

# Great Lakes Aquaculture Collaborative

November 17,  
2021





# USDA Rural Development

**USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Through our programs, we help rural Americans in many ways.**



# USDA Rural Development

Rural Development administers over 40 programs and supports rural communities with loan and grant investments of over \$50 billion annually.

The current Rural Development portfolio of investments exceeds \$220 billion – making RD the equivalent of a mid-size bank.



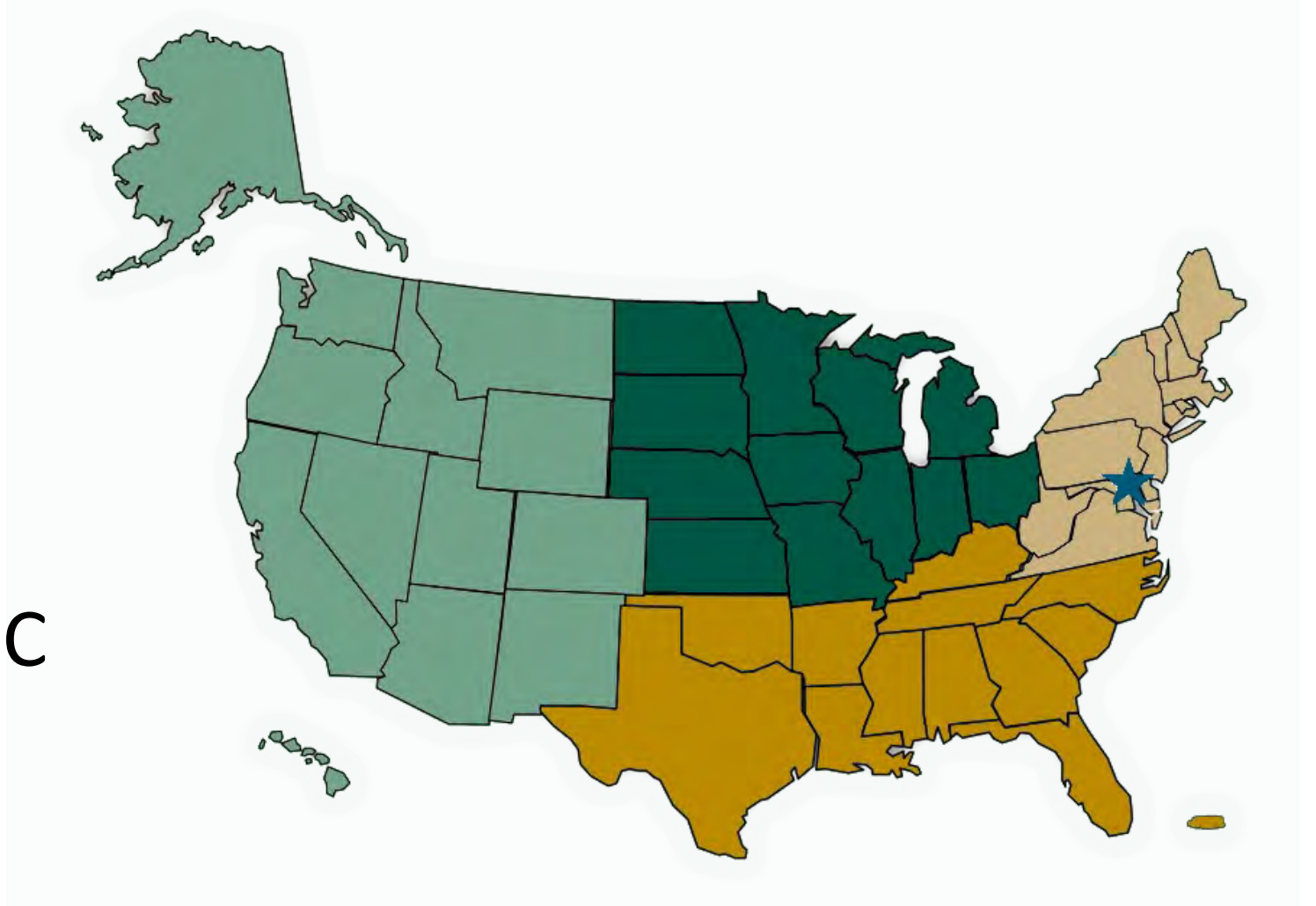
# Rural Development Offices

4 Regions

47 State Offices


400 Area Offices

1 National Office in DC





# Rural Business-Cooperative Service

- Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans
  - Rural Energy for America Program Guaranteed Loans and Grants
  - Value Added Producer Grants
  - Intermediary Relending Program
  - Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program
  - Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program
  - Rural Business Development Grants
  - Rural Business Investment Program
  - Cooperative Development Assistance
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# Rural Energy for America Program















## Eligibility

New Renewable Energy Systems (RES) or replacement or upgrades for energy efficiency improvements (EEI).

Eligible Applicants:

- Agricultural Producer, or
- Rural Small Business



Grant up to 75% of project costs not to exceed \$25 million. May combine with grant.

Energy Efficiency		Renewable Energy	
	Lighting		Solar
	Heating		Wind
	Cooling		Small Hydroelectric
	Ventilation		Anaerobic Digesters
	Fans		Biomass
	Automated Controls		Geothermal
	Insulation		Wave/Ocean Power

Eligible Project Examples

- Purchase new RES,
- Refurbished RES,
- Retrofitting an existing RES
- EEI upfitting a building to use less energy
- Anaerobic Digesters
- Renewable Biomass
- Hydroelectric
- Hydrogen Projects

# Rural Energy for America Program

 Renewable Energy Systems		 Energy Efficiency Improvements	
Minimum Grant Request	<b>\$2,500</b> Total eligible project costs $\geq$ \$10,000	Minimum Grant Request	<b>\$1,500</b> Total eligible project costs $\geq$ \$6,000
Maximum Grant Request	<b>\$500,000</b> Total eligible project costs $\geq$ \$2 million	Maximum Grant Request	<b>\$250,000</b> Total eligible project costs $\geq$ \$1 million

\*Up to 25% of Total Eligible Project Costs

# Rural Energy for America Program

Minimum Loan Amount	<b>\$5,000</b> Total eligible project costs $\geq$ \$6,667
Maximum Loan Amount	<b>\$25 million</b> Total eligible project costs $\geq$ \$33.4 million
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• USDA guarantees a commercial loan; applicant must have a willing lender.</li><li>• Terms are negotiated between the lender and borrower.</li><li>• Fees, appraisals, equity &amp; collateral requirements apply.</li></ul>

\*Up to 75% of Total Eligible Project Costs



# Rural Energy for America Program

## Recent Project Examples

A REAP grant supported the purchase and installation of an aercon oxygen sensor to a fish farm that raises catfish and sells them to be processed and marketed to the local communities. This project will realize \$2,365 per year in savings and will replace 21,613 per kWh (50%) per year.

A REAP grant supported the purchase and installation of a solar powered oxygen monitoring systems to 3 catfish ponds and updating to more efficient HVAC and walk-in refrigeration unit that serve the operation. The grant recipient owns and operates three, ten-acre catfish ponds. This project will save \$8,857 per year in savings and will replace 65,973 kWh (36%) per year which is enough electricity to power 6 homes.

A REAP grant This fishing vessel will benefit from an upgraded RSW refrigeration systems. The saved energy is equivalent to 1 U.S. homes annual electrical usage. The efficiencies will also be found in the operation of the fishing vessel, through saved time and increased profit. The owner will no longer have to travel to get slush ice during open fishing times. The project also adds more value to every pound of fish sold, because there is a lower value placed on fish cooled in slush ice.

# Value Added Producer Grant

## **Value-Added Producer Grants (VAPG) Program**

Helps agricultural producers enter value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of new products. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income.

### **Eligibility:**

Independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures may apply.

### **Available Funding:**

A maximum of \$250,00 for working capital grants, and \$75,000 for planning grants. Participating producers must supply 50 percent of the total project cost.

# Value Added Producer Grant

## Recent Project Examples

A VAPG grant will provide working capital to assist a business produce hot-smoked processed eel. These processed eel products will expand the customer base to serve the smoked fish and prepared food sectors with a new product. This project will allow for a more diversified revenue stream, local job growth, and an improvement to US food security.

VAPG funds will be used to help expand the oyster sales market of business by increasing the number of distribution accounts. Oysters are farmed on the coast of Alabama and then sold to restaurants and local seafood distributors.

VAPG working capital funds are being used by a land-based, commercial scale fish farm raising steelhead trout. The project will support the introduce and market new holiday packages that will be offered for sale over the last 12 weeks of 2021 featuring the grantee's product. These holiday packages provide the ingredients for making a great fish entre at home which is suitable for special occasions with friends and family. As a result of this investment, 4 jobs will be created.

# RBCS Program Information and Access Points:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov>

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/business-programs>

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