

## STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

### USDA Seeks Applications for Grants to Help Rural Businesses Market Value-Added Products

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16, 2019 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Donald “DJ” LaVoy today announced that USDA is accepting applications for technical assistance grants to help rural businesses market value-added agricultural products.

The grants must be used to establish and operate Agriculture Innovation Centers. The funds may be used to provide legal, accounting and other consulting services; hire employees to establish and operate the Centers; or make individual grants to agricultural producers. Eligible applicants include nonprofit and for-profit corporations, public bodies and institutions of higher education. Recipients must provide matching funds of least one-third of the total project budget.

USDA encourages applications that will support recommendations made in the [Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#) (PDF, 5.4 MB). Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable economies through strategic investments in infrastructure, partnerships and innovation. Key strategies include:

- Achieving e-Connectivity for Rural America
- Developing the Rural Economy
- Harnessing Technical Innovation
- Supporting a Rural Workforce
- Improving Quality of Life

The deadline to submit applications is March 20, 2020. For additional information, see page 55274 of the Oct. 16, 2019, [Federal Register](#).

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