



2024 Upper Shore Micro Ag Grant Overview

Overview

Kent County Economic and Tourism Development in partnership with the Upper Shore Regional Council provides grant funding to local agricultural businesses looking to expand, diversify, or improve their marketing efforts or conduct agricultural research initiatives. The purpose of the program is to help support the development, expansion, and coordination of agricultural enterprises and initiatives within Kent County and the tri-county region.

Grant requests ranging from \$2,500 up to a maximum of \$10,000 will be considered on a competitive basis.

Priority will be given to projects that:

1. Benefit the entire Ag community,
2. Include two or more businesses working in cooperation,
3. Involve new or emerging markets, or
4. Promote a Buy Local campaign.

Eligible applicants and projects that meet all grant requirements not previously awarded funding may be considered and/or given priority over previously awarded applicants.

Applications are due by 5 pm on February 15, 2024. Award recipients will be announced in April. Grants shall be reimbursed only with invoices or receipts as proof of payment required at the time of the reimbursement request. Reimbursement requests must be submitted by October 31, 2024.

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must operate an agricultural business in Kent County, MD and be actively engaged in farming in the county in one or more of the following categories:

- Crop and/or livestock production;
- Agricultural product processing;
- Aquaculture
- Ag Cooperative; or
- Timber production or processing.

Eligible Projects

Grant funding can be used for the following purposes:

- Strategic marketing campaigns;
- Technology innovation or implementation;
- Capital improvements for business expansion or value-added production;
- Research projects; or
- Animal welfare improvements.

Required Documentation

- Fully completed and signed application;
- Proof of good standing with licensing body (if required);
- Completed and signed W9 (fillable PDF can be found at www.kentcounty.com/aggrant);

Application Submittal Date and Deadline

Applications open on **Monday, January 15, 2024, at 8 am**. The **DEADLINE** to apply is **5 pm Thursday, February 15, 2024**.

Application Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by the grant review committee in March/April. Applicants will be sent a confirmation email that their application has been received and will be contacted via email should their application be awarded.

Reimbursement Request

Grantees must complete a reimbursement request showing proof of expenses by **October 31, 2024**. Expenses on the project that occurred dating back to October 2023, can be retroactively reimbursed. Reimbursement Request forms can be found on our website. www.kentcounty.com/aggrant.

Grant Reporting

Grantees must complete a final grant report due to Kent County Economic and Tourism Development by **October 31, 2024**. Reporting documentation is available on our website. www.kentcounty.com/aggrant

Email questions to econdev@kentgov.org or call 410-810-2168