

§ 4284.1008

7 CFR Ch. XLII (1-1-05 Edition)

and other entities, including a consortium where a lead entity has been designated and agrees to act as funding agent, that meet the following requirements are eligible for grant assistance:

- (a) The entity—
 - (1) Has provided services similar to those listed for Producer Services; or
 - (2) Demonstrates the capability of providing Producer Services;
- (b) The application includes a plan that meets the requirements of § 4284.1010(c)(5)(iv) that also outlines—
 - (1) The support for the entity in the agricultural community;
 - (2) The technical and other expertise of the entity; and
 - (3) The goals of the entity for increasing and improving the ability of local agricultural producers to develop markets and processes for Value-Added agricultural commodities or products;
- (c) The entity demonstrates that adequate resources (in cash or in kind) are available, or have been committed to be made available to the entity, to increase and improve the ability of local agricultural producers to develop markets and processes for Value-Added agricultural commodities or products; and
- (d) The proposed Center has a Qualified Board of Directors.

§ 4284.1008 Use of grant funds.

Grant funds may be used to assist eligible recipients in establishing Centers that provide Producer Services and may only be used to support operations of the Center that directly relate to providing Producer Services. Grant funds may be used for the following purposes, subject to the limitations set forth in § 4284.10:

- (a) Consulting services for legal, accounting and technical services to be used by the grantee in establishing and operating a Center;
- (b) Hiring of employees, at the discretion of the Qualified Board of Directors;
- (c) The making of matching grants to agricultural producers, individually not to exceed \$5,000, where the aggregate amount of all such matching grants made by the grantee does not exceed \$50,000;
- (d) Applied research;
- (e) Legal services; and

(f) Such other related purposes as the Agency may announce in the RFP.

§ 4284.1009 Limitations on awards.

The maximum grant award for an agriculture innovation center shall be in an amount that does not exceed the lesser of \$1,000,000 or twice the dollar amount of the resources (in cash or in kind) that the eligible entity demonstrates are available, or have been committed to be made available, to the eligible entity.

§ 4284.1010 Application processing.

(a) *Applications.* USDA will solicit applications on a competitive basis by publication of one or more Requests for Proposals (RFPs). Unless otherwise specified in the applicable RFP, applicants must file an original and one copy of the required forms and a proposal.

(b) *Required forms.* The following forms must be completed, signed and submitted as part of the application package. Other OMB approved forms may be required. This will be published in the applicable RFP.

- (1) "Application for Federal Assistance."
- (2) "Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs."
- (3) "Assurances—Non-Construction Programs."

(c) *Proposal.* Each proposal must contain the following elements. Additional elements may be published in the applicable RFP.

- (1) Title Page.
- (2) Table of Contents.
- (3) *Executive Summary.* A summary of the proposal should briefly describe the project including goals, tasks to be completed and other relevant information that provides a general overview of the project and the amount requested.
- (4) *Eligibility.* A detailed discussion describing how the applicant meets the eligibility requirements.

(5) *Proposal Narrative.* The narrative portion of the proposal must include, but is not limited to, the following:

- (i) *Project Title.* The title of the proposed project must be brief, not to exceed 75 characters, yet describe the essentials of the project.