

12.41 Horticultural and nontraditional crops linked investment loan program.

The treasurer of state shall adopt rules to implement a horticultural and nontraditional crops linked investment loan program to provide statewide availability of lower cost funds for lending that will stimulate existing or encourage new businesses in the areas of producing, processing, or marketing horticultural or nontraditional crops. The rules shall be in accordance with the following:

1. In order to qualify as an eligible borrower, the loan application must be for the purchase or lease of land, machinery, equipment, or the purchase of other inputs used in the business of producing, processing, or marketing horticultural or nontraditional crops as defined in rules adopted by the treasurer.
2. The gross income earned by the borrower's business of producing, processing, or marketing horticultural or nontraditional crops is not more than three hundred thousand dollars for the borrower's last tax year.
3. Loan proceeds shall not be used to refinance existing debt, including credit card debt. However, proceeds may be used to refinance a short-term bridge loan made in anticipation of the treasurer's approval of the linked investment loan package.
4. The maximum loan amount that an eligible borrower may receive under this program is two hundred thousand dollars for a production loan and five hundred thousand dollars for processing or marketing facilities.

96 Acts, ch 1058, §8; 97 Acts, ch 195, §8, 10; 99 Acts, ch 177, § 3, 9