

21—52.21(159) Eligibility.

52.21(1) Eligible applicants. To be eligible for a grant under the program, an applicant shall meet all of the following requirements:

- a. Be an individual, business, agricultural cooperative, nonprofit organization, or local government.
- b. Be in good standing with the state of Iowa.
- c. Currently reside or conduct business in Iowa.

52.21(2) Eligible projects. To be eligible for a grant under the program, a project shall:

- a. Increase sales of Iowa agricultural products by increasing production capacity or expanding market access for value-added projects.
- b. Not be in progress until a grant is awarded.
- c. Be completed in 12 months or less.
- d. Be conducted in Iowa.

52.21(3) Ineligible expenses. The following items are not eligible expenses under the program:

- a. Equipment and infrastructure for meat processing;
- b. Infrastructure for renewable fuels;
- c. Expenses incurred prior to the awarding of a grant;
- d. Start-up costs including but not limited to inventory, license fees, or working capital;
- e. Advertising, public relations, or entertainment costs;
- f. Employee benefits and wages;
- g. Paying off existing debt, related collection costs, or legal costs;
- h. Paying off existing fines, penalties, or settlements from failure to comply with any applicable law or regulations.

52.21(4) Grant amount and terms.

- a. The maximum amount of financial assistance awarded to an eligible applicant under the program shall not exceed \$25,000.
- b. An applicant must demonstrate the ability to provide matching support for the project on a one-to-one basis. The matching financial support shall be from private sources and does not include in-kind contributions.

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