



RI FOOD
POLICY
COUNCIL



Local Agriculture and Seafood Act GRANT PROGRAM 2022

Applications Due on Wednesday, November 30

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PRIORITIES

2022 FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Support the entry, growth, and/or sustainability of small or beginning agriculture producers (including aquaculture producers) and fishers
- Support agriculture producers (including aquaculture producers) and fishers that are Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)
- Support the development of new marketing, promotion, sales, and/or distribution channels
- Support the development of new products, including value added processing capacity
- Foster new cooperatives, partnerships, and/or collaborations among Rhode Island agriculture producers (including aquaculture producers) and fishers and supporting organizations
- Fosters and builds capacity for markets connecting local farms and fishers with Rhode Island's food insecure communities
- Protect the future availability of agricultural land for producers, including farm transition planning and implementation
- Assistance with on farm Food Safety improvements assistance, including the developing of FSMA and HACCP Standards



ELIGIBILITY

WHAT ARE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES?

Projects/programs must serve **at least one** of the following purposes in order to be eligible for funding through the LASA Grants Program:

- Assist in the marketing of Rhode Island grown agricultural products and local seafood¹ for the purpose of sale and promotion
- Enhance the economic competitiveness of Rhode Island-grown agricultural products and local seafood
- Provide financial and technical assistance and/or support to organizations and producers for activities and programs which enhance the economic viability of local agriculture, and support the development of a locally based, safe and sustainable food system
- Perform other activities necessary to facilitate the success and viability of the state's agricultural and seafood sectors

In addition to providing grants for projects or programs, the LASA Grant Program may also provide capital grants to small or beginning Rhode Island farmers and aquaculture producers to support the growth and sustainability of Rhode Island's farming and aquaculture industries.



INELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- Applications that fail to demonstrate at least one of the program purposes
- Applications for completed projects for which the applicant seeks reimbursement
- Applicants out of compliance with any federal, state or local laws or regulations
- Applicants who have previously received LASA Grants and failed to meet reporting obligations
- Applicants not engaged in local agriculture, aquaculture or local seafood
- Applicants who failed to meet requirements for previous Department grants and/or assistance programs, or from individuals or groups unable to perform or currently experiencing performance issues with previous Department grant obligations
- Ineligible Project activities include non-project related travel, scholarships, general operating funds, on-going capital campaigns, political or policy advocacy campaigns, conference/workshop attendance fees, etc.
- Capital grants from fishers are not eligible for LASA funding due to the originating legislation.



HOW TO APPLY

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- For-profit farmers, fishers, and producer groups
- Non-profit organizations
- Applicants must be based in the State of Rhode Island. The Advisory Committee will value geographic diversity in the applicant pool when making award determinations
- Only small and/or beginning farmers, or groups of small or beginning farmers, are eligible to apply for capital grants (Aquaculture operators are considered farmers in this regard)



HOW MUCH CAN AN APPLICANT APPLY FOR?

- The maximum grant award available to a farmer, individual, business (e.g. LLC) or non-profit organization is **\$20,000**
- Overhead and/or administrative costs are limited to **10%** of total budget proposal

WHERE CAN I FIND THE APPLICATION?

The application can be found in two locations:

- RIDEM website under [“Grant Opportunities”](#)
- RI Food Policy Council website under [“LASA”](#)

ASSISTANCE

100 COUNT
OYSTERS
DATES RESHIPED

WHAT OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE?

- A stored version of this webinar will be made available on [RI DEM](#) and [RIFPC](#) websites
- Previous year's Q&A session questions are available on the RIFPC website
- Limited one-on-one technical assistance in completing an application is available from the RI Food Policy Council
Those interested can register [here](#).



AWARDS & ADMINISTRATION

GRANT AWARDS

- Award letters detail the approved grant, terms, requirements, conditions, and next steps to be taken to close on the grant
- Projects may be up to 15 months in duration
- **Grantees are responsible for interim and final reports. Interim reports are midway through the grant term and final reports at the close of the grant term. Any grantees who do not provide timely interim and final grant reports will be ineligible for future LASA Grant Program funding.**
- Full grant awards will be provided after signing of grant agreements
- 100% of funding will be provided by or before June 30, 2023



GRANT ADMINISTRATION

- Program funds are administered by RI DEM
- Grant applications are reviewed by the LASA Grant Program Advisory Committee
- The Advisory Committee is chaired by the Chief of the Division of Agriculture
- Advisory Committee members are appointed by the Director of RI DEM and represent agencies, organizations, and individuals that have a role or interest in the planning, development, and support of viable agriculture and seafood sectors and a locally-based sustainable food system
- Each Advisory Committee members disqualifies themselves from participating in the action on a grant application when they have a close personal or professional relationship with the applicant or has any other significant conflict



**REVIEW &
SCORING**

GRANT REVIEWING & TIMING

- Applications must be submitted by **11:59pm on November 30, 2022**
- ***Applications are only accepted through the eCivis portal***
- Failure to make a complete submission as described elsewhere herein will result in non-consideration of the proposal
- Applications that are incomplete or not submitted by November 30, 2022 will not be considered
- **If English is not your first language and you have difficulty understanding the materials here, please contact us at lasahelp@rifoodcouncil.org and we will try to help**

GRANT SCORING

A scoring rubric is available on the RI DEM and RIFPC websites

Scoring is weighted as follows:

- Is the project technically feasible based on background? Is the applicant a for-profit farm, fishery, or other food business? **(20 points)**
- Outcomes **(10 points)**
- Regulatory/Zoning/Legal Information **(5 points)**
- Budget **(15 points)**

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QUESTIONS?

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Interact & advocate with us [@rifoodcouncil](https://twitter.com/rifoodcouncil)

