



Indigenous Animals Harvesting and Meat Processing Grant (IAG)

OVERVIEW

The Indigenous Animals Grant (IAG) supports traditional harvesting methods, and community animal protein processing operations. IAG will support projects that construct or improve facilities, purchase and install equipment, address food insecurity or commercial market gaps, and otherwise support tribal food harvesting and value-added infrastructure for animal protein processing activities including through indigenous informed design principles. The goal is to enhance or expand animal protein processing capacity in Indian Country. Eligible activities will demonstrate the ability to improve harvesting, processing, and packaging to create more resilient, diverse, and secure indigenous food systems.

You will find additional information in the IAG Request for Application (RFA).

IMPORTANT DATES:

Application opens: April 19, 2023

Application closes: July 19, 2023

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Tribal Governments of Indian tribes as defined by the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act (List Act) of 1994 (Pub. L. No. 103-454), their wholly owned arms and instrumentalities, and joint or multi tribal government entities are eligible to apply.

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

- Up to **\$50 million** in funding is available.
- There is **no minimum** funding amount and **no maximum** funding limit. USDA can pro-rate final awards based on need.
- **No cost share or matching funds** are required.

WHAT SPECIES ARE ELIGIBLE?

Indigenous species such as bison, reindeer, game meat, or seafood are eligible. Applicants also can propose activities relating to meat, poultry, or fish regulated by the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). Additional information is available in Section 1.6 of the RFA

WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES CAN I FUND?

Activities must demonstrate the ability to improve harvesting, processing, and packaging to create more diverse, resilient, and secure indigenous food systems. Applications can include activities such as manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesaling, community accessibility, or animal protein distribution. Examples of fundable activities include:

- Building, expanding, or upgrading fixed or mobile indigenous meat, food-sovereignty harvesting or processing facilities.
- Buying and modernizing an inoperable or outdated processing facility.
- Enhancing infrastructure to improve humane handling and slaughter.

Section 1.8 of the RFA offers additional examples of eligible activities.

USDA may prioritize applications that focus on strengthening Tribal food access, incorporate indigenous animals, or use indigenous-informed design principles over projects that focus primarily on market profitability.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- Here is a link to the Indigenous Animals Grant program website: <https://www.usda.gov/iag>. This site also includes a Frequently Asked document.
- Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity- Technical Assistance: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/mppta>

CONTACT US

Still have question? You can email us at IAG@usda.gov.

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