



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
**COMMISSIONER SID MILLER**

# Agriculture Continuity Grant (AgLink)

Supporting the first line  
agricultural businesses that  
keep Texas producers  
connected to the market





# PURPOSE

The program aims to:

- Prevent facility closures
- Preserve market access for producers
- Maintain supply chain continuity
- Support rural economic recovery



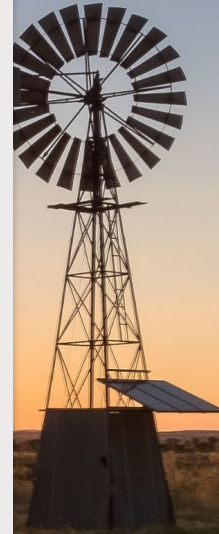
# WHY IT MATTERS

- If these key facilities shut down, **TEXAS PRODUCERS** lose local, affordable processing options.
- AgLink helps critical businesses stay open and ready to serve.



# PROGRAM GOALS

- Help key first line agricultural facilities connect raw commodities to markets and processing facilities.
- Provide working capital to help critical agricultural facilities recover from disaster impacts.
- Keep operations running until business is back to normal.
- Install efficiency and sustainability measures for lasting benefits.





# AgLink Information

# General Information

- Please read the **entire** Agriculture Continuity Grant (AgLink) Request for Grant Application (RFGA).
- The proposed budget should focus on the critical processing operations.
- This is a competitive grant process.
- Max Award is \$500,000

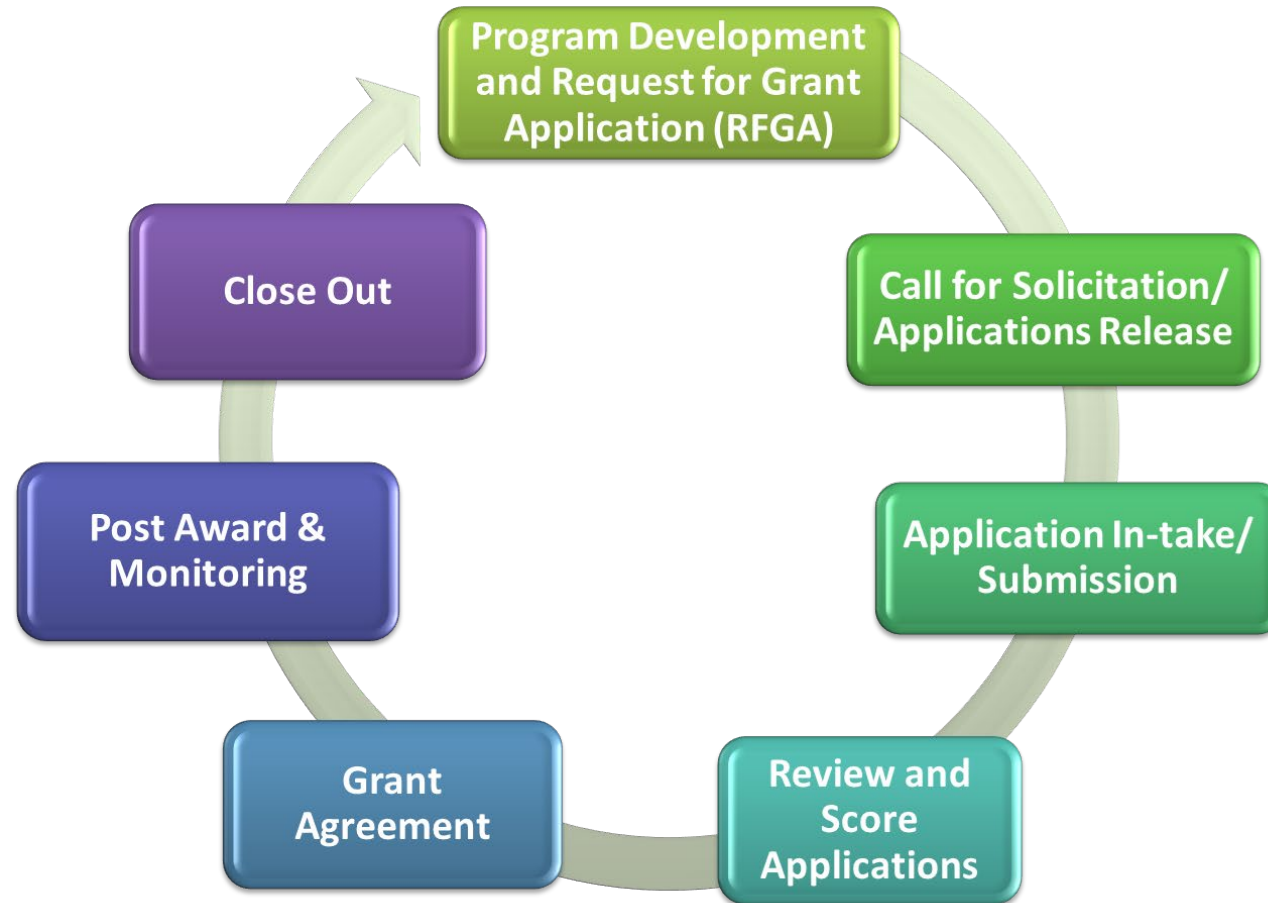




# Terms to Know

- TAFE: Texas Agricultural Finance Authority
- Grant recipient/Grantee: Individual, organization, or government entity that **receives** the grant funds.
- Grant funder/Grantor: Individual, organization, or government entity that **provides** the grant funds.
- TDA-GO: Online portal to access and submit applications, it is also where payments are processed, and performance reports are submitted.
- Request for Grant Applications (RFGA): Official announcement from the grantor with the instructions to apply.

# Grant Life Cycle





# Eligibility



# Eligibility Requirements

- To qualify for AgLink, you MUST:
  - Not be a producer of a RAW agriculture commodity.
  - Be indirectly affected by natural disasters through reduced production\*
  - Be a key agricultural facility that directly receives raw commodities/provides first-point-of-handling or essential processing services from producers, farmers, ranchers, or growers for marketing, storage, or initial processing.

\*Natural disasters, such as droughts, floods, extreme heat, or freezes, can reduce production. The affected area is impacted by growing, harvesting or producing fewer agricultural products.



# Eligibility Requirements Cont.

- To qualify for this grant, you MUST:
  - Show that losing the facility or operation will hurt producers in future years.
  - When production and yield increase, the current infrastructure won't be enough to handle the extra raw agricultural commodities.
  - Demonstrate the negative financial impact caused by a drop in raw agricultural commodity production over recent years.
  - Match the grant up 10% above the awarded amount.



# Eligibility Requirements Cont.

- To qualify for this grant, you **MUST**:
  - Be located and headquartered in Texas
    - Businesses headquartered outside of Texas, even if they have business operations in Texas, are not eligible.
  - The principal owners of a business must all be U.S. citizens or resident aliens.
  - TAFA/TDA may request additional documentation related to owners' residency or headquarter location.



**\*An applicant with a family, job, or business link to an executive, officer, or employee of TDA, or a member of the TAFE Board, cannot apply for the AgLink Program.**

<b>Consanguinity and Affinity Relationship Chart</b>				
Consanguinity (including individuals related by blood to the official or employee)			Affinity (includes an officials' or employee's spouse and individuals related to the spouse)	
First Degree	Second Degree	Third Degree	First Degree	Second Degree
Parents	Grandparents Grandchildren	Great-grandparents Great-grandchildren	Spouse Spouse's Parents	Spouse's Grandparents Spouse's Grandchildren
Children	Brothers & Sisters	Nephews & Nieces Uncles & Aunts	Children's Spouses Spouse's Children	Spouse's Brother's & Sisters Brothers & Sisters' Spouses

# ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Cotton gins
- Rice mills/Dryers
- Produce Packing Sheds
- Grain elevators/warehouses

All entities must have their headquarters located in Texas.

\*The grantor can ask the applicant for additional information to confirm eligibility.





## INELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Producers, farmers, or ranchers
- Processors or manufacturers that significantly transform raw materials into value-added products.
- Livestock slaughter/butcher
- General ag service providers
- Brokers, buyers, traders
- Universities
- Food banks



# Funding Parameters

- The TAFA Board will make final funding decisions.
  - The Board has the right to provide full or partial funding for any grant application. **Award decisions are final.**
- Applicants can request up to a 5% advance of the awarded amount.
  - They must give valid reasons, and the TAFA Board will approve or deny the request.
- Grant awards will range from \$5,000 to \$500,000 for each recipient under this program.
- Recipients will have twenty-one (21) months to finish their projects and request reimbursement for eligible expenses.



# Key Documentation

TAFAs and the AgLink Grant will require clear evidence that your operation experienced a measurable financial impact due to a specific disaster event.

- Year-over-year revenue comparisons
- Volume reductions (bushels, bales, tons, etc.)
- Dates of impact
- Connection to drought, wildfire, freeze, flood, or other declared disaster



# Key Documentation

## Prepare Financial Documentation

- Profit & loss statements (3 years required)
- Balance sheets
- Tax returns (business-level)
- Operating expense summaries
- Documentation of fixed costs that continued during the disaster period



# Identify How Grant Funds Will Be Used

---

## Eligible uses include:

- Working capital to maintain operations
- Payroll and employee retention
- Essential operating expenses
- Equipment repairs or upgrades needed to sustain service

## Answer short narrative questions:

- What your facility needs
- How the funds will stabilize operations
- How the grant will support producers and the local supply chain



# Eligible Expenses

---

- Personnel costs
- Equipment
  - Specialty-purpose equipment
  - Capital expenditure
  - Other capital assets
- Supplies and direct operating expenses
  - Non-capitalized equipment
- Contracts
- Other direct expenses





# Ineligible Expenses

---

Includes, but not limited to

- Alcoholic beverages
- Contributions, charitable or political
- Controlled assets
- Depreciation
- Entertainment
- Costs from BEFORE the grant agreement date, unless you have PRIOR approval from TDA/TAFA
- Expenses not listed in the application or that do not meet intent of the program
- Gift cards/certificates

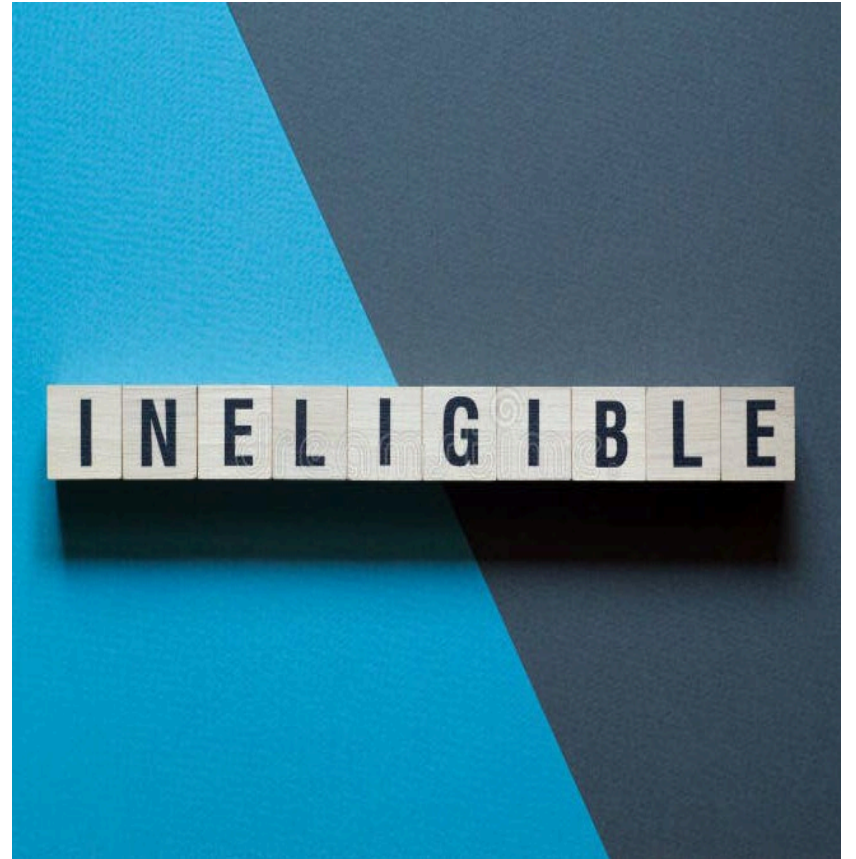




# Ineligible Expenses (continued)

---

- Indirect expenses
- Purchasing land (with the of exception lease expenses)
- Payment of dividends, bonuses, or owner draws
- Refinancing costs associated with previous debt
- Tips/gratuity
- Travel—including lodging, meals, and transportation
- Expenses that would have been eligible if documented correctly.





# Important Dates





# IMPORTANT PROGRAM DATES

2/18/26

Application  
Opens

3/18/26

Application  
Deadline

7/2026

Anticipate  
Notice of  
Award

8/01/26

Anticipated  
Start Date

4/30/28

End Date

\* Late applications will be automatically disqualified and not receive funding from this program.



# Performance Reporting Timeline

	Period	Due Date
First Performance Report	8/1/2026-8/31/2026	10/01/2026
Second Performance Report	9/1/2026-11/30/2026	01/01/2027
Third Performance Report	12/1/2026-2/28/2027	04/01/2027
Fourth Performance Report	3/1/2027-5/31/2027	07/01/2027

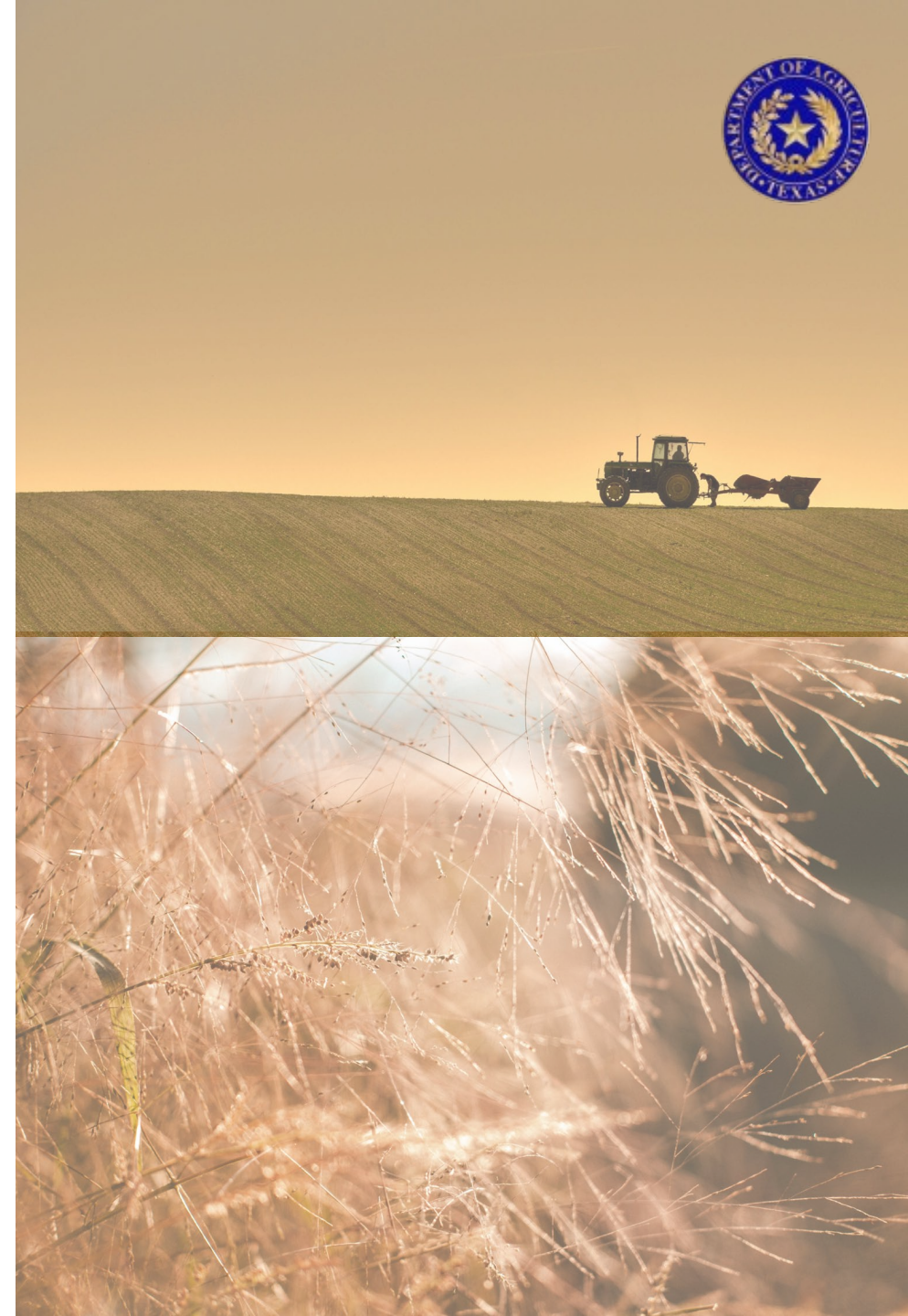


# Performance Reporting Timeline

	Period	Due Date
Fifth Performance Report	6/1/2027-8/31/2027	10/01/2027
Sixth Performance Report	9/1/2027-11/30/2027	01/01/2028
Seventh Performance Report	12/1/2027-2/28/2028	04/01/2028
Eighth Performance Report	3/1/2028-4/30/2028	06/01/2028
Final Performance Report	8/1/2026-4/30/2028	06/01/2028
Final Budget Report	8/1/2026-4/30/2028	07/01/2028

# Payment Requests

- Submit requests for reimbursement every quarter to show clear financial and program progress.
  - Submitting monthly is optional.
- Submit all payment requests within 60 days after the project or grant agreement ends, whichever comes first.
- Examples of proper payment requests:
  - Invoices
  - Receipts
  - Detailed information on personnel costs





# Grant Writing





# Grant Writing Tips & Tricks

---

- Start early, DO NOT wait until the last minute.
- Read through ALL directions and follow them as closely as possible.
- Make sure you have a plan and a realistic timeline.
- Draft your answers first (Word, Google doc, paper, etc.)
- Check the application to ensure all required materials are attached.
- Proofread for context and spelling errors.
- Communicate with Grant Specialists when necessary.



A person wearing a white button-down shirt with a blue circular logo on the left chest is typing on a black keyboard. The logo features a star and the text "DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TEXAS". The background is a blurred office setting.

## Reminders

- Read through the entire RFGA and other published grant documents.
- Keep organized records.
- Document everything.
- Submit reports on time.
- Keep track of deadlines.



## Contact and Resource Information



# Contact and Resource Information

- Grants Office
  - Monday – Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
  - Email: [Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov](mailto:Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov)
  - Phone: 833-380-8282



# Questions?

Comments, Concerns?