

FDA, through the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO), is providing equipment funding for states and territorial (Puerto Rico) partners to purchase equipment and supplies related to the National Grade “A” Milk Safety Program and/or the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

The grant portal will open April 10, 2026, and closes April 30, 2026.

This special portal opening and the subaward grants issued under this announcement will be held to a tighter timeframe than normal program openings, because the cooperative agreement funding these subawards is coming to an end within a few months. Applications must be submitted by April 30, 2026, and AFDO anticipates making awards by mid-May 2026. Subawardees must complete their equipment/supply purchases and submit their report to AFDO, along with invoices documenting their purchases, no later than July 31, 2026.

I. MILK AND SHELLFISH GRANT PROGRAM GOALS

This program provides funds for equipment purchases in support of milk and shellfish regulatory programs. The goal of the Milk and Shellfish Grant Program is to assist regulatory programs with their implementation of the Grade "A" Milk Safety program and/or the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

II. ELIGIBILITY

Funding is available to:

State or territorial (Puerto Rico) agencies with the regulatory/rating authority, or that provide a state laboratory service, to implement the Grade “A” Milk Safety Program; and/or

State agencies with the regulatory authority, or that provide a state laboratory service, to implement the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

II. AUTHORIZED SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

SUBAWARDS allow the purchase of equipment, sampling supplies, and other justifiable equipment and supplies for regulatory and laboratory staff.

Indirect costs are permissible with a signed and current federal cost rate agreement, or at the de minimis rate of 10%. Additional guidance on the de minimis rate can be found at: <https://www.ecfr./current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-E/ gov subject-group-ECFRd93f2a98b1f6455/ section-200.414>

III. PROGRAM RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

The following rules and requirements apply to this portal opening:

- **All reports and corresponding invoices MUST be received no later than July 31, 2026.** The cooperative agreement that provides funds for these subaward grants is ending soon and cannot be extended.
- Because the Cooperative Agreement that is funding this program is ending, no extensions to any subaward grant will be authorized.
- Any requests for reimbursement under a subaward grant that is received by AFDO after July 31, 2026, may not be reimbursed.

Examples of equipment needs for the Grade “A” Milk Safety Programs:

- Immersion circulators and heaters
- Salt timing testers
- Digital Scales
- LED lights, flashlights, light meters
- GPS devices
- Thermometers (field, infrared, data loggers, thermocouples, standardized, etc.)
- Digital cameras (Go-Pro style, telescoping hand-held mounts, light kits, borescope, etc.)
- Lab supplies and equipment
- Specific use field computers, tablets, digital and/or mobile printers
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (including biosecurity suits and supplies; safety harnesses, bump caps, reflective vest, lock out/tag out equipment; etc.)
- Lab coats, field boots, rubber boots
- Sample dippers/sampling equipment
- Ice chests/coolers for samples
- Field kits (pH strips, etc.)
- Additional needs identified by a program

Examples of equipment needs for the National Shellfish Sanitation Programs, including:

- Optical equipment (range finders, scopes, binoculars, night vision optics, etc.)
- LED lights and flashlights, light meters
- Drones
- Portable projector / screens
- Marine equipment, including GPS and sonar not listed in non-allowable costs (see below)
- Boat parts and accessories not listed in non-allowable costs (see below)
- Thermometers (field, infrared, data loggers, thermocouples, standardized, etc.)
- Digital cameras (Go-Pro style, telescoping hand-held mounts, light kits, etc.)
- Lab supplies and equipment
- Handheld conductivity instruments
- Rain gauges, toxin test kits, shellfish area closure signs, plankton nets, etc.
- Specific use field computers, tablets, digital and/or mobile printers
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PROGRAM RULES, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS

I. ALLOWABLE COSTS

- Allowable costs include equipment and supplies (including purchase/rental/maintenance/shipping), contractual fees, audiovisual materials, boat parts, and purchase and/or development of information technology (equipment/software/support).□
- Indirect costs are permissible with a signed and current federal cost rate agreement, or at the de minimis rate of 10%. Additional guidance on the de minimis rate can be found at: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-E/subject-group-ECFRd93f2a98b1f6455/section-200.414>
- For all agencies that request funding for the equipment purchase of a drone, the agency will need to have their drone operators certified with an operational SOP submitted to FAA (e.g., line-of-sight, night operations, etc.). Before an award is made, the agency will need to provide a copy of their FAA-required documents and a statement-of-affirmation that they are in compliance with all of FAA's guidance for drone operations including line-of-sight. For information on operating a drone as a Public Safety or Government user, visit: https://www.faa.gov/uas/public_safety_gov/

II. NON-ALLOWABLE COSTS

Certain expenses and costs are not allowable under the Milk and Shellfish Grant Program. Please note the following restrictions:

- Vehicles: Costs associated with the procurement of vehicles, vehicle□ parts/service.
- Boats and watercraft including motors, trailers, boats, canoes, kayaks, rafts, inflatables, rigid inflatables, and skiffs are non-allowable□
- Construction: Costs for construction and/or remodeling of physical structures are not allowed.□
- Food: Expenses for food, snacks, meals, and catering (other than per diem for travelers) are not permitted for any subaward.□
- Personnel: Personnel costs associated with training are not permitted. This includes employee salaries, fringe benefits, overtime, travel time, and time spent taking online courses.□
- Promotional items and costs are generally prohibited unless they provide a direct food safety benefit. Examples of prohibited items: gift bags, logo items (pens, notepads, shirts, hats), gift cards, etc.
- Purchasing equipment and supplies for industry is prohibited.
- Liability insurance, maintenance/service agreements, etc.
- Other Agreements, Grants & Funding Sources: Any expenses reimbursed under other cooperative agreements, grants, contracts, and/or other funding mechanisms must remain distinct and separate from any subaward of the Milk and Shellfish Grant Program.

- Insufficient Justification: Other costs may not be funded upon reviewer evaluation. All costs should clearly support Project Outcomes, with sufficient justification provided.

III. PROGRAM RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

The following rules and requirements apply to subawards administered under the Milk and Shellfish Grant Program:

1. Funding is available for state and territorial (Puerto Rico) Grade “A” Milk Safety Programs and state National Shellfish Sanitation Programs and can be used for 2026 Calendar Year equipment needs only.
2. Each Milk or Shellfish program may apply for funding for one equipment grant per program for the Calendar Year 2026 funding cycle. If more than one milk or shellfish application is submitted by a single program, only the first application in each of the project categories will be evaluated.
3. Applications from a single program may be made by a single Point of Contact (POC), or multiple POCs.
4. For equipment purchases of single items that cost more than \$5,000 and with a useful life of more than one year, acquisitions must be made in accordance with 2 CFR 200, which has requirements for purchasing (2 CFR 200.317-320) and for record-keeping, management, and disposition (2 CFR 200.313).
5. Equipment purchased prior to award cannot be reimbursed.
6. Sufficient justification on how this equipment/supplies specifically supports the program is required. Justification must include the actual use and purpose of the equipment/supplies requested.
7. For reasons of security and functionality, programs are required to complete all grant applications on-line using a modern, up-to-date browser. We recommend Google Chrome or any of the other browsers available for download at <http://afdo.org/msgrants/browsers>.
8. When completing the on-line application, any character count restrictions include spaces.
9. All required fields in each application (including Point of Contact, Authorizing Official, organization, budget, budget justification, and all proposal information) must be clear and complete.
10. All grant applications must be submitted through the on-line portal, <https://msggrants.fluxx.io>, by the relevant Submission Deadlines listed in the Grant Program Overview.

IV. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By applying for this funding opportunity, your agency has made an assurance that it will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect during the grant period, including applicable parts of 45 CFR Parts 74 and 92. Subawards will

be based upon the submitted and approved project applications, and are subject to the following conditions:

- Award decisions are made by the FDA Project Officer for the FDA Cooperative Agreement that funds this program.
- The grantee must complete the full scope of work and all tasks outlined in the approved grant application by the Project End Date entered on the grant application unless a written exception is granted by the AFDO Milk and Shellfish Grants Management Team. Contact the Grant Team at (717)-757-2888 or at msgnants@afdo.org.
- Any changes to the scope, tasks, deliverables, or expenses of funded subawards must be approved in advance and in writing by AFDO prior to work being modified, purchased, or completed. Please note that costs incurred for unapproved changes may not be reimbursed.
- Reimbursement Request and culminating Final Report must be submitted through the online grant portal no more than 45 days after the Project End Date. As part of the Reimbursement Request, the grantee must provide a full accounting of all expenditures made with funds from this grant award, accompanied by the documentation specified in the Reporting Requirements section of this document.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

I. METHOD FOR REPORTING

As with the application process, the online grants management system is used for project reporting and is aimed at minimizing the grantee's time burden. Grantees must submit their reports through the online grant management portal at <https://msgnants.fluxx.io>. Funds are generally awarded on a reimbursement basis after each Reimbursement Request is submitted and approved, but exceptions may be made based on the nature and duration of the project or the needs of the Program (determined on a case-by-case basis). Note: A reimbursement check will be made payable to the organization; it cannot be made payable to any individual.

II. BUDGET CHANGES

Changes to the approved items or project budget that exceeds 10% of the total grant amount must be requested in advance of your final report submission. You must submit a change request, via the online portal. Amended budget line items must be approved before expenditures are incurred, and requested changes are not considered approved until you receive confirmation via email. Note: If you are ready to submit your Reimbursement Request but have not yet requested and received approval for budget changes that exceed 10% of the

total grant amount, you must submit your change request and wait for your approval before submitting your Reimbursement Request.

III. FINAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS – EQUIPMENT SUBAWARDS

A Final Report is required for all Equipment Subawards and should document the completion of all project deliverables. The Final Report is due July 31, 2026. Please visit <http://afdo.org/grants/msggrants> for complete Reimbursement and Reporting Instructions.

IV. HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

- Carefully review the details of this Grant Guidance document.
- Gather all the required information necessary to complete your application.
- Ensure your computer meets the minimum browser requirements to ensure security and functionality with the system. We recommend Google Chrome or any of the other up-to-date browsers listed at <https://afdo.org/grants/browsers>.
- Complete an on-line application using the grants management portal at <https://msggrants.fluxx.io>
- Submit equipment applications by the April 30, 2026, 7:59 PM ET deadline, and wait for funding determination (award notices are expected to be issued by mid-May 2026)

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please contact the Milk and Shellfish Grants Management Team:

(717) 757-2888

msggrants@afdo.org