

Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities

PCFO IGAP Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Snapshot

May 19, 2022

<u>Agency:</u> US Department of Agriculture	<u>Bureau:</u> Natural Resources Conservation Service
<u>Application Deadline:</u> June 10, 2022	<u>Max Award:</u> \$5 million

Description

Through the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, USDA will support the production and marketing of climate-smart commodities through a set of pilot projects that provide voluntary incentives through partners to producers and land owners to:

- Implement climate-smart production practices, activities, and systems on working lands,
- Measure/quantify, monitor and verify the carbon and greenhouse gas (GHG) benefits associated with those practices, and
- Develop markets and promote the resulting climate-smart commodities.

Eligible Recipients

1. County, city or township governments
2. Special district governments
3. State governments
4. Small businesses
5. For-profit organizations other than small businesses
6. Federally recognized Native American tribal governments
7. Native American tribal organizations other than Federally recognized tribal governments
8. Nonprofits that have a 501(c)(3)
9. Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3)
10. Private institutions of higher education
11. Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education

Matching Grant Requirements

There is not a specific match requirement for this Notice of Funding Opportunity. However, applications will be evaluated, in part, on the relative contribution of non-Federal resources to the project.

Eligible Projects

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, a climate-smart commodity is defined as an agricultural commodity that is produced using farming, ranching or forestry practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon.

Proposals in this round of funding (requests for amounts from \$250,000 to \$4,999,999 per proposal) are limited to particularly innovative pilot projects with an emphasis on:

- enrollment of small and/or underserved producers and/or
- monitoring, reporting, and verification activities developed at minority-serving institutions

All projects must be tied to the development of markets and promotion of climate-smart commodities. Markets for climate-smart commodities may include companies or processors sourcing climate-smart commodities to meet internal targets or other supply chain goals, biofuel and renewable energy markets, companies seeking to sell branded consumer products, or other opportunities that could provide a premium or additional revenue for participating producers and landowners.

Proposals must provide a plan to pilot implementation of climate-smart agriculture and/or forestry practices on a large-scale, including meaningful involvement of small or historically underserved producers, consistent with spirit of the Justice40 initiative; a quantification, monitoring, reporting, and verification plan; and a plan to develop markets and promote climate-smart commodities generated as a result of project activities.

New or Existing Program

New program

Tips for Being Competitive

Greenhouse gas and/or carbon sequestration benefits and equity are key among project evaluation criteria. Projects must center around benefits to producers and will be evaluated on the meaningful inclusion of small and historically underserved producers.

Highly competitive projects will include agricultural and forestry practices or combinations of practices, and/or practice enhancements that provide GHG benefits and/or carbon sequestration, including but not limited to:

- Cover crops
- Low-till or no-till
- Nutrient management
- Enhanced efficiency fertilizers
- Manure management
- Feed management to reduce enteric emissions
- Buffers, wetland and grassland management, and tree planting on working lands
- Agroforestry and afforestation on working lands
- Afforestation/reforestation and sustainable forest management
- Planting for high carbon sequestration rate
- Maintaining and improving forest soil quality
- Increase on-site carbon storage through forest stand management
- Alternate wetting and drying on rice fields
- Climate-smart pasture practices, such as prescribed grazing or legume interseeding
- Soil amendments, like biochar

Labor Requirements None stated

Examples of Prior Award Recipients N/A

Agency Contact climate-smart-commodities@usda.gov

Upcoming Webinars and Information Sessions Information from the previous webinar, held on May 12, will be provided under the [funding opportunity's page](#).

Types of Partners Required USDA encourages multiple partners to coordinate on projects. USDA hosted several “meet and greet” webinars to help support and encourage partnerships for proposal development. The participant registration information is available on the [Climate Smart Commodities Program Page](#).

Total Allocation \$1 billion

Link to Grant Opportunity

- [Grant Opportunity on Grants.gov](#)
- [Climate Smart Commodities Program Page](#)