

Fact Sheet:

Independent Processor Assistance Program

What is the Independent Processor Assistance Program?

The Independent Processor Assistance Program (IPAP) is designed to improve and expand Nebraska's meat processing capabilities. Grants are available through the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) for **newly operating and existing meat processors** to facilitate improvements or expansions that will increase harvest capacity or production.

The NDA will award the final round of IPAP grant funds in the approximate amount of \$5.1 million. NDA will begin accepting grant applications on Jan. 16, 2024. The deadline to apply is Feb. 16, 2024.



Eligibility standards

- Must operate as either a U.S. Department of Agriculture - Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS) facility or a federally regulated custom-exempt slaughter and processing facility, while also complying with federal regulations.
- Must have existing annual sales revenue under \$2.5 million.
- Must employ fewer than 25 employees.
- Must be in Nebraska and registered in good standing with the Secretary of State to do business.

Eligible IPAP expenses

Note: Applicants may receive grant funds for expenses incurred after Aug. 28, 2021, and obligated by June 1, 2025. Funding must only be used for eligible expenses, and funds must be expended by the end of 2026.



Expansion of existing buildings or construction of new buildings.



Waste treatment and management equipment.



Upgrades to utilities, including water, electric, refrigeration, freezing.



Technology upgrades, such as website design that enables e-commerce.



Livestock intake and storage equipment.



Rental of buildings or equipment including mobile slaughter or refrigeration units.



Processing and manufacturing equipment such as grinders or smokers.



Costs associated with increased inspections or becoming USDA-inspected.



Packaging and handling equipment, including sealing, bagging, boxing, labeling.



Workforce training provided by the facility or by an institution of higher education.



Warehouse equipment, including storage and curing racks.



Grant amounts & timeline

- The NDA will award \$5.1 million in grants.
- Awards may be up to \$100,000 based on eligibility and availability of funds.
- Previous recipients of IPAP grant funding are eligible to apply, but preference will be given to applications not previously awarded funding.
- Applications are due on **Friday, Feb. 16, 2024.**
- NDA will notify applicants of approval or denial via email by the end of April.



How do I apply?

The application period will open on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024 and close on Friday, Feb. 16 at 11:59 p.m. Applications will be received through the NDA's online platform called AmpliFund.

Apply online at nda.nebraska.gov/promotion/meat_processors.



How can I make my application competitive?

Preference may be given to proposals increasing harvest capacity, advancing technological systems, and providing opportunity for workforce development.

Have questions or need assistance?



Find documents offering guidance for meat processing plant grants and answers to frequently asked questions at nda.nebraska.gov/promotion/meat_processors.

If you have any further questions, you may contact Megan Pernicek, Federal Aid Administrator II at megan.pernicek@nebraska.gov or 402.471.6823.

Center for Rural Affairs staff are also available to assist. Contact Meg Jackson at megj@cfra.org or 402.309.9096.

