gov\)](#)
- DEMO

## Welcome to the online Grants Management System - IGX!

Because this is a new online management system, all organizations will need to register with the system.

### Steps to Get Started:

- The initial Registration for your organization must be completed by an Authorized Official (AO) for the organization
- Once the AO registers the organization, they will receive an email *Notification of Access Approval* from the online systems administrator
- The AO can then designate access to your organizational account for additional staff members as they deem appropriate

To visit our official website click the following link: <http://www.intelligrants.com/>

## Login

Username

Password

Log In

[Forgot Username/Password!](#)

[New User? Register Here!](#)

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## Funding Areas

- Urban Agriculture
- Farm Markets, Flower Markets, and Hoop Houses
- Food Hub Development
- Food Access and Education, including access to fresh/nutritional foods
- Value-Added Food Processing and Agro-Tourism
  - Innovation and Equipment
  - Feasibility studies; that lead to jobs/investment
  - Outreach, Education, and Training



# Demographic

- Applicants will be asked to self-certify that the entity is majority minority owned ventures:
  - **Beginning Farmer or Rancher:** An individual or entity that has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years and substantially participates in the operation.
  - **Women:** Business type that is at least 51% owned and controlled by women who are U.S. citizens; and have women manage day-to-day operations who also make long-term decisions.
  - **Veteran-Owned Business:** Business type that has no less than 51% of the business owned and controlled by one or more veterans. For those veterans who are permanently and totally disabled and unable to manage the daily business operations of their business, their business may still qualify if their spouse or appointed, permanent caregiver is assisting in that management.
- **Socially Disadvantaged Business:** 51% or more owned and controlled by one or more disadvantaged persons. The disadvantaged person or persons must be socially disadvantaged. “Those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias within American society because of their identities as members of groups and without regard to their individual qualities. The social disadvantage must stem from circumstances beyond their control.”
- **Underserved-owned businesses and entities owned by underserved communities:** A firm at least 51 percent unconditionally owned by one or more members of an underserved group who are citizens of the United States. In the case of publicly owned companies, at least 51 percent of each class of voting stock must be unconditionally owned by one or more members of an underserved group who are citizens of the United States. In the case of a partnership, at least 51 percent of the partnership interest must be unconditionally owned by one or more members of an underserved group who are citizens of the United States. Additionally, for the foregoing cases, the management and daily business operations must be controlled by one or more such individuals.

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# Grant Guidelines

- \$100,000 maximum request
- 30% match requirement
  - 15% available for underserved entities (self-certification required)
- 18-month grant cycle
- One proposal per applicant
- Two letters of support required
- Cost-Reimbursement Program
- If awarded, items needed for required reporting
  - Completed report
  - Invoice to MDARD
  - Completed Excel spreadsheet
  - All supporting financials
  - Financials can be scanned to a pdf in one document (proof of payments = zero balance receipts/invoices, canceled checks)
  - Salaries can be from payroll software center or timesheets with supervisor signature
  - Final Site Visit







## Grant Guidelines

- Grant funds **cannot** be used to pay for:
  - Land acquisition
  - Purchase of a building or facility
  - Structural repair of building or facility
  - Indirect costs are **not** allowed under this grant program. Indirect costs are defined as the expenses of doing business that are not readily identified within the project but are necessary for the general operation of the organization and the implementation proposal related activities
  - Salaries, wages, and benefits
  - Equipment installed outside of the State of Michigan.
  - Acquisition costs of general-purpose equipment or lease agreements to own (i.e., lease-to-own, or rent-to-own). *General Purpose Equipment* means equipment that is not limited to technical activities. Examples include office equipment and furnishings, modular offices, telephone networks, information technology equipment and systems, air conditioning equipment, reproduction and printing equipment, and motor vehicles not identified as special use
  - Travel costs

# Grant Timeline

## Proposal

Release Request for Proposals

September 24, 2024

[Informational Webinar via Microsoft Teams](#)

October 15, 2024 from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (EST)

Proposals Due

October 29, 2024 by 5 p.m. (EST)

## JEC

JEC Received Proposals for Scoring

November 12, 2024

JEC Meeting

December 3, 2024

## Award

Announce Award Funding

January 2025



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# Application Review Process

- Competitive Review
- Scoring based off a 100-point scale
  - A well-defined and focused project purpose/likelihood of succeeding – 15 points
  - Overall impact of the project on the food and agriculture industry in the state of Michigan. Product sourced and produced in Michigan and capacity building/grower connection/increase in supply of locally available products – 25 points
  - The social impact benefits for the project including providing employment opportunities for low-income workers; providing greater healthy food access; or providing economic opportunity in underserved areas – 10 points
  - Meaningful, measurable, and realistic outcomes – 15 points
  - Strong budget, expenditures are reasonable, allowable, necessary, and allocable to the work plan and scope of the project – 10 points
  - The amount of match provided – 5 points
  - Does the plan of work contain appropriate activities for the project and are they detailed to show how the objectives will be met in a timely manner – 10 points
  - The long-term sustainability of the project and the near-term and long-term impact, including jobs and investment in Michigan – 10 points

# Question and Answer

# Thank you!

