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NYS Grown & Certified Agriculture Producer's Grant

The Development Authority of the North Country received \$500,000 in 2017 from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to implement the NYS Grown & Certified Agriculture Program. The program was established to assist NYS agricultural producers in meeting food safety standards necessary for participation in the NYS Grown & Certified Program. The funding is available for eligible participants located in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Clinton, Essex, Franklin and Hamilton counties.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In order to provide the necessary technical assistance to effectively implement the grant, the Development Authority is partnering with the seven county Cornell Cooperative Extension offices and the seven county Soil and Water Conservation offices. The Cornell Cooperative Extension offices will provide technical assistance to producers to include assistance in Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs). The seven county Soil and Water Conservation offices will assist recipients with Agriculture Environmental Management (AEM). These technical assistance providers will work closely with recipients to determine the appropriateness of their projects and assist them toward becoming certified in the NYS Grown & Certified Program.

GRANT CRITERIA

Eligibility: Agriculture producers looking to become certified through the NYS Grown & Certified Program. If already in the NYS Grown & Certified Program, applicants must provide justification for why the project is needed to maintain their food safety certification, or how it will increase the number of producers enrolled in the program.

Maximum Grant: \$50,000.00

Cash Equity: 10% of the total project amount required as cash equity

Eligible Commodities: Produce, dairy, shellfish, eggs, beef, poultry, pork, maple, alcoholic beverage producers, and beverage ingredient producers

Eligible Use of Funds: Must be used for real estate, improvements, machinery or equipment that will allow the producer to become certified in the NYS Grown & Certified Program. Funds cannot be used for working capital or audit costs associated with the certification process.

Reimbursement: Grants will be paid upon the recipient receiving their certification from the NYS Grown & Certified Program. *NOTE* - All Recipients must make short-term arrangements to pay

eligible project costs prior to grant reimbursement. Recipient will be required to provide copies of invoices and cancelled checks/invoices for proof of expenditures.

Financial Underwriting: The Development Authority will review the applicant's proposed project, financial and business history, personal financial statement, and credit report.

Recapture Provision: Applicants must remain in the Grown and Certified Program for five years upon receipt of the grant funds. If the applicant fails to remain in the Grown and Certified Program, then there is a recapture provision which identifies the amount of the grant that will be required to be repaid to the Development Authority of the North Country, as defined below:

Length of Time Certified in the Grown and Certified Program:

| At Least: | But Less Than: | % of Grant Amount to Recapture |
|------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 0 Months | 12 Months | 100% |
| 12 Months | 24 Months | 80% |
| 24 Months | 36 Months | 60% |
| 36 Months | 48 Months | 40% |
| 48 Months | 60 Months | 20% |
| 60 Months | | 0% |

SELECTION PROCESS:

The Authority will accept and review applications for financial capability and program compliance, which will include a review confirming the applicant's match requirement. The Cornell Cooperative Extension office will complete a site visit to confirm that the proposed project is feasible and will meet the expected results, leading to certification. If applicants pass the financial and feasibility review, the Authority will consider them for program funding and submit them for final approval to NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. Upon the approval from Department of Agriculture and Markets, the Authority will enter into a Grant Agreement with the recipient. Funding will be available to eligible applicants that pass the financial and feasibility review on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information contact:

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