

Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund Infrastructure Grants

The Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund (AFID) program was expanded in 2021 to include the AFID Infrastructure Grant Program. AFID Infrastructure grants are for capital projects at new and existing food hubs, farmers' markets, commercial kitchens and other value-added facilities such as those used for processing and packaging meats, dairy products, produce, or other Virginia-grown products. The AFID Infrastructure Grant Program has two grant rounds annually. Application materials are available by contacting the Office of Agriculture and Forestry Development at the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Twenty-nine grants totaling \$742,772 have been awarded to twenty-four unique localities through three grant rounds.

Below is a list of the projects that have been awarded AFID funds for Infrastructure Grants. Clicking on the links below will take you to summaries of the projects, or you can browse all of the projects on the pages following.

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Aquaculture

Mobile Oyster Processing Vessel

Applicant: Northampton County
Announced: June 2022
Award: \$25,000
Website: <https://www.rubysalts.com/>

Northampton County is requesting funding to support the Ruby Salts Oyster Cooperative, a collective of five oyster farms. Funding will be used to purchase a pontoon barge to act as a mobile processing facility that will efficiently perform all farming and husbandry activities, from seed to harvest. Customizable attachments will streamline oyster production and the use of on-site solar power will reduce the Cooperative's environmental impact.

Commercial Kitchens

Bramble Hollow Farm Commercial Kitchen Expansion

Applicant: Bedford County
Announced: June 2022
Award: \$9,000
Website: <http://www.bramblehollowfarm.com/>

Bedford County is partnering with Bramble Hollow Farm, a member of Edible Goose Creek, a small, sustainable food-focused farming collective, to expand the commercial kitchen facility located on the farm. Few commercial kitchen facilities exist in the area, so this facility is serving a local community need for producing value-added products. The funding request is for the purchase of a commercial tilt kettle for producing Bramble Hollow Farm's popular chicken stock and other members' products.

EcoFriendly Foods: Commercial Kitchen Project

Applicant: Bedford County
Announced: December 2022
Award: \$21,500
Website: <https://www.ecofriendly.com/>

Bedford County seeks funding to support a new commercial kitchen by established meat processor EcoFriendly Foods. The company has had success selling value-added products, such as hand pies, soups, and stews, which are prepared in rented kitchen space. The company anticipates sales to double with consistent access to a kitchen facility. Grant funds will purchase commercial kitchen equipment, including a tilt skillet and additional refrigerated storage space.

Equipment for BEACON Shared-Use Commercial Kitchen for New Hill Development Corporation

Applicant: City of Charlottesville
Announced: December 2022
Award: \$50,000
Website: <https://www.newhilldev.org/>

The Charlottesville Economic Development Authority requests funding to support New Hill Development Corporation, an African American led non-profit community development corporation, in the construction of a shared-use commercial kitchen. The Black Entrepreneurial Advancement and Community Opportunity Network (BEACON) kitchen will include packaging and production equipment to house up to 16 local food businesses. The BEACON kitchen will offer lower rental fees, helping producers overcome a barrier to entry for food startups.

George Washington Carver Food Enterprise Center

Applicant: Culpeper County
Announced: December 2022
Award: \$50,000
Website: <https://www.gwcarc.org/>

Culpeper County seeks funding to purchase and install a walk-in freezer and cooler as part of a larger commercial kitchen project in the George Washington Carver Food Enterprise Center, a non-profit focused on food security and training in the Piedmont. This facility will serve as a food business incubator and will offer courses on value-added food production, food safety, and business management. The center will primarily serve the broader Rappahannock-Rapidan region, as well as users from beyond.

Community Canneries

Boiler Replacements for Franklin County Community Canneries

Applicant: Franklin County
Announced: December 2021
Award: \$25,000
Website: <https://franklincountyfreshfoods.org/category/canning>

Funding for this project will support infrastructure improvements for the Callaway Cannery and Glade Hill Community Canneries. The canneries allow for community members and local producers to support each other and preserve their harvests. Funds will go toward replacing the boilers at the facilities, which have been in operation for 80 years.

Prince Edward County Cannery Boiler Project

Applicant: Prince Edward County
Announced: December 2021
Award: \$25,000
Website: <https://www.co.prince-edward.va.us/departments/cannery>

Prince Edward County seeks funds to replace the nearly 50 year old boiler system at the Prince Edward County Cannery, which has been unable to keep pace with growing demand. As an FDA-registered Food Canning Establishment and VDACS-inspected commercial kitchen, the facility serves both public and commercial clients through an innovative partnership with the non-profit Virginia Food Works.

Prince Edward County Cannery – Equipment Replacement

Applicant: Prince Edward County
Announced: December 2022
Award: \$50,000
Website: <https://www.co.prince-edward.va.us/departments/cannery>

Prince Edward County seeks funding for equipment upgrades at its community cannery, a shared-use facility that is operated commercially by the food business incubator non-profit Virginia Food Works. Since 2020, the non-profit reports that nearly 100 clients have clocked nearly 1,700 hours of facility usage preparing foods for commercial sale. The public also relies on the cannery's services to prepare and process seasonal vegetables and meats to supply foods for their families and businesses. This project builds on the AFID-funded installation of a new boiler at the facility. New funding will be used to replace many vital components of the cannery's infrastructure, to include steam pipes, traps, valves, gauges, a half-ton chain hoist, pressure/temperature recorders, steam pot stems, and other equipment.

Craft Beverage

Northern Neck Brewery Project

Applicant: Westmoreland County

Announced: June 2022

Award: \$25,000

Westmoreland County is pursuing the tourism- and local food-focused community development strategy of recruiting a new brewery and pub to downtown Montross. A vacant, former retail facility will be renovated into the new home of Northern Neck Brewing Company with the goal of creating a family-friendly destination for tourists and residents alike. Funding will be used to purchase brewery equipment and will leverage nearly \$250,000 in additional investment to create a new brewery and pub focused on locally sourced produce, meat, and seafood.

Equipment/Infrastructure Upgrades

Expansion of processing capabilities and infrastructure for three goat dairies in King William and King & Queen Counties

Applicant: King William County

Announced: December 2021

Award: \$16,675

Website: <https://www.beeskneesfarmkw.com/>
<https://riverwatchgoats.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Dairy-Farm/Cardinal-Lane-Farm-125403708092567/>

King William and King & Queen Counties partnered to apply for funding for new equipment that will serve three goat dairies (Bees Knees Farm, Riverwatch Farm, and Cardinal Lane Farm). The farms practice sustainable agriculture, source local hay, and sell their products to local retailers and wineries. Funding will be utilized to purchase a commercial milking system, cheese processing equipment, and milk house expansion.

Cool Connections - New Market Produce Aggregator

Applicant: Shenandoah County

Announced: December 2021

Award: \$25,000

Website: <https://jonhenrygeneralstore.com/>

Shenandoah County requests funding to enable local produce aggregator Jon Henry General Store to flash-freeze high volumes of Virginia-grown fruits and vegetables from producers in the Shenandoah Valley region and then package the frozen produce into retail ready bags for wholesale distribution to local retailers. Funds will be used to offset the cost of the purchase and installation of a new flash freezing unit and walk-in freezer.

Sheep Wool Baler Project

Applicant: Grayson County

Announced: June 2022

Award: \$25,000

Website: <https://www.nrvsheepandgoatclub.com/>

Grayson County is partnering with the New River Valley Sheep & Goat Club to purchase a baler in support of regional sheep's wool production. The discrepancy in the value of baled wool versus non-

baled wool is extreme, and the purchase of the baler will allow producers to sell directly to the end buyer and see as much as a 400% increase in profit. This project is also receiving grant funding from the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission.

RVA Street Foodies

Applicant: City of Richmond
Announced: June 2022
Award: \$20,000
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/RVAStreetFoodies/>

The City of Richmond requests funding to support RVA Street Foodies, an Urban Social Enterprise Mobile Market that provides SNAP eligible foods using a food cart model. This Mobile Market model creates employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, and strengthens the local food system by increasing access to healthy food options. Funding will be used to purchase additional food carts that will be used to reach targeted underserved communities to offer fresh fruits and vegetables sourced from Virginia farmers.

Oil Tank Installation

Applicant: Shenandoah County
Announced: June 2022
Award: \$25,000
Website: <https://www.rt11.com/>

Shenandoah County is requested funding to support Route 11 Potato Chips' urgent need for oil storage, as global supply chain disruptions have threatened the reliability of sunflower oil delivery. Route 11 has been in operation for over 25 years and purchases more than one million pounds of Virginia-grown potatoes each year. Funding will be used to purchase and install four oil tanks, enabling Route 11 to purchase in bulk and guarantee a continuous, lower cost supply of oil.

Farmers' Markets

Dorey Park Farmers' Market Improvements

Applicant: Henrico County
Announced: December 2021
Award: \$16,000
Website: <https://www.doreyparkfarmersmarket.org/>

The County of Henrico seeks funding to support the Dorey Park Farmers' Market (DPFM). DPFM recently completed their fourth year in operation, hosting 25-30 vendors, 17 of whom are producers or create value-added agriculture products from Virginia-grown products. DPFM offers SNAP benefits and a SNAP Match program for purchases of fresh food. Funding will be used to add electricity for vendors, landscaping to outline the market space, signage, and a structure to house market management and SNAP benefits.

Uptown Martinsville Farmers' Market Vendor and Consumer Enhancements

Applicant: City of Martinsville
Announced: December 2021
Award: \$4,088
Website: <https://www.martinsville-va.gov/resources/shopping/uptown-farmer-s-market>

This project will assist the City of Martinsville in improving the Uptown Martinsville Farmers' Market. Funds will be used to purchase shades to protect produce and vendors from the sun, new commercial grade scales to speed transactions, and a storage shed. In addition to securing valuable items when the

market is closed, it will serve as an office for the market manager and provide an easily identifiable location for customers to go to take advantage of SNAP benefits.

Farmers' Market Improvements and Cold Storage for Produce

Applicant: Fauquier County
Announced: June 2022
Award: \$7,500
Website: <https://www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments-a-g/agricultural-development/farmers-markets>

The County of Fauquier recently completed a Farmers Market Feasibility Study in 2021 and is requesting funding to support recommendations from the study to increase both consumer and producer participation. Funding will be used to purchase signage and infrastructure upgrades, including tables, tents, and a sound system, and the purchase of two cold storage units.

Scott County Farmers' Market

Applicant: Scott County
Announced: June 2022
Award: \$25,000

Scott County seeks funding to construct a farmers market within the town of Nickelsville. Currently, Nickelsville residents must travel a minimum of 20 miles to access the nearest grocery store or farmers market, a burden both for consumers and farmers. Funds will be used to design and construct the facility in Nickelsville.

Galax Farmers' Market Expansion

Applicant: City of Galax
Announced: December 2022
Award: \$50,000
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/galaxfarmersmarket/>

The city of Galax seeks funding to improve the Galax Farmers' Market. When the Galax Farmers' Market was constructed in 2000, brick pavers were built around two oak trees that have since died. As a result, the remaining space is unsightly and inaccessible to people with disabilities. This funding will be used to rebuild the patio, which will improve the appearance and overall customer experience. In addition, the new patio will increase the space available for vendors and market opportunities for local producers. Appalachian Independence, a group that advocates for people with disabilities, has provided strong support for this project.

Food Hubs

LEAP Hub: a food and community center

Applicant: City of Roanoke
Announced: December 2022
Award: \$50,000
Website: <https://www.leapforlocalfood.org/food-hub>

The city of Roanoke requests funding to support the Local Environmental Agriculture Project (LEAP), a non-profit focused on creating economically viable outlets for local farmers and food producers, such as farmers markets and commercial kitchens. LEAP aggregates and distributes food to an estimated 10,000 people each year. In addition, LEAP's commercial kitchen supports over 40 food businesses with equipment, resources, and training. Their farmers markets host 50 local vendors, the majority of which are meat, produce, and dairy producers. In 2021, LEAP received support from the city of Roanoke to

create a commercial kitchen and food hub in the underserved West End neighborhood. Funds will be used for the purchase and installation of a large walk-in cooler at the new food hub.

Fruit and Vegetable Processing

Project Cool

Applicant: Carroll County
Announced: December 2022
Award: \$50,000
Website:

Carroll County seeks funding to support the Virginia Produce Company with the purchase and installation of high-efficiency vacuum cooling equipment for produce. Vacuum cooling safely chills produce and removes problematic surface moisture in a fraction of the time as conventional methods, while also using 75% less energy. This rapid and efficient cooling method reduces product lost through moisture damage and increases shelf life, which expands the potential customer market. The Virginia Produce Company sources from more than 40 farms in the region to supply fresh produce to major food retailers.

Cider Sure 5500 UV Machine

Applicant: Nelson County
Announced: December 2022
Award: \$50,000
Website:

Nelson County requests funding to purchase new UltraUV processing equipment for two apple orchards, Silver Creek and Seamans' Orchards. Due to the increased demand for fresh sweet cider, the orchards seek to upgrade to a larger UV processing machine to triple production. The equipment will be located at a packing shed owned by the orchards and will be able to process the majority of juice apples grown in Nelson County. The UV treatment allows orchards to produce an FDA-approved product with an extended shelf life, which will allow locally produced cider to be distributed throughout the region.

Grain Milling

Green Sprig Ag Food Grade Grain Milling Facility

Applicant: Franklin County
Announced: June 2022
Award: \$10,000
Website: <https://www.commongrainalliance.org/>

Franklin County is requesting funding to support Green Sprig Ag (GSA), a grain milling operation run by a 5th generation farmer and a member of the Common Grain Alliance, a mid-Atlantic network of grain farmers. GSA produces both animal and food grade grains and needs to make facility upgrades to more efficiently produce food grade grains. Funds will be used to renovate an existing building to meet food grade standards for the purpose of cleaning, storing, and processing grain, both for grain grown on the farm and for other local growers.

Woodson's Mill

Applicant: Nelson County

Announced: June 2022

Award: \$22,500

Website: <https://www.deeprootsmilling.com/>

Nelson County has requested funding to help Deep Roots Milling (DRM), a founding member of the Common Grain Alliance and a leader in regional grain processing, grow both retail and wholesale sales. DRM operates at Woodson's Mill, c. 1794, the only water-powered mill still in operation in Virginia. Funding will be used to upgrade the mill's third floor to create a sifting room and to purchase new bagging equipment.

Meat Processing

Adding Much-Needed Meat Processing Capacity

Applicant: Floyd County

Announced: December 2021

Award: \$23,124

Website: <https://www.thefirehousefarms.com/>

The Economic Development Authority of Floyd County is partnering with Firehouse Farms to establish a new meat processing facility for local livestock farmers. The facility will open as a custom-exempt facility later this winter and will become a USDA-inspected facility in two to three years. Funding will be used to purchase needed equipment for the facility, including meat saws, a meat grinder, and a vacuum sealer.

Equipment Needs for T&E Meats

Applicant: City of Harrisonburg

Announced: December 2021

Award: \$25,000

Website: <https://temeats.com/>

The City of Harrisonburg seeks funding to make necessary infrastructure improvements to T&E Meats, a small, USDA-inspected red meat slaughterhouse and meat packing facility that has been in operation since 1940 and serves roughly 300 producers each year. Funding for this project will be used to replace the packing room's outdated cooling system and purchase a new patty making machine.

Piedmont Processing Cooler/Freezer Expansion

Applicant: Orange County

Announced: June 2022

Award: \$25,000

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/PiedmontProcessing>

Orange County seeks funding to increase Piedmont Processing's meat processing capacity, helping both Piedmont Processing and the 75 to 100 local producers that rely on the facility to produce their meat locally. Piedmont Processing's growth is currently limited by insufficient cooler space for aging beef. Funding will be used to purchase a walk-in freezer that will increase Piedmont Processing's cooler space by 40%.

Processing Expansion at Kelly Turkeys

Applicant: Albemarle County

Announced: December 2022

Award: \$24,000

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/KellyBronzeTurkeysUSA/>

Albemarle County requests funding to purchase grinding, vacuum packaging, and freezing equipment for Kelly Turkeys to expand its existing product line of whole birds and bone-in breasts by adding ground turkey to its offerings. In operation since 2015, Kelly Turkeys grows and processes KellyBronze birds, an internationally known breed of heritage turkeys raised using sustainable farming methods.

KC Farms Meats Processing Smoker and Freezer Expansion

Applicant: Franklin County

Announced: December 2022

Award: \$33,333

Website: <https://www.kcfarmsva.com/>

Franklin County seeks funding to support an expansion by KC Farms Meats, a family-owned custom meat processing business. KC Farms Meats offers custom meat processing services to 39 livestock producers in the region who sell directly to their customers. Funds will be used to purchase a new smoker and walk-in freezer, which will allow the business to expand its product offerings to include specialty sausages, hotdogs, bacon, and ham.