



# Mariculture Matching Grant Program

## Background

To facilitate the development of Alaska's mariculture industry, Governor Dunleavy worked with the Alaska Legislature to appropriate \$5,000,000 to help realize the vision of what mariculture can mean to the people of Alaska. The grant was made to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development for the Alaska Mariculture Alliance ("AMA") to administer the Economic Recovery Mariculture Incentive Grant Program ("Program")

The objective of this project is for AMA to establish a grant process to distribute funding to mariculture farmers, hatcheries, and processors throughout Alaska. Individuals who receive loans from the Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund ("MRLF" or "Mariculture Loan"), the Agriculture Revolving Loan Fund ("ARLF" or Agriculture Loan"), or the Build Back Better Revolving Loan Fund ("AMC Loan") would be eligible to receive matching grant funds. Individuals may also use their own funds as a match.

The Program is designed to:

- aid with investments that expand existing or start new farming operations;
- aid with the expansion of existing hatcheries or development of new hatcheries; and
- facilitate the purchase of new mariculture processing equipment.

**To expedite the application process, applicants should carefully review this checklist and FAQs prior to submitting their application.**

The application period for the AMA Matching Grant Program will open on October 6, 2023, and online applications can be found at [alaskamariculture.org/grant-opportunity](https://alaskamariculture.org/grant-opportunity).

Once you have applied for an AMA Matching Grant, you may receive follow up phone calls and/or emails from the grant processor. **Your prompt response to these follow-up communications is necessary to finalize the processing of your grant application.**

If you have questions on the AMA Matching Grant program or application process, please contact us at [grants@alaskamariculture.org](mailto:grants@alaskamariculture.org)

The AMA Matching Grant Program is operated on an equal access/non-preferential basis.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### When can I apply?

Applications will be accepted starting October 9, 2023, and ending at 11:59pm on December 8, 2023.

Online applications will be available at [alaskamariculture.org/grant-opportunity](https://alaskamariculture.org/grant-opportunity) on October 9, 2023.

### How can I apply?

Grant applications are available online at [alaskamariculture.org/grant-opportunity](https://alaskamariculture.org/grant-opportunity) and must be submitted through the link.

If an applicant needs assistance in filling out their application due to connectivity issues or lack of access to a computer, they are encouraged to reach out to [grants@alaskamariculture.org](mailto:grants@alaskamariculture.org) for assistance.

If you are unable to apply online, you can contact [grants@alaskamariculture.org](mailto:grants@alaskamariculture.org) to request a paper application. **Please note, paper applications will take longer to process than applications submitted electronically.** Applications submitted via mail or email will be considered received as of the date the complete application is received in the office by staff.

### Will these funds be issued to businesses as loans or grants?

These are grants.

### What are the minimum and maximum grant amounts?

- Microgrant: \$5,000 to \$35,000
- Standard Grant: \$35,001 to \$150,000

### What are the terms?

These are grants and there is no repayment required except in the case of malfeasance. There will be a grant agreement outlining the conditions of the grant funding.

### Are there fees associated with these grants?



There are no fees that will be charged to the applicant by AMA.

### **Are there restrictions on how the proceeds are used?**

- Grant funds must be used for the expansion of a mariculture farm or the establishment of a newly permitted farm; or
- the expansion of a mariculture hatchery or the development of a newly permitted hatchery; or
- to purchase new mariculture processing equipment.

### **Eligible Expenses include, but are not limited to:**

- Equipment, supplies, and materials required for the normal operation of an eligible mariculture enterprise.

### **Who Can Apply?**

- Mariculture farms, hatcheries, and processors, licensed, and located in Alaska with an Employer Identification Number (EIN) – including C-corps, S-corps, Partnerships, LLCs and sole proprietorships that meet the following criteria:
- Farm, Business, Hatchery is licensed and established as of October 1, 2023.

### **Can Nonprofits apply for the MMG program?**

No. Nonprofits are not eligible under the AMA Matching Grant Program, with the exception of nonprofit shellfish and/or aquatic plant hatcheries.

### **Who is NOT eligible for the MMG program?**

- Any person involved in a position to influence the approval or denial of an AMA Matching Grant.
- Applicants that lack the appropriate leases and/or permits in place from ADNR, ADF&G, ADEC, and/or USACE.
- Applicants involved in an active bankruptcy.
- Nonprofit entities, with the exception of nonprofit shellfish and/or aquatic plant hatcheries.
- Applicants who otherwise do not meet the eligibility criteria.



## **Examples of Eligible Expenses:**

See “Eligible and Ineligible expenses”

## **Amortized Monthly and Annual Expenses:**

- Eligible expenses that are paid monthly will be considered for payment only for the payments due over the eligible timeframe.
- Eligible expenses that are paid annually, regardless of when the payment due date falls, will be prorated over the eligible timeframe.

## **How do I calculate the grant amount in the application?**

Grant recipients will be required to meet a 1 to 1, dollar for dollar, match requirement. The recipient must provide verification of the matching funds. Verification of matching funds can be in the form of a loan approval, bank statement or credit card statement indicating available funds, or receipts of allowable expenses incurred beginning October 1, 2023

All grant funds must be spent on eligible costs by June 20, 2025.

## **For how long will applications be accepted?**

Applications will be accepted until December 8, 2023

## **I need more than the program cap. Can I apply for multiple grants?**

No, the AMA will only accept one grant application per entity license and Federal Tax ID number/EIN.

## **My business has several subsidiaries which do not have individual business licenses. Are they eligible to apply individually?**

No, the Program Operator will only accept one grant application per entity license and Federal Tax ID number/EIN.

## **My business has several subsidiaries which have distinct business licenses. Are these separate, but related businesses eligible to apply individually?**

No, businesses related to another business, for example by being a subsidiary, parent, or owner, that is applying for a grant may not apply for a grant in the same application period.



**May I, as an individual, apply for a grant in the same period that a business of which I have ownership has submitted an application?**

No, unless your ownership share is less than 20% of the business and you are applying for a grant for a separate farm site or facility. Under no circumstances can you apply for a grant to pay for the same project as the business.

**Are there grant limitations for cooperatives?**

The project for which the grant is being requested must benefit the cooperative as a whole. Members of the cooperative are eligible to apply for their own grants for an eligible project if they meet all eligibility requirements and the project for which the grant is being requested is unrelated to the project the cooperative has requested a grant for.

**I am a sole proprietor. Can I apply for this grant?**

Yes, provided you meet the eligibility criteria.

**What are the matching requirements?**

This grant requires the recipient to expend matching funds equal to or greater than the total grant award. For example, if you are awarded a grant of \$20,000 you will be expected to document a match of at least \$20,000. In other words, for every \$2 you spend you will be reimbursed \$1.

If the application indicates that you would match a higher dollar amount you will be expected to match that amount. For example, if you are awarded a grant of \$10,000 and said you would match \$40,000 it would be the same as saying for every \$5 you spend you will be reimbursed \$1.

**How do I document my matching expenses?**

Matching expenses are documented on the payment request form. On the itemized list, you will provide the total invoice amount and then divide by your percentage of matching requirement to determine the Matching and Requested Amount column.

For example, on a \$10,000 award with \$40,000 match:

- Total Grant Award \$10,000 20% (\$10,000/\$50,000)
- Total Matching \$40,000 80% (\$40,000/\$50,000)
- Total Grant Project \$50,000 100%

How to calculate the correct amount for payment request:

- Payment invoice total \$2,534.00
- Total Amount requested \$ 506.80 (\$2,534 x 20%)



- Total Matching Amount \$2,027.20 (\$2,534 x 80%)

**If I already paid a creditor, who should I list on the schedule of expenses: the actual creditor or myself?**

List the creditor/vendor and indicate the attached invoice has been paid. The reimbursement will be issued to the applicant, but the AMA still needs the creditor's/vendor's name and the invoice for verification purposes.

**Is the grant award taxable?**

These grants are generally considered taxable income to the taxpayer receiving them. A grant recipient should seek professional advice on the tax consequences of receiving grant funds.

**I submitted my application before it was complete. What do I do?**

You should not be able to submit your online application without submitting all the required documentation. However, if you need to add information to your application, contact the Program Administrator to discuss. If that information is critical to your application, you will likely need to submit a new application, which will affect your place in the queue.

**I already submitted my application, but then realized I have additional expenses I want to add. What should I do?**

Contact AMA staff at [grants@alaskamariculture.org](mailto:grants@alaskamariculture.org)



## **Application Checklist**

Applicants will need to submit the following documents, in completed, electronic form.

- **Grant Application**
- **Copy of the current licenses and permits.**
- **Copy of a government-issued identification, such as a driver's license, state-issued identification card, or social security card.**
- **Corporations.**
  - Identification of all individuals with an ownership interest greater than 10%.
- **LLCs.**
  - Identification of all persons who are members.
- **Partnerships.**
  - Identification of all persons who are partners.
- **Cooperatives.**
  - Identification of all persons who are members.



## **Common application mistakes**

- Residential addresses are missing.
- The applicant's relationship to the business is not clear.
- Valid identification is missing.
- Articles of Organization and Certificate of Incorporation are both needed for all corporations including LLCs.
- Be sure to attach a copy of your current business license, ADF&G, DNR, DEC, ETC.
- Include your business TIN (EIN, SSN, etc.)
- Minimum amount that can be requested is \$5,000 for a microgrant and \$35,001 for a standard grant.
- Maximum amount that can be requested is \$35,000 for a microgrant and \$150,000 for a standard grant.
- All applicable receipts, invoices, statements, lease agreements, etc. need to be included as supporting documentation.
- The schedule of expense form must be filled out completely, you cannot state "see attached".
- Do not submit expenses or receipts for expenses incurred prior to October 1, 2023.

### **What to expect once an application is submitted:**

- Applicant will receive a confirmation email when the Program Operator has received the completed application packet.
- Applicants that submit incomplete application packages will be emailed a checklist of required documents and missing information. An application will not be placed in the processing queue until the completed package is received.
- As this granting process is first-come, first-served, completed applications will be processed in the order they are received.
- A Program representative will call or email applicants with any follow up questions.
- Applicants will be notified via email once their application has been approved.
- Applicants who are denied will be notified of the decline reasons via email.
- Grant documentation will be finalized via electronic signature using DocuSign.