



Food Insecure Cost-Share Grant

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I qualify for the Food Insecure Cost-Share Grant Program?

Only projects located within one of the following urban areas are eligible for the Food Insecure Cost-Share Grant Program.

Aurora, MO	Holts Summit, MO	Republic, MO
Bolivar, MO	Jefferson City, MO	Richmond, MO
Bonne Terre, MO	Joplin, MO	Rolla, MO
Boonville, MO	Kansas City, MO	St. Clair, MO
Branson, MO	Kearney, MO	Ste. Genevieve, MO
Brookfield, MO	Kennett, MO	St. Joseph, MO
Camdenton, MO	Kimberling City, MO	St. Louis, MO
Cameron, MO	Kirksville, MO	Salem, MO
Cape Girardeau, MO	Lebanon, MO	Savannah, MO
Carthage, MO	Lee's Summit, MO	Scott City, MO
Caruthersville, MO	Macon, MO	Sedalia, MO
Chillicothe, MO	Marshall, MO	Sikeston, MO
Clinton, MO	Marshfield, MO	Smithville, MO
Columbia, MO	Maryville, MO	Springfield, MO
De Soto, MO	Mexico, MO	Sullivan, MO
Dexter, MO	Moberly, MO	Trenton, MO
Eldon, MO	Monett, MO	Troy, MO
Eureka, MO	Mountain Grove, MO	Union, MO
Excelsior Springs, MO	Neosho, MO	Village of Four Seasons, MO
Farmington, MO	Nevada, MO	Warrensburg, MO
Forsyth, MO	Odessa, MO	Warrenton, MO
Fort Leonard Wood-St. Robert- Waynesville, MO	Osage Beach, MO	Washington, MO
Fredericktown, MO	Pacific, MO	West Plains, MO
Fulton, MO	Peculiar, MO	Whiteman AFB-Knob Noster, MO
Hannibal, MO	Perryville, MO	Willard, MO
Harrisonville, MO	Platte City, MO	
Higginsville, MO	Pleasant Hill, MO	
	Poplar Bluff, MO	

How is an urban area determined?

The United States Census Bureau defines urban areas as densely developed territories that encompass residential, commercial, and other nonresidential urban land uses. Each urban area must encompass at least 2,000 housing units or at least 5,000 people. This is a change from the previous minimum of 2,500 people, which had been in place since the 1910 Census.

How do I apply for the Food Insecure Cost-Share Grant Program?

Complete the FY2025 Food Insecure Cost Share Grant Application located on the website (<https://agriculture.mo.gov/abd/financial/food-insecure.php>) and provide two letters of support. *Additional requirements will be needed prior to reimbursement.*

When can I submit an application?

The application becomes available on the MDA website in July each year. The deadline for applicants to submit

applications to MDA is August 31 at 11:59 pm. Incomplete and late submissions will not be accepted.

How do I submit an application?

Completed the application on the website, include 2 letters of recommendation, then mail or email to packet to:

Missouri Department of Agriculture
ABD – Food Insecure Grant
P.O. Box 630
Jefferson City, Mo 65102

or

Grants@mda.mo.gov

Do I need to complete every section on the application?

Yes, every section must be completed for the application to be evaluated fairly.

Should I include any support letters?

Yes, our Advisory Committee expects at least two letters of support for each application.

If awarded, will I get my funds at the beginning of the project?

No, this is a reimbursement style grant, therefore funds will only be paid upon the receipt of all paid invoices showing proof of payment, completion of required registrations and after an inspection has been performed by MDA staff.

What is considered proof of payment?

Proof of payment can either be a store receipt with the method of payment clearly printed on it, a copy of a cleared check, or a detailed bank or credit card statement.

Is a match needed for this grant?

You do not need to determine specific items to be used for a match. The grant only reimburses for 75% of the total eligible project costs. The remaining 25% represents your “match” for this grant.

What expenses are considered eligible to be reimbursed by the grant?

Awarded funds are intended to be used on project supplies including the following examples:

1. Garden tools (Any tool requiring fuel must be pre-approved)
2. Plants, seeds, soil, fertilizer, etc.
3. Greenhouse materials
4. Fencing materials
5. Electrical supplies
6. Plumbing supplies
7. Water line/sprinkler supplies
8. Contracted work within grant period
9. Kitchen equipment
10. Food processing equipment and supplies
11. Storage facilities and equipment

Awarded grant funds are NOT intended for the following:

1. Paying off existing loans
2. Costs incurred prior to the date of grant award
3. Food purchases
4. Livestock and poultry purchases
5. Security system equipment and/or installation
6. Operational costs such as payroll, utilities, or insurance
7. Salaries/fringe benefits of those involved in the grant project
8. Buying or leasing of land or buildings
9. Buying or leasing of machinery or equipment, unless previously approved
10. Fuel Purchases
11. Grant writing expenses
12. Costs incurred through other MDA financial opportunities