

Maine SCBGP Mini Grant Q & A

Webinar March 5, 2025

Q. Are greenhouses allowed if only the specialty crop is grown in the entire greenhouse?

A. No. Greenhouses, hoopouses, and high-tunnels are unallowable costs.

Q. Could you buy a bunch of different components that together create a system?

A. Yes, potentially. However each component must be necessary to perform the function of the specialty crop use of the equipment. If each component is necessary for the equipment's acquisition cost, and within the eligible cost range, it would be allowable. The individual components that make up the equipment/system do not need to each have a per-unit price of \$2,000.

- “Acquisition cost” means the (total) cost of the asset including the cost to ready the asset for its intended use. The total acquisition cost must be essential for the operation of the minor equipment. Acquisition cost for equipment includes the cost of any modifications, attachments, accessories, or auxiliary apparatus necessary to make it usable for its acquired purpose.
- For the purpose of this grant, minor equipment is tangible, nonexpendable, business property with a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost that equals or exceeds \$2,000 per unit and is less than \$10,000.

Q. Can equipment be purchased for infrastructure, like generators?

A. No. General use, business operational equipment, and any expenses not directly associated with the purchase of minor equipment that is essential to enhance the competitiveness of one or more Maine-grown and harvested specialty crops are unallowable.

Q. Looking into this for a new maple syrup evaporator, but it would be over \$10,000.it is ineligible

A. No. The per unit cost of the minor equipment cannot exceed \$10,000.

Q. What is the required use period? Is there a follow-up inspection? If a venture ultimately fails, is there a reimbursement clause?

A. The required use period is from the first day of the contract (anticipated to be on/about June 2026 through September 29, 2028. DACF anticipates that the contracts will require funds to be spent by September 29, 2026. The official grant contract term will be finalized in the awarded contract(s). Reporting details will be outlined in the grant contract. Award recipients will be required to report on the use of funds and the impact on enhancing the competitiveness of one or more Maine-grown and harvested specialty crops at the January 2027 Maine Agricultural Trades Show. If a recipient does not achieve anticipated outcomes, they will be required to report on the actual outcomes and lessons learned but will not be required to return funds provided all other contract requirements have been met.

Q. Can you submit multiple applications used for different pieces of equipment or just one application?

A. No. Applicants may submit only one application for this RFA. Submission of multiple applications may result in both applications being disqualified from consideration for an award.

Q. Is the \$10,000 limit per person, not per purchase? It is, like, per application, right?

A. Both. One entity may not request or receive more than \$10,000. Equipment may not have a per-unit cost of more than \$10,000.

Emails Through March 6, 2025

Q. Can the equipment cost more than \$10,000, and only apply for \$10,000 towards it, or is that a hard cut-off for the total quoted price?

A. No. The per unit cost of the equipment cannot exceed \$10,000. The total acquisition cost must be essential for the operation of the minor equipment, and the per-unit acquisition cost must not exceed \$10,000.