

Maine SCBGP Q & A Webinar November 12, 2025

Q. What is an entity?

A. An entity is defined as the business, organization, or institution that is submitting the application (the Applicant). Each applicant entity must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

The 12-digit UEI number replaces the 9-digit DUNS number provided by Dun & Bradstreet which were previously used by the agency to uniquely identify organizations receiving federal funds. There is NO cost to register at SAM.gov.

Q. Are we able to submit for multiple Market or Focus categories? Or would those be separate applications?

A. Only one Funding Area and one Focus Area may be selected per application. An applicant may submit more than one application, but each application must propose a unique project.

Q. I received the grant RFA notice via email, but I was wondering if it would be uploaded to the new Vendor Self-Service portal on the [Maine.gov](https://maine.gov) website. The website states that all grant opportunities would be listed on the portal, but I didn't see this (or any other) grant opportunity uploaded. Do you know how future grant opportunities will be published?

A. DACF does not publish grants through the Vendor-Self-Service portal. All DACF grant opportunities are posted on the Department website program pages.

Q. If you are a specialty crop producer and your project will benefit other producers. Do other need to join the application as well. Or how do you demonstrate the benefit to other farms?

A. No, you do not need to have a joint application. You, as the applicant, would describe your project and explain how it could benefit others, including other Maine specialty crop producers.

Q. The funds are awarded to organizations but are they then able to share with individuals?

A. Yes, but you must be able to explain why the funds would be shared with individuals and how this pertains to and is necessary for the project to be successful.

Q. Are capital expenditures allowed? On the allowable expenditure document, I see that it is unallowable unless it is related to the purpose of the grant program. This seems confusing: we would be renovating a building and purchasing special equipment in order to support production & distribution of specialty crops, and training (Funding Area II, Focus Area V).

A. [Allowable and Unallowable Costs and Activities](#) On page 14 it states, construction costs are unallowable.

Cost Category	Affected AMS Grant Program(s)	Description, Guidance and Exceptions
Buildings and Land – Construction	ALL with exceptions	<p>Unallowable for the acquisition of buildings, facilities, or land or to make new constructions, additions, improvements, modifications, replacements, rearrangements, reinstallations, renovations, or alterations of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement, and architecture fees), unless the cost is associated with fulfilling the purpose of the grant program or with prior written approval. This also includes construction-related materials, which may include, but are not limited to, the purchase of building materials such as wood, nails, concrete, asphalt, roofing, gravel, sand, paint, insulation, drywall, or plumbing.</p> <p>Allowable for rental costs of land and building space. However, lease agreements to own (i.e., lease-to-own or rent-to-own) are not allowable. The lease or rental agreement must terminate at the end of the grant cycle.</p> <p>A building is any permanent structure designed or intended for support, enclosure, shelter, or protection of people, animals, or property, and having a permanent roof supported by columns or walls.</p>

Special-purpose equipment is allowable but must meet the following criteria (pg. 15)

Cost Category	Affected AMS Grant Program(s)	Description, Guidance and Exceptions
Equipment – Special Purpose	ALL	<p>Allowable when provided in the approved budget or with prior written approval for acquisition costs and rental costs of special purpose equipment provided the following criteria are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Necessary for the research, scientific, or other technical activities of the grant agreement; 2. Not otherwise reasonably available and accessible; 3. The type of equipment is normally charged as a direct cost by the organization; 4. Acquired in accordance with organizational practices; 5. Must be used solely to meet the legislative purpose of the grant program and objectives of the grant agreement; 6. More than one single commercial organization, commercial product, or individual must benefit from the use of the equipment; 7. Must not use special purpose equipment acquired with grant funds to provide services for a fee to compete unfairly with private companies that provide equivalent services; and 8. Equipment is subject to the full range of acquisition, use, management, and disposition requirements under 2 CFR § 200.313 as applicable. <p>Examples of special purpose equipment in the agricultural sector include, but are not limited to sorting equipment, packing and labeling equipment, food processing equipment essential to the grant-funded project, purpose specific vehicles or trailers, such as refrigerated vans that will not be used as personal vehicles.</p>

Q. What's the difference between the phase 1 concept proposal and phase 2 grant application? Are they the same questions?

A. Phase I is an opportunity for an applicant to describe a proposed concept project without a fully formulated plan. Phase II will allow applicants to share a fully formulated project plan with DACF and the USDA that will include specific action plans, outcomes metrics, and a robust reporting plan. Phase II will include the completion of a SCBGP Project Profile Template form that is required by the USDA where Phase I only requires the DACF online application form.

Q. If we have several individuals working on the application form (on different computers) will all be able to see the documents in process?

A. No. One application can not be viewed by multiple people on different computers. I'd suggest copying the questions from the RFA and putting them into a shared document. When all questions have been answered, you can copy and paste the information into the online application form.

Q. Does DACF have guidance about current allowable USDA language if a project focuses on immigrant and New Mainer farmers and communities?

A. The USDA has not provided any language guidance. The only change made in relation to immigrant and new farmers is that the USDA no longer asks if the project will directly benefit underserved or beginning farmers. This does not mean that the project can't benefit these farmers or communities; it means it is no longer data that will be reported on.

The Phase I concept proposal will not be seen by the USDA. Please use clear and concise language to provide information about your proposed project.

Emails Through November 13, 2025

Q. For this proposal, will the grantee be considered a contractor (providing specified services in support of a program) or a subrecipient (has its performance measured in relation to whether objectives of a federal program were met and has responsibility for programmatic decision making)?

A. The grantee is the subrecipient. Anyone whom the grantee wants to pay to provide support, or services would be considered a contractor.