

SPRS GRANT – PUBLIC COMMENT SOLICITATION

Posted 10/25/2021

The Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) is soliciting public comment concerning *possible* application for a future grant program for eligible/existing Georgia seafood processors, dealers, and processing vessels.

This federal grant program would be administered by GDA (or by GDA, through a subcontractor) on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to qualified applicants by defraying expenses preparing for, preventing exposure to, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. More info is here: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/sprs>

Per USDA, grant funds may cover the following activities due to responding to COVID-19:

- 1.) Workplace Safety Measures
- 2.) Market Pivots
- 3.) Retrofitting Facilities
- 4.) Transportation
- 5.) Worker Housing
- 6.) Medical

GDA may choose to focus its program on just one or more of the above activities, depending on public response. It may also elect to limit the number of applications accepted and/or approved in order to maximize the impact of awards.

Note that only those seafood processors currently licensed by GDA would be eligible to apply for this grant: <http://agr.georgia.gov/manufactured-foods.aspx>

This notice is a solicitation for public comments only. No grant applications will be taken until later this year or early 2022, subject to GDA's decision to move forward with its application to USDA-AMS, based on public interest. GDA anticipates being awarded \$200,000 by USDA based on a formula determined using National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 2019 landings data of which 10% to 41% will be retained by GDA to cover administrative costs.

Contact grants@agr.georgia.gov with comments or questions: Write "SPRS grant" in the subject line of the email.

Public comments will be accepted only at the above email address until 11/19/2021 at Noon EST.