

Agritourism Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is agritourism?** Montana law generally defines this term as “a form of commercial enterprise that links agricultural production or agricultural processing with tourism in order to attract visitors to a farm, ranch, or other agricultural business for purposes of entertaining or educating the visitors.” See Mont. Code Ann. § [27-1-752](#)(1).

Under this program, agritourism also will be defined to include the following:

- Agriculture experiences
 - Direct sales
 - Education
 - Entertainment
 - Hospitality
 - Outdoor recreation
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- **What is the purpose of the Agritourism Grants Program?** The purpose of Agritourism Grants is to assist Montana’s rural and tribal agricultural businesses and communities and to promote agritourism diversification and support in Montana.
 - **Who is eligible to apply for Agritourism Grant funding?** Individuals and entities that work in Montana’s agricultural sector, provide agriculture experiences, or provide agritourism opportunities to the public may apply for an Agritourism Grant. Eligible individuals and entities include the following:
 - Local governments, including city governments, county governments and consolidated governments;
 - Schools, including K-12, universities and colleges;
 - Tribal governments. A waiver of sovereign immunity likely will be required for a tribal government to receive Agritourism Grants funding.;

- Enrolled member(s) of the twelve (12) federally recognized Montana Tribes;
 - Montana residents; and
 - Businesses, including not-for-profit businesses, that are registered and in good standing with the Montana Secretary of State's Office if required by Montana law.
- **What if the applicant/eligible entity is not registered with the Montana Secretary of State's Office?** If the applicant is not registered with the Secretary of State's Office, they should explain in the application why the entity is not registered. There might be a variety of reasons why an applicant is not registered.
 - **Are there any other eligibility requirements for an Agritourism Grant?** The agritourism project must be in Montana, and the eligible entity must also be the primary organizer of the project. Eligible entities are limited to one submission per grant cycle. The eligible entity should have significant alignment in the industry of agritourism.
 - **How does an eligible entity apply for an Agritourism Grant?** To apply for an Agritourism Grant, interested and eligible applicants must complete and submit the application posted to the Montana Grants and Loans Portal here:
<https://montana.servicenowservices.com/mtgl>
- The primary organizer of the project should submit the application along with the required Agritourism Grant Program Budget located in the resources for applicants' section on the web page.
- **What are eligible uses of funds for the Agritourism Grant?** Grantees generally may use program funds to provide agritourism services in Montana. Eligible uses of program funds for agritourism purposes include:
 - Advertising and marketing

- Agriculture experiences or activities
- Business planning and development
- Education and outreach
- Safety and accessibility additions or improvements

A detailed narrative for each cost requested must be provided in the Agritourism Grants Budget Template.

The application and budget are also located on the Montana Grants and Loans Portal at <https://montana.servicenowservices.com/mtgl>. Completed applications will be evaluated by a Montana Department of Commerce review committee.

- **Can we use grant funds to purchase locally produced alcoholic beverages that are made with Montana-grown ingredients for an agritourism event?** No; purchasing alcohol is not an eligible use of grant funds. This is inconsistent with Commerce directives.
- **Are indirect costs or grant administration allowable expenses?** No. The applicant can't use the award for regular operating or administrative expenses like payroll, utilities, paper for the copier, insurance or staff uniforms. IDCs and grant administration are not eligible reimbursement expenses for this grant.
- **Can I be reimbursed for agritourism project costs I paid for before my grant was awarded?** No; you may not use Agritourism Grant funds to pay for expenses incurred prior to the date on your grant award letter.
- **Is there a preference for larger funding requests? Do I have a better chance of being awarded if my grant request is \$25,000 as opposed to \$10,000?** No; all grants are reviewed equally without preference for larger projects.

- **How are applications considered?** All applications received through the online platform are initially reviewed by Commerce staff for completeness. All eligible applications received will be reviewed and evaluated by the Agritourism Program's review committee. A high level of concentration and prioritization of funding will be given to agritourism projects in rural communities, under-visited areas of Montana and/or tribal communities. All applicants will be notified of their funded or unfunded application status.
- **What tools and resources are provided for agritourism grantees?** On Commerce's Tourism Grant Program web page, there are several templates and resources for potential applicants as well as post-award grant management documents within the Agritourism Grant Toolkit. For more information on the Tourism Grant Program and opportunities, visit the [Tourism Grant Program](#) website or contact Tourism Grant Program staff by email at tourismgrants@mt.gov.
- **How will approved grant recipients receive their grants?** Agritourism Grant funding recipients may be reimbursed for allowable expenses after they sign a contract with Commerce, provide proof of compliance with workers' compensation and insurance and submit invoices to Commerce.
- **What documents do I need to provide if I am awarded a grant?** Per the Agritourism Grants Contract, grantees must provide proof of compliance with Montana Workers' Compensation Act and Certificate of Insurance, showing general, liability and property coverage for the duration of the contract period. The State of Montana must be named as an additional insured.