



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE **COMMISSIONER SID MILLER**

Texas Agricultural Finance Authority (TAFA) AgLink Continuity Grant (AgLink)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

1. What is the AgLink Continuity Grant?

The AgLink Continuity Grant (AgLink) supports the critical agriculture businesses that serve as the vital connection between Texas producers and the markets they depend on. When natural disasters such as drought, wildfire, flood, or freeze strike, these operations often experience drastic reductions in raw materials delivered for processing or marketing, leading to severe financial strain.

Unlike agricultural producers, many of these facilities do not qualify for crop insurance or traditional disaster assistance. Yet their ability to continue operating is essential for producers to market, process, and sell their commodities.

AgLink provides the working capital needed to stabilize operations, preserve jobs, ensure continuity of services during periods of disaster-related revenue loss, and implement efficiency and sustainability measures for long-term benefits.

2. Who is eligible to apply for AgLink?

See Eligibility section in the Request for Grant Applications (RFGA). Eligible entities may include, but are not limited to cotton gins, rice mills/dryers, produce packing sheds, grain elevators/warehouses, and others.

Agriculture producers, farmers, and ranchers are NOT eligible for AgLink.

3. My business is not listed in the examples as an eligible applicant, can I still apply?

Yes, you may apply and your application will be reviewed for eligibility. The examples shown are not exhaustive. If your business provides critical services or infrastructure that support Texas agriculture producers for bulk commodity processing and meets the program's eligibility criteria, you may still apply. All applications are reviewed for final eligibility during the administrative review process.

4. How can I apply for AgLink?

Application instructions (Request for Grant Applications) are published on TDA's website: [AgLink Continuity Grant](#). Applications must be completed and submitted through TDA's online platform called "TDA-GO."

You must register for a TDA-GO account **AT LEAST** 72 hours before the application submission deadline. Last-minute registrations are not guaranteed and could result in your application missing the deadline.

5. Can I apply for AgLink if I do not have any previous agriculture production?

No. AgLink is focused on critical agriculture businesses. Agriculture producers are not eligible for this grant opportunity.

6. Do I have to live in Texas to apply?

Yes. Applicants, businesses and/or individuals, must be Texas-based entities with operations headquartered in Texas. If awarded, funds must be used to benefit only Texas location(s).

7. Where do I find my Agriculture/Timber License number?

You can search for your number here: [Ag/Timber Registration](#)

8. I have been farming for many years—what is an Agriculture/Timber License number, and do I need it to apply for this assistance?

Farmers, ranchers, and timber producers can claim exemptions from some Texas taxes when purchasing certain items used exclusively to produce agricultural and timber products for sale. If you do not have this number, it will not prevent you from submitting your application.

TDA-GO QUESTIONS

9. What's TDA-GO? How do I register?

TDA-GO stands for "Texas Department of Agriculture – Grants Online." It is an online grants management system that streamlines the application and grant compliance processes.

To register:

1. Visit the **TDA-GO login page**: <https://tda-go.intelligrants.com/>
2. Click "**New User/Organization Registration**" and enter the required information.
3. Wait for **TDA approval** and an email confirmation.
4. Once approved, you may start your application.

For detailed instructions, refer to the application instructions (Request for Grant Applications).

10. I'm trying to access the application, but I can't find it online.

You must have an **active** TDA-GO account to access the application. Refer to the registration instructions for guidance. You may also email Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov.

11. How do I know if my application was submitted successfully?

On the document landing page, the status of your grant application will change from “application in process” to “application submitted.” You should also receive a confirmation email acknowledging the submission.

12. Who do I call or email for assistance relating to the online TDA-GO system?

Please contact Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov.
You may call: 1(833) 380-8282.

FINANCIAL AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSE REQUIREMENTS

13. Can I apply if I've received other TDA or federal funds?

Yes. Applicants may apply if the project has not already been fully funded by other state or federal sources. TDA will review potential duplication of benefits before approval.

14. Are there grant limits?

The max grant awards will not exceed \$500,000. Applicants should request only the funds necessary to successfully carry out the proposed activities and should ensure all costs are reasonable, allowable, and well-justified. The TAFA Board makes funding decisions and reserves the right to fully or partially fund any particular grant application.

15. Are grant funds provided up-front when awarded?

No. The AgLink grant is a reimbursement grant. Grantees must incur and pay eligible expenses before requesting reimbursement through TDAGO. Applicants may request up to 5% of an award to be advanced; however, they must provide sufficient justification and the TAFA Board will either approve or deny each request.

16. What are the matching requirements?

The AgLink grant requires a 10% match.

Applicants must contribute funds equal to 10% of the total project cost. Matching funds must be cash and must be spent on eligible project expenses during the grant term. To ensure continued compliance throughout the grant term, Grant Recipients will be reimbursed 90% of every expenditure and the remaining 10% will be documented as the required match.

Example:

If your total project costs are \$10,000:

- Grantee Match (10%) = \$1,000
- Grant Reimbursement (90%) = \$9,000

17. Does the match have to be cash, or can it include in-kind contributions?

Match must be cash-only. In-kind contributions such as personal labor, use of personal equipment, or donated materials do not count toward the match.

18. Do I need to have all my matching funds upfront?

You must demonstrate access to your matching funds at the time of the application submission; however, expenditure of matching funds will be documented as a portion of each reimbursement request processed by TDA. Additional guidance will be provided if awarded.

19. Are loans allowed to be counted as matching funds?

Yes. Loans from financial institutions may be used as matching funds. You may be asked to provide documentation about the loan(s) approval or access to capital.

20. How do I document my matching expenses?

Matching expenses are documented on the payment request form. To ensure continued compliance throughout the grant term, Grant Recipients will be reimbursed 90% of every expenditure and the remaining 10% will be documented as the required match. Additional guidance will be provided if awarded.

21. Can I request reimbursement for expenses that I have made prior to my application?

No. Only expenses made during the grant term are eligible for reimbursement.

22. Can I use grant funds to purchase land?

No. Grant funds can be used to lease land but cannot be used to purchase land.

23. What costs are not allowed?

Ineligible costs may include:

- Land purchases or lease payments
- Vehicles for personal transport
- Debt repayment or refinancing
- Operating expenses not directly related to the approved project
- See page of the RFGA for a more complete list

24. If I need to buy equipment, are there any additional requirements at the time of application or later?

You must include a justification for the Special Purpose Equipment in your application. The TAFA Board will approve or deny the request. Special Purpose Equipment is not

intended for general use and is essential for conducting specialized tasks within the agriculture operation.

If grant funds are used to purchase equipment, additional reporting requirements and compliance procedures are required.

- TDA/TAFA must approve the purchase prior to funds being encumbered and expended;
- Property records must include a description, serial number, acquisition date, cost, location, and condition of equipment;
- Annual inventory of the equipment is required utilizing TDA/TAFA required forms;
- Prior written approval from TDA/TAFA is required before the equipment is disposed of or used as a trade-in to replace the equipment;
- Property purchased with state grant funds shall not be used as collateral by the recipient for other purchases or loans.

SUBMISSION QUESTIONS

25. Can I submit multiple applications for different projects?

No. Applicants may only submit **one** application per funding cycle. If you have multiple facilities, you may combine the projects into one application. Please use the narrative fields within the application to explain.

26. Can I edit my application once it is submitted?

No. Once your application status shows “application submitted,” it is locked. You cannot make changes unless requested by TDA during the administrative review process.

27. Will late applications be accepted?

No. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted under any circumstance, including technical issues.

28. Can I withdraw my application after submission?

Yes. Applicants may withdraw their application by emailing Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov any time before the award announcement.

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

29. What happens after I apply?

TDA will review the application to determine whether the applicant was responsive to the requirements. All eligible applications will be evaluated and scored. After individual evaluations are complete, the TAFA Board will meet to discuss applications and make funding decisions.

30. What criteria is used to evaluate the AgLink applications?

The board may consider other factors, including:

- The quality of the application (completeness and supporting documentation)
- The disaster impact, demonstrated need and level of economic injury due to reduction in raw agriculture commodities
- The applicant's financial need and health
- Recovery plan and sustainability
- Regional Significance

31. Are certain types of projects given more priority than others?

No. All applications meeting the AgLink eligibility criteria and purpose of the grant program are considered equally.

32. Will incomplete applications be reviewed?

No. Incomplete applications will be deemed non-responsive and will not move forward for TAFA Board consideration.

33. Can I appeal if my application is denied?

No. TAFA's funding decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

34. Will everyone that applies get a grant?

No. TAFA expects this to be a very competitive program with significantly more applications received than funds available. Applicants should not assume they will receive a grant.

35. How long does the review process take?

Considering TDA anticipates an exceptionally large number of applications and there are multiple steps involved in the review process, the estimated timeline for review and award announcements is approximately 16-20 weeks.

AWARD NOTIFICATION, GRANT MANAGEMENT AND PAYMENT QUESTIONS

36. How will I be notified of my grant award?

All applicants will receive notification of approval or denial. TDA will provide a Notification of Award via phone call and email. This is a highly competitive grant program, and grant awards are not guaranteed.

37. What happens if I am awarded a grant?

Upon the official Notice of Award, TDA will send a grant agreement (contract) through TDA-GO confirming your grant award and matching obligation. The grant agreement will also

provide you with a start and end date of your project, reporting and other compliance requirements. Dates are extremely important because you will only be reimbursed for eligible expenses that fall within that timeframe. The grant agreement is not final until it has been signed by both the Grant Recipient and TDA.

38. Is this a reimbursement grant?

Yes. Grantees must incur and pay eligible expenses before requesting reimbursement through TDA-GO, unless otherwise specified in the award agreement.

39. What kind of reporting is required?

Quarterly and final reports are required to document progress and expenditures.

40. What happens if my project changes or is delayed?

Any changes to the approved project scope, timeline, or budget must be approved in writing by TDA prior to implementation. Unapproved changes may result in unallowable costs/denial of payment or even cancellation of the grant agreement.

41. How long does it take to receive reimbursement after I submit a payment request?

On average, reimbursement processing takes 30 days, depending on completeness of documentation.

42. Do I need to submit proof of payment?

Yes. Proof of payment is required, and examples may include a canceled check, bank statement, or invoices with method of payment documented.

43. Can I combine multiple expenses into one payment request?

Yes. Grantees may submit multiple items on the same payment request form, as long as all required supporting documents are included.

44. Will the funding I receive be taxable?

Depending on business structure, an IRS 1099 Form will be sent annually for payments disbursed to the recipient, not necessarily the amount awarded.

45. Can I start my project before my agreement is fully executed?

No. Only expenses incurred **after the grant agreement start date** are eligible.

46. Do weather delays qualify for extensions?

Possibly. Extensions are not guaranteed, but TDA may consider delays caused by extraordinary circumstances such as natural disasters.

47. What happens if I do not complete my project by the end date?

Any unspent funds at the expiration date will be forfeited. Additionally, purchases made at the end of the grant term may be questioned and denied if sufficient justification can not be provided by the Grant Recipient.

48. Will TDA perform site visits?

TDA reserves the right to conduct site visits before, during, or after awards to verify project activities and ensure compliance.

49. What happens if I misuse grant funds?

Misuse of funds may result in:

- Immediate grant termination
- Required repayment of some or all grant funds
- Ineligibility for future TDA or TAFA programs

50. Do I need to maintain records after the project ends?

Yes. Grantees must retain all grant-related documents for **at least four years** after the final payment.

51. If awarded, can I change vendors or equipment brands?

Yes, but changes must be consistent with the approved project. TDA approval is required before making any substantial modifications.