



RI FOOD
POLICY
COUNCIL



Local Agriculture and Seafood Act GRANT PROGRAM 2024

Applications Due on Thursday, November 30

LEARN

- Priorities for the program
- Eligibility
- Available Assistance
- Awards + Administration
- Review + Scoring





2024 FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Support the entry, growth, and/or sustainability of Socially Disadvantaged, Beginning, Small, Women, and veteran agriculture and aquaculture producers and fishers
- Support climate-smart agriculture mitigation activities and Climate Change related adaptations throughout the local Food System
- Support the development of new marketing, promotion, sales, and/or distribution channels, including connecting local farms and fishers with Rhode Island's food insecure communities
- Support the development of new products, including value added processing capacity
- Foster new cooperatives, partnerships, and/or collaborations among Rhode Island agriculture and aquaculture producers, and fishers and supporting organizations
- Protect the future availability of agricultural land for producers, including farm transition planning and implementation
- Assist with on farm Food Safety improvements including FSMA and HACCP Compliance

- 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)



**WHO IS
ELIGIBLE
TO APPLY?**

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

WHAT ARE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES?

- 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 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

Applications/Applicants that fail to:

- Demonstrate at least one of the program purposes
- Completed projects for which the applicant seeks reimbursement
- Are out of compliance with any federal, state or local laws or regulations
- Have previously received LASA Grants and failed to meet reporting obligations
- Not engaged in local agriculture, aquaculture or local seafood
- 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

**WHAT ARE
INELIGIBLE
PROJECTS?**

WHAT ARE INELIGIBLE PROJECT ACTIVITIES?

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.

For the purposes of the LASA Grant, local seafood will be defined as product “landed in Rhode Island”.



HOW MUCH CAN I APPLY FOR?

WHERE CAN I FIND THE APPLICATION?

- 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

The application can be found in two locations:

- RI DEM website LASA "[Grant Opportunities](#)"
- RI Food Policy Council and RI DEM websites under "[LASA](#)"
-

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

REGISTER

Ocean State Procures Registration
<https://ridop.ri.gov/ocean-state-procures-osp/osp-vendor-registration>

TAX ID

EIN or Social Security Number

**ECIVIS
ACCOUNT**

Need an eCivis account? You can do that [here](#).



WHAT OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE + SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

BEST PRACTICE

The [application portal](#) performs best using Chrome as the browser, in incognito mode

- 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 support + technical assistance in completing an application is available from the RI Food Policy Council Those interested can register [here](#).

GRANT AWARDS

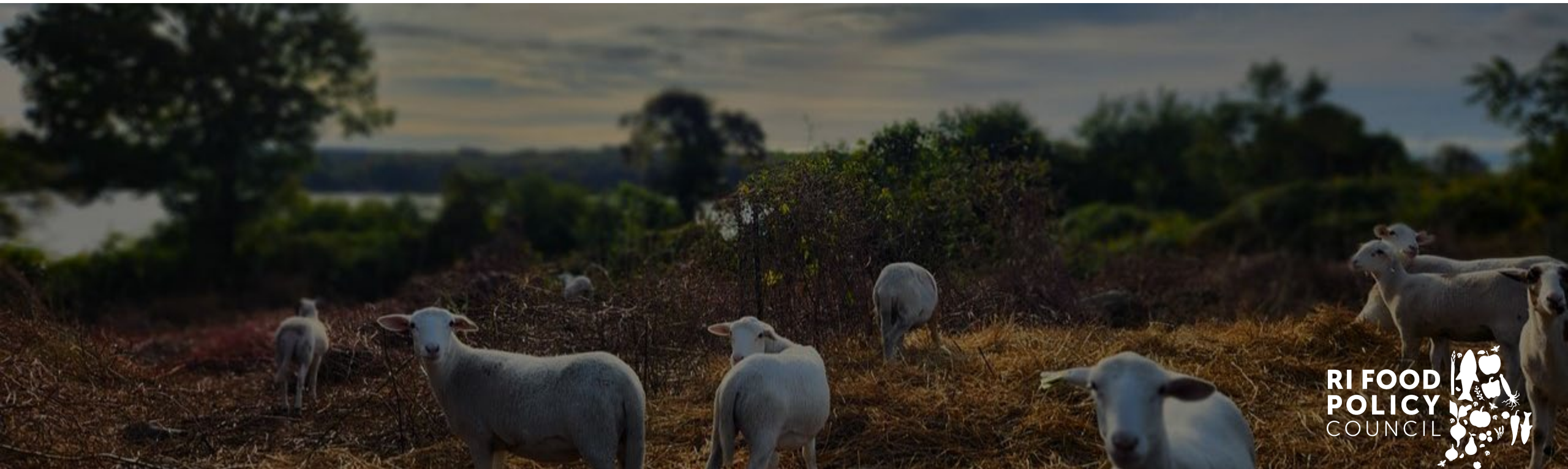
- Award letters detail the approved grant, terms, requirements, conditions, and next steps to be taken to close on the grant.
- Projects may be up to 24 months in duration.
- Grantees are responsible for interim and final reports. Interim reports are midway through the grant term, and final reports at 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, 2024

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

THINGS TO KNOW

- Failure to make a complete submission will result in non-consideration of the proposal
- Applications that are incomplete or not submitted by 11:59 PM on November 30, 2023 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 REVIEW + TIMING

- Applications must be submitted by 11:59pm on November 30, 2023
- Awards announced in March 2024
- Grant agreements executed in April 2024
- Final reports due August 31, 2026
- 100% of funding will be provided by or before June 30, 2024

GRANT SCORING

A scoring rubric is available on the [RI DEM](#) and [RIEPC](#) 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

