



“Promoting Innovation in Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Business”

Instructions for the 2018 Maryland Value Added Producer Matching Grant

Program Description

The Maryland Value Added Producer Matching Grant Program (MVAPMG) was established to make grants available to those pursuing support from the U. S. Department of Agriculture Value Added Producer Grants Program (USDA VAPG). MARBIDCO was created with a mission to assist Maryland’s farm, forestry, and seafood businesses with achieving profitability and sustainability, promoting rural entrepreneurship, and nurturing emerging food and fiber markets. **MARBIDCO will make grants available to eligible applicants to provide up to 15% of the matching funds requirement under the USDA VAPG.** These funds will be required to be used for planning or working capital purposes in accordance with USDA regulations. Eligible purposes include determining appropriate marketing techniques and creating business plans or paying operating expenses before a business has sufficient cash flow from operations.

Eligible applicants must be an independent producer, agricultural producer group, farmer or ranch cooperative, or majority-controlled producer-based business venture (all defined terms under federal regulations). In addition, applicants must be making a product that is “value added”. A product that is value added has in incremental value realized by the producer as a result of: 1) change in physical state; 2) differentiated production or marketing; 3) product segregation; and 4) economic benefit realized from the production of farm- or ranch-based renewable energy.

Under the USDA VAPG all applications will be screened for eligibility. **The federal grant application submission deadline is January 31, 2018.** Once the application has been determined to be eligible the application will be competitively rated in a nationwide competition. Projects or ventures must be determined to be economically viable and sustainable. The applications will then be screened for technical feasibility of the value added activity, the overall ability to operate efficiently, improvement to the rural economy, qualifications of personnel performing the proposed task and a demonstrated track record of performing similar activities, and a plan of work that incorporates the appropriate tasks to meet the stated objective. The USDA VAPG applications with the highest ratings will be funded first.

Applicants seeking to receive MARBIDCO matching funds for the USDA VAPG must submit an application to MARBIDCO at least two weeks prior to the federal deadline. **The MARBIDCO application deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2018.** Applications received in the mail with a **January 16, 2018 postmark** will also be accepted. Applicants must attach a complete copy of their federal application form as part of the application submission including all required attachments. All MVAPMG applicants meeting the MARBIDCO requirements will receive a commitment letter of matching funds to be included with their federal applications. The MVAPMG commitment amount cannot exceed 15% of the required non-federal match, and it may be for a lesser amount depending on the quantity of MVAPMG applications that are received and the pool of available MARBIDCO funds. MVAPMG monetary awards will only be provided to those applicants that are actually successful in obtaining USDA VAPG awards. **NOTE: The maximum cumulative amount of grant funding a single applicant may receive from all MARBIDCO grant incentive programs is \$50,000.**

MVAPG Conditions

Maximum Amount of Grant:	\$11,250 for Planning Grants \$25,000 for Working Capital Grants
Application Deadline:	January 17, 2018 no later than 4:00 p.m., OR January 16, 2018, for a postmarked mail submission
Disbursement of Funds:	A commitment letter and the USDA “Verification of Third-Party Cash Matching Funds” Form will be provided to qualified applicants approximately seven days in advance of the federal deadline. Funds will only be disbursed to applicants that are actually awarded to 2018 USDA Value Added Producer Grants
Send Completed Applications to:	MARBIDCO Programs, 1410 Forest Drive, Suite 21, Annapolis, MD 21403

Application for the 2018 Maryland Value Added Producer Matching Grant

SECTION 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Business/Farm Name _____

Business Address _____ County _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Person _____ Title _____

Work Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Home Telephone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Grant Requested from USDA (circle one): Planning or Working Capital

Dollar Amount Requested from USDA: _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY OF BUSINESS

(Include details and history of your farm operation and experience of principal business owner(s).)

SECTION 2: BUSINESS INFORMATION

BUSINESS STRUCTURE

Year & State Established/Incorporated _____

Corporation Partnership Proprietorship LLC (SIC/NAICS Code _____)

EMPLOYMENT DATA

of full-time jobs current _____ # of NEW full-time jobs projected within 36 months _____

of part-time jobs current _____ # of NEW part-time jobs projected within 36 months _____

MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP

1-Name _____ Title _____

Social Security # _____ Date of Birth _____ % Ownership _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

2- Name _____ Title _____

Social Security # _____ Date of Birth _____ % Ownership _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

3- Name _____ Title _____

Social Security # _____ Date of Birth _____ % Ownership _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

4- Name _____ Title _____

Social Security # _____ Date of Birth _____ % Ownership _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

DECLARATIONS

If answering "yes" to any of these questions, please provide an explanation on a separate sheet and attach.

- 1. Is the business or any of the top management personnel an endorser, guarantor or co-signer for obligations not listed on its/their financial statements? Yes No
- 2. Is the business or any of the top management personnel a party to any claim or lawsuit? Yes No
- 3. Has the business or any of the top management personnel ever declared bankruptcy? Yes No
- 4. Does the business or any of the management personnel owe any taxes for prior years? Yes No
- 5. Have any managers or owners received a felony conviction? Yes No

SECTION 3: PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT TYPE

(Check any that may apply.)

- Value-Added Food Processing
- Agri-Tourism/Rural Recreation
- Primary/Secondary Wood Processing
- Niche Market Production
- Aquaculture/Fishing/Seafood
- Other: _____

A) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE VALUE ADDED PROJECT:

B) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE MVAPMG GRANT FUNDS WOULD BE USED IF THE APPLICANT IS SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING USDA VAPG FUNDING:

C) BEGINNING AND END DATES FOR THE PROPOSED VAPG GRANT PERIOD:

OTHER PROJECT ADVISOR(S) *(If Applicable)*

1-Name _____ Title _____

Institution/Firm _____

Work Telephone _____ E-mail _____

1-Name _____ Title _____

Institution/Firm _____

Work Telephone _____ E-mail _____

SECTION 4: SIGNATURES

EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY ACT (15 U.S.C. 1691)

The Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act prohibits creditors from discriminating against credit applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status or age (provided that the applicant has the capacity to enter into a binding contract), because all or part of the applicant's income derives from any public assistance program, or because the applicant has in good faith exercised any right under the Consumer Credit Protection Act. The Federal agency that administers compliance with this law concerning this creditor is the Federal Trade Commission, Equal Credit Opportunity, Washington, D.C. 20580.

AUTHORITY TO COLLECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

This information is provided pursuant to Public Law 93-579 (Privacy Act of 1974). Effect of Non-Disclosure: Omission of an item means your application might not receive full consideration.

CERTIFICATION

I/We certify all information in this application and the attachments is true and complete to the best of my/our knowledge and is submitted so the MARBIDCO Loan Review Committee can decide whether to offer financial assistance.

Signature _____ Signature _____

Printed Name _____ Printed Name _____

Date _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Signature _____

Printed Name _____ Printed Name _____

Date _____ Date _____

SECTION 5: ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENTS CHECKLIST

- 1. Business plan for the project to receive financing (required for Working Capital applications).
- 2. Feasibility study (may be required for Working Capital applications).
- 3. Copy of completed USDA Value Added Producer Grant application.

Note: MARBIDCO agrees to hold Recipient's Application and Financial Reports in confidence to the extent reasonably permitted by Title 10, Subtitle 6 of the State Government Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*. Notwithstanding the foregoing, MARBIDCO shall not be obligated to maintain in confidence any information: 1) which was already known to MARBIDCO; or, 2) which is or comes into the public domain through no fault of MARBIDCO; or, 3) which is independently developed by MARBIDCO; or, 4) which comes to MARBIDCO from a third party which is not in violation of any obligation of confidentiality to Applicant or MARBIDCO.