



Alaska's Micro- Grants for Food Security Program

What are Micro-Grants for Food Security?

Hawaii, Alaska and US territories have been awarded USDA grant funds to **increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food** by competitively distributing subawards to eligible entities.



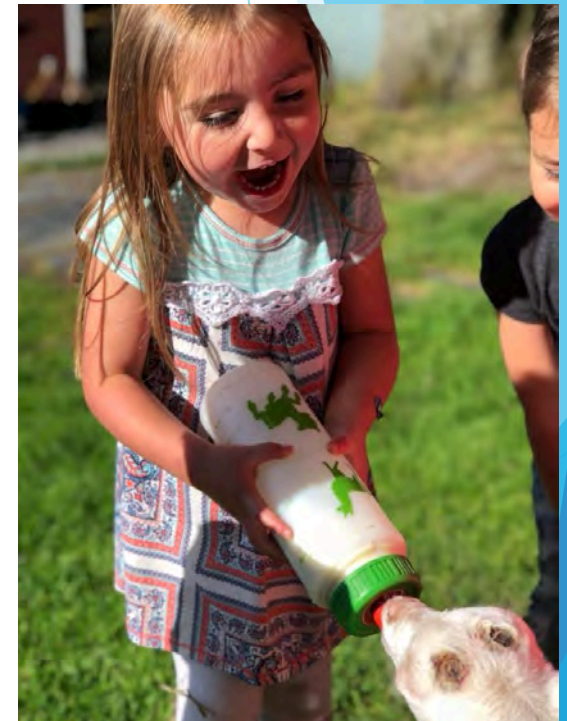
Small-Scale Gardening Applications:

- A) purchase gardening tools or equipment, soil, soil amendments, seeds, plants, canning equipment, refrigeration, or other items necessary to grow and store food.
- B) purchase or assembly of composting units and towers designed to grow leafy greens. Includes activities associated with extending the growing season, as well as hydroponic and aeroponic farming.
- C) expand an area under cultivation or engage in other activities necessary to be eligible to apply for funding under the USDA's Natural Resources and Conservation Service's [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQUIP\)](#) for a high tunnel.



Small-Scale Herding and Livestock Operations:

- ▶ Use funds to purchase animals as well as buy, erect, or repair fencing for livestock, poultry, or reindeer.
- ▶ Fund activities or supplies associated with setting up or equipping a slaughter and processing facility, including purchasing mobile slaughterhouses.



Expanding access to food and food security knowledge.

- A) create or expand avenues for the sale of food grown by the eligible entity for sale in the local community, or increase the availability of fresh, locally grown, and nutritious food. This includes paying for shipping of purchased items related to growing or raising food for local consumption or purchase.
- B) participation in agricultural education provided by a state cooperative extension service, land-grant college or university, tribal college or university, or an Alaska Native-serving institution, or federal or state agency.



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Examples of use of funds

- ▶ purchasing gardening tools or equipment, soil, soil amendments, seeds, plants, animals, canning equipment, refrigeration, or other items necessary to grow and store food;
- ▶ purchasing or building composting units;
- ▶ purchasing or building towers designed to grow leafy green vegetables;
- ▶ expanding an area under cultivation or engaging in other activities necessary to be eligible to receive funding under the environmental quality incentives program established under chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.) for a high tunnel;
- ▶ engaging in an activity that extends the growing season;
- ▶ starting or expanding hydroponic and aeroponic farming of any scale;
- ▶ building, buying, erecting, or repairing fencing for livestock, poultry, or reindeer;
- ▶ purchasing and equipping a slaughter and processing facility approved by the Secretary;
- ▶ traveling to participate in authorized agricultural education
- ▶ paying for shipping of purchased items relating to growing or raising food for local consumption or purchase;
- ▶ creating or expanding avenues for the sale of food commodities, specialty crops, and meats that are grown by the eligible entity for sale in the local community; or increasing the availability of fresh, locally grown, and nutritious food; and
- ▶ engaging in other activities relating to increasing food security (including subsistence), as determined by the Secretary.

Micro-Grants for Food Security

Example Projects

- ▶ A group of gardeners submit a proposal to purchase cool space for storage of root vegetables in an outlying village. These root vegetables safely store and will be available for residents through the early winter months.
- ▶ A homeschool cooperative develops a local plot of land for family gardening with a portion of the harvest donated to organizations that supply food for those in need.
- ▶ Producers apply for fencing to expand fields and prevent damage from wildlife.
- ▶ Donation sites with applicable processing and storage for salmon or other sport game for elders.



Who is eligible?

- ▶ All individuals, Indian Tribes or tribal organizations, non-profit organizations, and federally funded educational facilities in the State of Alaska.
- ▶ Therefore, everyone in the State of Alaska who has a project which will meet the requirements of the program are eligible to participate.



How much is available?



- ▶ State of Alaska awarded funds for 2021 grants is 1.8 million dollars
- ▶ Individual may apply for up to \$5000 per year for up to 3 years.
 - ▶ Maximum of \$15,000 over 3 years.
- ▶ Organizations may apply for up to \$10,000 per year for up to 3 years.
 - ▶ Maximum of \$30,000 over 3 years
- ▶ Awards may be granted to two or more eligible entities to carry out the same project.
- ▶ 10% match is required; but for individual grants, a waiver may be requested which will be considered for approval.

What is the process to apply?

- ▶ Two tier selection process
- ▶ **First Step**
- ▶ Scoping Pre-Application that identifies the applicant(s), impacted individuals or community, project, budget.
- ▶ Fillable PDF form available through State of Alaska Division of Agriculture website.
- ▶ Review and selection of projects eligible to submit full applications
- ▶ **Second Step**
- ▶ Full Application is a more detailed application that requires more information as well as formal documentation for agreements for combined projects.
- ▶ Review of and selection of final awards.
- ▶ Submission to the USDA AMS for approval for selected projects.



Scoping Pre-Application

 Scoping Pre-Application Micro Grants for Food Security Alaska 2021 State of Alaska Division of Agriculture 	
Name of Project:	
Contact Address:	
City:	State:
Phone:	Zip:
Email:	Alternate Phone:
Joint Application? If Yes, please list all ALL co-applicants information below: Yes No	
Organization Name:	Name:
	Phone:
	Email:
Project Description (Limit 250 characters):	
Target Recipients:	
Outcome Measures:	
Food Insecurity Situation Addressed:	
Sustainability Plan:	
Budget	Brief Description
	Amount

How will the proposals be evaluated and prioritized?

- ▶ An independent Review Committee will evaluate the scoping pre-applications with the following criteria:
 - 1) eligibility of the proposal per the farm bill legislation
 - 2) the ability of the proposed activity to increase the production and/or storage capacity in the local community
 - 3) the level of food insecurity in the applicant's region
 - 4) other relevant information as to capacity and purpose of the applicant(s).

Timeline of Process of Selection

January 21, 2021: Release Micro Grant for Food Security Application Instructions

February 15, 2021: Scoping Pre-Applications due

February 17-22: Applications reviewed by committee

February 23-24: Committee meets to select applications for full proposal

March 1: Announcement made to applicants selected for full proposals

March 2: Informational Webinar 10:00am-11:00am

March 3: Informational Webinar 6:00pm-7:00pm
Webinar information will be released at a later date

March 24: Full project proposals due

March 26-31: Full project proposals reviewed by committee

April 1-4: Committee meets to select final awardees

April 5, 2021: Awards forwarded to AMS for final approval

TBA: Announcement of final awards

TBA: Grant Award Contracts finalized.



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Requirements of selected projects

- ▶ Yearly reporting is required, but limited to one page
- ▶ Reports will include:
 - ▶ Portion of project completed
 - ▶ Individual or community impact description
 - ▶ Measures of objectives
 - ▶ Budget adjustments if indicated
 - ▶ Will build from full application that was submitted.



Alaska's Micro-Grants for Food Security Questions?

- ▶ Alaska Division of Agriculture website and Grants page:
http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_grants.htm
- ▶ Contact Catherine Cheadle, Div. of Ag. Grants Administrator
catherine.cheadle@alaska.gov
907-761-3851

