

21—52.42(159) Eligibility.

52.42(1) *Eligible businesses.* The department has the sole authority in determining the eligibility of an applicant for participation in the program. To be eligible for a grant under the dairy innovation program, an applicant shall meet all the eligibility requirements in Iowa Code section 159.31A(4) as enacted by 2023 Iowa Acts, House File 700, as well as the following:

- a.* The business must currently be permitted by the department or actively working with the department to obtain a permit.
- b.* The business must not have been subject to any department license or permit suspension or revocation within the last five years from the date of the application submission.

52.42(2) *Eligible projects.* To be eligible for a grant under the program, a project shall meet the requirements of Iowa Code section 159.31A as enacted by 2023 Iowa Acts, House File 700, as well as the following requirements:

- a.* Not be in progress until a grant is awarded.
- b.* Be completed in 12 months or less.
- c.* Be conducted in Iowa.

52.42(3) *Ineligible expenses.* The following items are not eligible expenses under the program:

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

52.42(4) *Grant amount and terms.* The maximum amount of financial assistance awarded to a recipient under the program shall not exceed \$100,000.

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