

On-Farm Grants - Cycle 2025

Public Rubric

Here are the key criteria that reviewers are considering when evaluating grant applications:

Scorable Metrics: The following categories are scored on a numerical scale, resulting in an overall averaged score for each application. Each category's scale is named below. The maximum score an application can receive is 10 points.

1. Impact or Demonstrated Interest of the Project (0 - 3 points)

- Will this project support a significant increase in production, either through increasing sales outlets, a substantial increase in quality and quantity of product, or frequency of going to market?
 - Reviewers want to know how this project will increase the amount of locally grown foods that reach the market. This funding is focused on stabilizing and expanding the capacity of existing farms, rather than supporting new ones.

2. Project Readiness (0 - 3 points)

- Has the farmer planned this project well? Is this project a natural progression of the growth of your farm?
 - Reviewers want to know that this project makes sense for your farm business and that you've planned well to execute the project.
 - An itemized budget for your project not only helps to demonstrate your project readiness, it also helps our reviewers to know that if we are unable to award the full amount you requested we could still offer a sufficient award amount to support your project. Please consider attaching a projected budget to the 'Supplemental Documentation' section of the Application.

3. Climate Resiliency (0 - 1 point)

- Is this project tailored to mitigate climate risk on your farm?
 - Reviewers want to know if the project plan includes an awareness of how severe weather impacts the outcomes of the project, as well as any measures you'll take to address those.

4. Challenges in Access (0 - 1 point)

- The Louisiana Small-Scale Agriculture Coalition is proud to provide financial support that addresses the unique conditions and challenges faced by small, specialty crop producers across our state. We have designed this program to specifically respond to barriers in accessing business capital for Louisiana's community of fruit and vegetable

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growers. We highly encourage farmers who have experienced challenges in benefiting from traditional funding opportunities or accessing familial assets to participate in this grant program. Points will be assessed based on the comprehensiveness of the expressed need as determined by the expertise of reviewers.

5. Specialty vs Commodity Crops (0 - 1 point)

- Does this project focus on Specialty crops?
 - Reviewers will give higher priority to projects that focus specifically on specialty crops.
 - Projects that do not focus on specialty crops **at all** are disqualified.

6. Curriculum Completion (0 - 1 point)

- Has the applicant completed any LSSAC-sponsored Curriculum-based events that are named in the below table?
 - Reviewers want to know if the applicant is pursuing professional development, either in their agricultural skills or business skills. At this time, the only allowable Curriculum-Based Events are listed below.
 - **Please be sure to supply a copy of your Event Certification you received upon completion of the event.**
 - *Reminder.* Completion of a Curriculum-Based Event **does not guarantee** that you will be awarded from the grant.
 - For the 2025 cycle, the Curriculum-based events we are considering for this metric include:
 - Know Your Cost To Grow workshop series, held virtually in February 2025.
 - Costing Your Crops with Ellen Polishuk, held in person in June 2025.

Priority Areas: The following categories are considered when choosing our final awardees. These priorities do not result in a higher numerical score on an application. They are considered holistically along with the application contents and rubric averaged score.

1. Geography

- Are we supporting farmers from various regions across Louisiana?
 - This funding aims to benefit farmers statewide. Reviewers will group applications by region when making final decisions to ensure that grants are provided to farms across every region of the state.

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2. 2024 Cycle Applicant

- Applying in previous years does not guarantee you will receive a grant in future years, nor does it give you a higher rubric average score.
 - Reviewers will take into consideration that an applicant applied in the 2024 cycle if that application was highly scored, seriously considered, yet not funded.
 - Additionally, if an applicant applied in 2024 and received the maximum allowable award (\$50,000), they will be considered disqualified for future On Farm Grants.

If you have any questions about the application process, please reach out!

We want you to succeed in obtaining these funds. Simple projects are welcome; there's no need to complicate things.

Sometimes, all you need is support to keep your farm running!

[LSSAC Non-Discrimination Statement](#)