

Agriculture Innovation Center Program

What does this program do?

The Agriculture Innovation Center Program makes grants to Agriculture Innovation Centers that then provide technical and business development assistance to agricultural producers seeking to engage in making or producing Value-Added agricultural products.

Who may apply for this program?

- **Public bodies**
- **Institutions of higher education**
- **Nonprofit organizations**
- **For-profit corporations**

How may funds be used?

Grant and matching funds may be used to operate an Agriculture Innovation Center and to provide the following services to agricultural producers:

- Consulting services for legal, accounting, and technical services to be used by the recipient in establishing and operating a Center
- Hiring employees for the Center
- Making of matching grants to agricultural producers
- Applied research
- Legal services
- Technical assistance to agricultural producers, including engineering services, scale production assessments, market planning and development, business planning, and other advisory services

How do we get started?

Before you apply:

- Request a Data Universal Number System (**DUNS**) number if your organization doesn't already have one. You should plan on requesting it at least a month before the application deadline because you'll need that number for the next pre-application step.

- Register your organization with the System for Award Management (**SAM**) if you aren't already registered. The registration is free. You need to complete several steps. It's a good idea to start the registration process at least a month before any application deadline. Before you start the registration process, we suggest reading through the HELP materials available on the SAM website. Then, you'll need to create an account. After you create your account by setting up a user ID and password, you can register your organization. Remember, you'll need your DUNS number to complete your registration. Also, make a note of your Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) code and expiration date because you'll need those for your application.

Who can answer questions?

- If you have questions, you can contact your nearest **RD office**.

Where can I get more information about the program?

Please read the Federal Register Notice for important information needed before applying for the grant. You can find Agriculture and Innovation Center regulations on the **e-CFR**.

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please contact your local office for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at rd.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.