

What is the Butchery Innovation and Revitalization Program?

The Butchery Innovation and Revitalization Fund provides grants to businesses for projects relating to small-scale meat processing, licensed custom lockers and mobile slaughter units.

Who is eligible to apply for the program?

Businesses applying for the grant program must meet all requirements outlined in [Iowa Code section 15E.370](#) and in the [administrative rules](#). Requirements include that a business must be:

- Incorporated or authorized to do business in Iowa
- Employ less than seventy-five (75) individuals
- An establishment that holds a current license from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) OR an establishment that documents it is actively working with IDALS to obtain a license (per IDALS/Meat and Poultry Inspection Service, Iowa Code section 189A)

Program Rules of Note

- **ELIGIBILITY:** Prior grant recipients will not be eligible for an additional grant in the three state fiscal years following their last grant.
- **EMPLOYEES:** Businesses with less than 75 full-time, nonseasonal employees are eligible.
- **ELIGIBLE EXPENSES:** Project expenses must occur/be invoiced following notification of a successful award application to be eligible.
- **SOFTWARE/TRAINING:** As part of upgraded/new equipment or other addition as part of project, these costs would be eligible. New software or employee training in and of itself would not be an eligible project expense.

What types of projects are eligible for grant funding?

Eligible projects include:

- Expanding, refurbishing or establishing one of the following types of business:
 - State or federally inspected small-scale meat processing
 - Licensed custom locker
 - Mobile slaughter unit
- Renting or purchasing buildings, refrigeration facilities, freezer facilities or equipment necessary to expand processing capacity.



How much total funding is available for the grant program?

A total of \$1,000,000 has been appropriated by the State of Iowa to the IEDA to administer the program.

What is the maximum award available to a qualified business?

Grants will be funded up to \$100,000 for each business.

Are there matching funds required?

YES. Businesses will need to demonstrate the ability to provide matching financial support for the project from private sources on a one-to-one basis. Grant funds are dispersed on a proportionate allocation.

What is the application process?

STEP 1: CIRAS ASSESSMENT

An assessment provided by the Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) must be completed before applying for the Butchery grant program.

You must complete an assessment form, and CIRAS will provide you a feedback report. The feedback report must be submitted to IEDA as part of your grant application.

See “CIRAS Assessment” link on [IEDA Butchery Innovation website](#) to complete the form.

The CIRAS Assessment form opens Feb. 1, 2024.

DEADLINE FOR CIRAS Assessment: March 7, 2024

STEP 2: IEDA BUTCHERY APPLICATION

The IEDA application for the program will open on Feb. 15, 2024, and close on April 18, 2024.

NOTE: After receiving your CIRAS Assessment report, you can start your IEDA Butchery Grant application.

An online Butchery Innovation and Revitalization Application Form will be available on the [IEDA website](#).

The ‘live’ application will be available on Feb. 15, 2024.

DEADLINE FOR IEDA Application is April 18, 2024.

NOTE: No paper or handwritten applications accepted.



What is the CIRAS Assessment Deadline?

All CIRAS Assessment forms must be submitted to CIRAS by **Noon/12 p.m. on March 7, 2024.**

What is the IEDA Application deadline?

All IEDA Butchery Grant applications must be received by **Noon/12 p.m. on April 18, 2024.**

Is there an advantage to applying early/as soon as possible?

NO. All completed and eligible applications submitted within the application period will be considered for an award. Awards WILL NOT be made on a first come, first served basis.

What resources are available to help with my application process?

Refer to the IEDA Butchery Grant Sample Form and the Application Checklist for process guidance.

How are applications reviewed and evaluated for funding?

A scoring committee selected by IEDA and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) will evaluate complete and eligible applications. The committee will give each application a score between 0 and 100 based on the criteria established in the program rules. Applications that are recommended for funding will be referred to the IEDA Board who will make final funding decisions.

What are the criteria used for scoring applications?

Applications will be scored according to the following criteria:

- The extent to which the project expands processing capacity or increases efficiency: 25 points. Projects that benefit local small-scale farmers by creating or expanding opportunities to market processed meat under private labels, provide greater flexibility or convenience to have animals processed, or establish an essential community asset will receive more points. Projects that are likely to negatively impact existing meat processing businesses will receive fewer points. The committee may also consider the extent of any likely negative impact.
- The sufficiency of the proposed project's financing structure, the feasibility of the sources of funds, and the appropriateness of the proposed uses of the funds: 25 points. Applicants that can demonstrate that the applicant has planned for long-term use of the project will receive more points.
- The extent to which the proposed investment is consistent with the opportunities identified in the assessment completed by CIRAS pursuant to paragraph 51.3(1)“h”: 15 points.
- The number and quality of jobs to be created by the applicant as a result of the project or the extent to which the proposed investment uses automation to address workforce issues: 15 points. Projects that create more jobs or higher quality jobs will receive more points. Factors the committee will consider in assessing the quality of jobs include, but are not limited to, wages and benefits. Projects that utilize technology to address the workforce needs of the business, resulting in a more skilled workforce or increased processing capacity, will also receive more points.
- The financial need of the applicant: 10 points. Applicants that received a business improvement grant from IDALS for expenses incurred between March 1, 2020, and December 1, 2020, or a previous grant from the program will receive fewer points.
- The completeness of the application information and sufficiency of detail used to describe the project in the application: 10 points.

How and when will the business be notified if they have been awarded a grant?

The IEDA board meets monthly and will review recommendations from the scoring committee as available. Successful applicants will be notified in writing of an award of financial assistance, including any conditions and terms of the award.