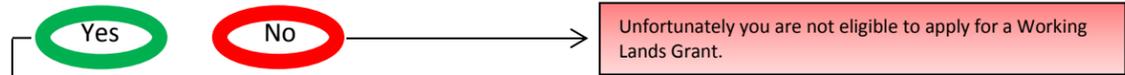


Are You Ready for a Working Lands Enterprise Grant?

1. Are you a Vermont agriculture, food systems, forestry and/or forest products enterprise or organization?



Unfortunately you are not eligible to apply for a Working Lands Grant.

2. Do you have a project in mind already with a strong concept?



If you are unsure about a project idea; or your ideas are half-baked, you may consider working with a technical assistance provider, such as the [VT Small Business Development Center](#), to help you with your project concept before submitting for a Working Lands grant.

3. Are you registered as a business or organization in the state of Vermont?



You must be registered with the [VT Secretary of State](#) as a business or organization before applying for a Working Lands grant.

If a business...

If an organization...

4a. Do you have a business plan?



4b. Do you have an outreach plan?



If you do not have a business plan or an outreach plan, you may not be ready to submit an application to the Working Lands Initiative. Outreach plans are required for Service Provider proposals, and business plans are required for Capital and Infrastructure proposals. Planning is an essential component of your business/organization and project, and technical assistance is available to help you formulate and write your business or outreach plan. Help is available from the [VT Small Business Development Center](#), The [VT Farm and Forest Viability Enhancement Program](#), [UVM Extension New Farmer Network](#), and [VT Regional Development Corporations](#).

5. Have you or are you currently working with a technical assistance provider?



Applicants are encouraged to utilize current business advisors, colleagues, friends, and family, etc., to review the grant application for additional feedback on the need and innovation of the project, proposal clarity, spelling, and grammar before submitting the application. If you haven't worked with a technical assistance provider, you may consider doing so. The [VT Small Business Development Center](#), The [VT Farm and Forest Viability Enhancement Program](#), [UVM Extension New Farmer Network](#), and [VT Regional Development Corporations](#) may be able to help. If you need help specifically for writing your grant application, there are grant writers who can be hired in addition to those mentioned above. Please email working.lands@state.vt.us and we will provide you with a list of local grant writers.

6. Does your project mainly benefit your business, and bring your business to the next stage of development?



You may be eligible for the I. Enterprise Investment grant area. Grants are available to Vermont agriculture, food systems, forestry and/or forest products enterprises involved in the production of agriculture and/or forest related products (including farm and/or forest landowners). Investment areas may include infrastructure, marketing, market development, business development and technical assistance to meet a need not already filled by existing programs. Primary applicant must be headquartered in Vermont.

7. Does your project provide a service to individuals, businesses, or organizations in Vermont?



You may be eligible for the II. Service Provider grant area. Agriculture, food systems, forestry & forest products service provider grants are available to Vermont non-profit organizations, associations, educational institutions, private sector or partnership groups, or other entities that provide services to agricultural and/or forestry & forest products enterprises. Grants are available for service providers to provide the following types of technical assistance: Production training, Process improvements, Needs assessments/studies of baseline data critical to sector development, Professional and organizational development services, Product research service, Marketing assistance/market development, Business development, Financial planning, Access to capital, Regulatory assistance and training, and Addressing

8. Does your project increase operational capacity and have an impact beyond your immediate business or organization?



You may be eligible for the III. Capital and Infrastructure grant area. Working Lands Enterprise Initiative: Capital and Infrastructure Investment grants are available to Vermont agricultural and/or forestry & forest products based businesses for capital investments that will increase operational capacity and have an impact beyond their immediate business or organization. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to: specialized personnel, access to land (acquisition or easements); building and equipment costs (e.g., processing, storage, distribution); long-term working capital, information technology; farm or forest based renewable energy business expansion; and other collaborative ventures that build capacity within the supply chain, open new markets, and/or create a replicable, innovative model. Primary applicant must be headquartered in Vermont.

Your current project may not be a good fit for a Working Lands grant. Please check out our website at <http://workinglands.vermont.gov/apply/rfp> for more information on project eligibility and selection criteria.