Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities

Building Markets and Investing in America's Climate-Smart Farmers, Ranchers & Forest Owners to Strengthen U.S. Rural and Agricultural Communities

Fiscal Year (FY) 2022
Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities
National Funding Opportunity (NFO)

No. USDA-NRCS-COMM-22-NOFO0001139

United States Department of Agriculture

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO)

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Federal Awarding Agency Name: U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS is part of the Farm Production and Conservation Mission Area (FPAC). FPAC encompasses NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Risk Management Agency (RMA) and the FPAC Business Center.

Notice of Funding Opportunity Title: Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities – Building Markets and Investing in America's Climate-Smart Farmers, Ranchers & Forest Owners to Strengthen U.S. Rural and Agricultural Communities

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NRCS-COMM-22-NOFO0001139
Assistance Listing: This program is listed in the Assistance Listings on Sam.gov under 10.937 Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities.

SAM is a web-based, government-wide application that collects, validates, stores, and disseminates business information about the federal government's trading partners in support of the contract awards, grants, and electronic payment processes.

Notice of Funding Opportunity Summary
Up to approximately $1 billion will be made available for the **Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities** projects through this funding opportunity, which will build markets and invest in America's climate-smart farmers, ranchers, and forest owners to strengthen U.S. rural and agricultural communities. Through the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, USDA will support the production and marketing of climate-smart commodities through a set of pilot projects that provide voluntary incentives through partners to producers and land owners, including early adopters, to:

a. implement climate-smart production practices, activities, and systems on working lands,
b. measure/quantify, monitor and verify the carbon and greenhouse gas (GHG) benefits associated with those practices, and
c. develop markets and promote the resulting climate-smart commodities.

Grant agreements under this funding opportunity will be with a single entity, i.e., "partner"; however, USDA encourages multiple partners to coordinate on projects. A range of public and private entities are eligible to apply, as described in Section C.

Proposals must provide a plan to pilot implementation of climate-smart agriculture and/or forestry practices on a large-scale, including meaningful involvement of small or historically underserved producers, consistent with spirit of the Justice40 initiative; a quantification, monitoring, reporting, and verification plan; and a plan to develop markets and promote climate-smart commodities generated as a result of project activities.

Funding will be provided through two funding pools.

Proposals in the **first funding pool** (requests for amounts from $5 million to $100 million per proposal) will be large-scale pilot projects that emphasize the greenhouse gas benefits of climate-smart commodity production and include direct, meaningful benefits to a representative cross-section of production agriculture, including small and/or historically underserved producers.

Proposals in the **second funding pool** (requests for amounts from $250,000 to $4,999,999 per proposal) are limited to particularly innovative pilot projects with an emphasis on

- enrollment of small and/or underserved producers and/or
- monitoring, reporting, and verification activities developed at minority-serving institutions.

All projects must be tied to the development of markets and promotion of climate-smart commodities. For the purposes of this funding opportunity, a "climate-smart commodity" is an agricultural commodity that is produced using agricultural (farming, ranching, or forestry) practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon. Markets for climate-smart commodities may include companies or processors sourcing climate-smart commodities to meet internal targets or other supply chain goals, biofuel and renewable energy markets, companies seeking to sell branded consumer products, or other opportunities that could provide a premium or additional revenue for participating producers and land owners.

Sufficient incentives to encourage producer participation, as well as, generation of verifiable greenhouse gas reductions and carbon sequestration are critical to project success and will be considered in the evaluation criteria.

For new users of Grants.gov, see Section D. for information about steps required before submitting an application via Grants.gov.

Key Dates

Applicants must submit their applications via Grants.gov by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on:

- April 8, 2022 for the first funding pool (proposals from $5 million to $100 million)
- May 27, 2022 for the second funding pool (proposals from $250,000 to $4,999,999).

For technical issues with Grants.gov, contact Grants.gov Applicant Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov. Awarding agency staff cannot support applicants regarding Grants.gov accounts.

For inquiries specific to the content of the NFO requirements, contact the federal awarding agency contact (section G of this NFO). Please limit questions to those regarding specific information contained in this NFO (such as dates, page numbers, clarification of discrepancies, etc.). Questions related to eligibility or the merits of a specific proposal will not be addressed.

Information on available webinars and other supporting information for this funding opportunity will be posted at: https://www.usda.gov/climate-solutions/climate-smart-commodities

The agency anticipates making selections by Summer 2022 and expects to execute awards by September 30, 2022. These dates are estimates and are subject to change.

Federal Funding Floor and Ceiling Amounts

USDA intends to fund a diverse set of projects and will not discriminate based on size of the project. This funding opportunity will have two funding pools:

- The estimated funding floor for a given proposal in the first pool of applications is approximately $5 million, and the estimated funding ceiling is approximately $100 million.
- The estimated funding floor for a given proposal in the second pool of applications is approximately $250,000, and the estimated funding ceiling is approximately $4,999,999.

The funding floor means the minimum agreement funding amount for the Federal share per agreement awarded. The ceiling is the maximum agreement funding amount for the Federal share per agreement awarded. These numbers refer to the total agreement amount, not any specific budget period.

Federal Financial Assistance Training

The funding available through this NFO is Federal financial assistance. Grants 101 Training is highly recommended for those seeking knowledge about Federal financial assistance. The training is free and available to the public via https://www.cfo.gov/grants-training/. It consists of five modules covering each of the following topics: 1) laws, regulations, and guidance; 2) financial assistance mechanisms; 3) uniform guidance on administrative requirements; 4) cost principles; and 5) risk management and single audit. USDA ‘s Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) agencies also apply Federal financial assistance regulations to certain non-assistance awards (e.g., non-assistance cooperative agreements).

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A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Legislative Authority

The authority for this funding opportunity is the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714 et seq). This funding opportunity leverages the authorities under Section 5 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act at 15 U.S.C. 714c with particular emphasis on the following subsection:

- "(e) increase the domestic consumption of agricultural commodities (other than tobacco) by expanding or aiding in the expansion of domestic markets or by developing or aiding in the development of new and additional markets, marketing facilities, and uses for such commodities."

Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Details

In response to the climate crisis, USDA is pursuing actions within the agriculture sector to support the production of climate-smart commodities. For the purposes of this funding opportunity, a "climate-smart commodity" is defined as an agricultural commodity that is produced using agricultural (farming, ranching, or forestry) practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon. Adoption of these practices can produce other associated environmental benefits. Through Partnerships, USDA will support a set of pilot projects that provide voluntary incentives through partners to producers and land owners, including early adopters, to:

- implement climate-smart production practices, activities, and systems on working lands;
- Measure/quantify, monitor and verify the carbon and greenhouse gas benefits associated with those practices; and
- develop markets and promote the resulting climate-smart commodities.

Goals of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities:

Intended Overarching Outcomes

As demonstrated in Executive Order (EO) 14008, tackling the climate crisis at home and abroad will require a whole-of-government approach, and agriculture and forestry play an important role in that strategy. USDA's 90-day progress report on our Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) strategy emphasized that a successful CSAF strategy relies on a multi-pronged approach. Projects funded through the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities will play an important role in that approach and will contribute to meeting the U.S. commitments to address climate change. The Partnerships aim to achieve the following outcomes through a variety of pilot projects:

- Increased markets (supply and demand) for climate-smart commodities;

- Increased adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) practices and systems that reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and/or increase carbon sequestration from the agricultural sector;
- Demonstration of scalable and low-cost measurement/quantification, monitoring, reporting, and verification (MMRV) systems;
- Increased innovation and consistency in measuring/quantifying farm-level GHG benefits;
- Testing and evaluation of efficient traceability through supply chains from production of commodity to delivery to the consumer;
- Improved understanding and communication of economic and adaptation benefits, as well as ancillary environmental benefits;
- Equitable administration that includes small and underserved producers as well as early adopters (i.e., producers who have already used some climate-smart approaches);
- Understanding of marketability advantages for a variety of farm types;
- Empowerment of farmers, ranchers, and forest land owners to drive CSAF markets and practice adoption; and
- Development of additional public-private partnerships to foster and develop CSAF markets.

Intended Market Expansion Outcomes

The **Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities** seek to address the need for new and expanded markets for CSAF commodities, including helping**:**

- Standardize the definition of a CSAF commodity;
- Improve the quality and ability to verify GHG emissions reductions and carbon sequestration benefits associated with commodities produced using CSAF practices to inform future measurement and quantification standards;
- Reduce the potential for double counting of benefits;
- Reduce transaction costs;
- Increase understanding and awareness of climate-smart commodities among small and underserved producers and expand their participation;
- Increase the efficiency of supply chain traceability;
- Reduce the risk of market entry; and

- Increase the competitive advantage of U.S. farmers, ranchers and forest land owners domestically and internationally.

Project Boundaries

The primary focus of the **Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities** pilot projects must be on-farm production of climate-smart commodities. Commodities must be produced using verifiable and quantifiable climate-smart practices (farming, ranching, or forestry). Climate-smart forest products are included, and applicants may propose and justify innovative forestry projects that generate climate-smart forestry commodities.

Projects must focus on verifiable on-farm (or forest) GHG emissions and carbon sequestration benefits. Federal funding under this funding opportunity must not be used for renting or purchasing land in the form of an easement or other device. Other reductions associated with processing, transportation, etc., throughout the agriculture and forestry supply chains are not the focus of this funding opportunity.

Partners with agreements under this funding opportunity must ensure that payments are not provided to a producer or land owner for the same production practice or system implementation on the same land for which the producer or land owner has already received, or is contracted to receive, funding through another USDA program. Enhancements to existing practices may be funded as part of these pilot projects.

Specific ownership of GHG benefits shall be proposed by applicants (e.g., how GHG benefit ownership will be transferred through different parts of the supply chain). These chain-of-custody ownership clauses could be included, for example, in a) contracts between producers and project developers, and b) contracts between project developers and commodity purchasers.

Practices

Highly competitive projects will include agricultural and forestry practices or combinations of practices, and/or practice enhancements that provide GHG benefits and/or carbon sequestration. Practices may include **but are not limited to the following**:

- Cover crops
- Low-till or no-till
- Nutrient management
- Enhanced efficiency fertilizers
- Manure management
- Feed management to reduce enteric emissions
- Buffers, wetland, and grassland management, and tree planting on working lands

- Agroforestry and afforestation on working lands
- Afforestation/reforestation and sustainable forest management
- Planting for high carbon sequestration rate
- Maintaining and improving forest soil quality
- Increase on-site carbon storage through Forest Stand Management
- Alternate wetting and drying on rice fields
- Climate-smart pasture practices, such as prescribed grazing or legume interceding
- Soil amendments, like biochar

Notes: All practices must demonstrate GHG benefits. Practices and enhancements to existing practices are not limited to those under existing USDA practice standards; however, compliance and reporting activities will likely be more complex for practices without existing standards. Projects may include digesters only in limited circumstances, with additional documentation; see notes in the Project Narrative section.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

1. Available Funding

a. Estimated Funding
The Federal funding agency expects to award a total of approximately $1 billion through this opportunity.

b. Start Dates and Performance Periods
Projects may be between 1 and 5 years in duration, with up to two years of no-cost extensions considered on a case-by-case basis. Anticipated start dates are Summer 2022.

Note: Projects must demonstrate project results on the ground within one year of the project start date.

c. Number of Awards
USDA welcomes proposals from a range of funding sizes from $250,000 to $100 million; therefore, the number of awards under this announcement is difficult to predict. With this in mind, the agency expects to make approximately 30-50 awards, depending on proposals received.

2. Type of Award

a. Type of Federal Award
USDA plans to award grant agreements pursuant to this opportunity. USDA will provide general oversight of the grant and reporting requirements. However, in

general, any on the ground technical assistance will need to be provided by the recipient (except for Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Compliance (WC) determinations). Recipients may only enroll agricultural producers and land owners who are compliant with HEL and WC requirements as described under 7 CFR part 12.

Procurement Contracts
The agency does not expect to award procurement contracts associated with this NFO.

b. Eligibility of Renewal or Supplemental Project Applications
Applications for renewal or supplementation of existing projects are not eligible to compete with applications for new Federal awards. An application for renewal means an application submitted to continue an existing agreement that meets the objectives and requirements of this NFO. An application for supplementation of an existing project means an application to add components to an existing agreement so that it would meet the objectives and requirements in this NFO. USDA does reserve the right to renew or supplement awards under this NFO in the future with additional federal funding without further competition.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

Applicants and applications must meet eligibility criteria by the application deadline to be considered for award. Eligible applicant type is consistent with the statutory authority for this funding opportunity. Applicant entities identified in the SAM.gov exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted, or excluded from receiving Federal contracts and certain Federal assistance and benefits will not be considered for Federal funding, as applicable to the funding being requested under this Federal program (2 CFR 200.206(d)). This opportunity is open only to domestic applicants. The primary applicant must demonstrate an existing relationship with and/or prior experience working with producers or land owners. Additionally, at minimum one project partner must have existing experience working with underserved producers or land owners. This information will be used when evaluating the application in the equity criteria.

Eligibility for this opportunity is limited to the following entity types:

- County, city or township governments
- Special district governments
- State governments
- Small businesses
- For-profit organizations other than small businesses
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)

- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status (other than institutions of higher education)
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status (other than institutions of higher education)
- Private institutions of higher education
- Public and State-controlled institutions of higher education.

The primary applicant/recipient must be an entity (not an individual). Commodity organizations, technical service provider organizations (including university extension), farming cooperatives, organizations representing historically underrepresented communities, local producers, micro-producers, forestry organizations and others are encouraged to apply. Individuals may also be eligible as subrecipients but may not be the primary applicant/recipient.

2. Other

Any award made pursuant to this NFO will be made to a single entity. Applicants that apply as "partnerships" or other similar groupings must clearly describe the relationship between the applicant and the "partner" parties. In all but exceptional cases, this must be reflected in the award as an awardee/sub-awardee relationship.

An applicant organization **may** submit more than one application for different projects or propose different approaches to a particular project in separate applications. In the case of applications submitted as revisions or corrections to a previously submitted application under this NFO, the agency will consider the last application submitted prior to the established deadline.

Awards made pursuant to this NFO are not subject to any payment limitations. However, any agricultural producers or land owners receiving a payment through participation in a project awarded under this NFO must meet the eligibility requirements of 7 CFR Part 12 and 7 CFR Part 1400 and have control of the land involved for the term of the proposed award period.

3. Cost Sharing or Matching

There is not a specific match requirement for this NFO. However, applications will be evaluated, in part, on the relative contribution of non-Federal resources to the project. Cost sharing may be achieved with contributions of cash, services, materials, equipment, or third-party in-kind contributions. USDA values the importance of partners contributing to projects; the magnitude and quality of matching funds will be a part of the evaluation criteria. However, this will be considered through the lens of equity so that the ability to secure a non-Federal match is not a barrier to participation. Refer to Section D of this NFO for information about any required submittals related to match or cost-share requirements. Refer to Section E for a description of how a voluntary match will be evaluated.

While the pace of cost sharing/matching may vary throughout the award period, the agency will actively monitor cost sharing/matching levels as it receives payment requests to ensure the total cost sharing/matching requirement is met by the award period of performance end date. Additional details about cost sharing or matching funds/contributions are located at 2 CFR 200.306.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Information for New Users of Grants.gov

a. Overview

While a Grants.gov account is not required to download an NFO and related documents, it is required to submit an application. If your organization has never submitted an application via Grants.gov, please be aware that there are several steps you must take to register your organization before you can submit an application. **Completing those steps can take a significant amount of time, so plan accordingly.**

For information about the Grants.gov pre-award phase of the grant lifecycle, see https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants/grants-101/pre-award-phase.html.

b. Register to Apply through Grants.gov

Carefully review the registration steps and gather information requested prior to beginning the registration process to avoid last-minute searches for required information. For assistance with the registration process, contact Grants.gov Applicant Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.

Organizations must complete all steps to register (steps i. through v. below).

Complete organization instructions are included on Grants.gov here: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html.

Although creating a Grants.gov account online can take only minutes, SAM registrations may take several weeks. Therefore, organizations should begin the process early to ensure they have sufficient time to complete registration and meet required application submission deadlines.

Individuals are not subject to the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)/DUNS or SAM requirement and may begin with step iii., Create a Grants.gov Account, listed below. (Note: Individuals are not eligible for all opportunities.)

c. Steps to Register

i. *Obtain a DUNS Number or UEI:* All entities applying for funding must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) or a UEI issued by SAM.gov. Applicants must enter the DUNS Number/UEI in the data entry field labeled "UEI" on the SF-424 form.

ii. *Register with SAM:* All organizations must register with System for Award Management (SAM) to apply online through Grants.gov. SAM registration must be renewed annually. Part of the SAM registration process includes designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC). **The EBiz POC plays an integral part in the organization's Grants.gov registration and application process.** The individual in that role must authorize all other roles in Grants.gov. For more detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html

iii. *Create a Grants.gov Account:* From the Grants.gov webpage (https://www.grants.gov/), click "Register" in the top right-hand corner and follow the on-screen instructions or refer to the detailed instructions here https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration.html

iv. *Add an Organization Applicant Profile to a Grants.gov Account:* A profile in Grants.gov corresponds to a single applicant organization the user represents (i.e., an applicant) or an individual applicant. If you work for or consult with multiple organizations and have a profile for each, you may log in to one Grants.gov account to access all your grant applications. To add an organizational profile to your Grants.gov account, enter the DUNS Number/UEI for the organization in the UEI (Unique Entity Identifier) field while adding a profile. For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/add-profile.html

v. *EBiz POC Authorized Profile Roles:* After you register with Grants.gov and create an Organization Applicant Profile, you must establish roles for individuals in the organization. The Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) role is critical; it gives an individual permission to complete and submit applications on behalf of the organization. (Please be aware that the EBiz POC and the person with AOR Role cannot be the same individual; they must be different people.) Without this role, the organization cannot submit any applications. The request for role assignment will be routed to the organization's EBiz POC for approval. Once approved, the AOR can submit an application online. For more detailed instructions about creating a EBiz POC authorized profile on Grants.gov, refer to https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/authorize-roles.html

Track Role Status: To track your role request, refer to https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/track-role-status.html

d. ***Electronic Signature***

When applications are submitted through Grants.gov, the name of the organization applicant with the AOR role that submitted the application is inserted into the signature line of the application, serving as the electronic signature. Please be aware that the EBiz POC and the person with AOR Role cannot be the same individual; they must be different people. The EBiz POC **must** authorize people who are able to make legally binding commitments on behalf of the organization as a user with the AOR role. T**his step (step c.v. above) is often missed, and it is crucial for valid and timely submissions.**

e. Workspace.

Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different webforms within an application. For each NFO, you can create individual instances of a workspace. An applicant can start an application in Workspace and return to work on it later within Workspace.

f. Apply for an Opportunity

Below is an overview of applying on Grants.gov. For complete instructions on how to apply for opportunities, refer to https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html

i. Create a Workspace: Creating a workspace allows you to complete an application online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.

ii. Complete a Workspace: Add participants to the workspace to work on the application together, complete all the required forms online or by downloading PDF versions, and check for errors before submission. The Workspace progress bar will display the status of your application process as you apply. As you apply using Workspace, you may click the blue question mark icon near the upper-right corner of each page to access context-sensitive help.

- Adobe Reader: If you decide not to apply by filling out webforms you can download individual PDF forms in Workspace. The individual PDF forms can be downloaded and saved to your local device storage, network drive(s), or external drives, then accessed through Adobe Reader.

NOTE: Visit the Adobe Software Compatibility page on Grants.gov to download the appropriate version of the software at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html

- Mandatory Fields in Forms: In the forms, you will note fields marked with an asterisk and a different background color. These fields are mandatory fields that must be completed to successfully submit your application.
- Complete SF-424 Fields First: The forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant name, address, and DUNS Number/UEI. Once it is completed, the information will transfer (i.e., prepopulate) to the other forms.

iii. Submit a Workspace: An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab. Grants.gov recommends submitting your application package at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.

iv. Track a Workspace Submission: After successfully submitting a workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application. The number will be listed on the Confirmation page that is generated after submission. Using the tracking number, access the Track My Application page under the Applicants tab or the Details tab in the submitted workspace.

For additional training resources, including video tutorials, refer to https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-training.html

2. Electronic Application Package

Applicants interested in submitting an application in response to this NFO must submit it via Grants.gov; the agency will not accept applications submitted via email or any other method. Applicants are urged to submit early to the Grants.gov system.

For technical issues with Grants.gov, contact Grants.gov Applicant Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov. Awarding agency staff cannot support applicants regarding Grants.gov accounts.

Address to Request Application Package
All information necessary to apply for this opportunity is included in the Grants.gov opportunity announcement.

3. Content and Form of Application Submission

The agency may choose not to consider applications that fail to comply with the required content, format, and page limits, or those that are incomplete.

To be considered for funding under this opportunity, an application must contain the documents in paragraphs a-e, below.

a. Project Narrative

Each page must be numbered and have one-inch margins. The text of the project narrative must be single spaced and typed in a standard typeface (e.g., Times New Roman, Arial, Courier) with no smaller than 12-point font. The project narrative must not exceed 15 pages. This page limitation applies to the project narrative only. Other application materials, such as budget details/narratives, resumes of staff, and support letters are not counted against this 15-page limit.

Proposals in the first funding pool (requesting from $5 million to $100 million) must include all of the following:

i. Executive Summary of Pilot Project, which includes at minimum a high level description of the project, the issues it is seeking to address and how the project will contribute to the goals in this funding opportunity, including:

   A. Contact Information

   B. List of Project Partners

   C. List of underserved/minority-focused project partners

   D. Compelling need for the project

   E. Approach to minimize transaction costs associated with project activities

   F. Approach to reduce producer barriers to implementing CSAF practices for the purpose of marketing climate-smart commodities

   G. Geographic Focus

   H. Project management capacity of partners, including a description of existing relationship with and/or prior experience working with producers or land owners, promoting climate-smart activities and marketing climate-smart commodities.

ii. A plan to pilot climate-smart agriculture and/or forestry practices on a large scale, including:

   A. A description of CSAF practices to be deployed,

B. Plan to recruit producers and land owners, including estimated scale of the project (e.g., number of land owners, acres targeted, head of livestock, etc.)

C. Plan to provide technical assistance, outreach, and training, including who will be conducting these activities, qualifications and projected timeline,

D. Plan to provide financial assistance for producers/land owners to implement CSAF practices, and

E. Plan to enroll underserved and small producers, including estimated number of underserved and small producers participating and associated dollar amounts anticipated to go directly to producers, in the form of technical and financial assistance.

Note: Under the first funding pool, projects may include digesters as part of a broader project working with producers and land owners to implement climate-smart practices, but the planning for, materials for, and construction of digester(s) will not be funded through this funding opportunity under this funding pool. Applications NOT requesting funding for digesters as part of the project are not required to complete Appendix D and Appendix E.

iii. A measurement/quantification, monitoring, reporting, and verification plan, including:

A. Approach to greenhouse gas benefit quantification, including methodology approach consistent with the section titled "Quantification Requirements" below,

B. Approach to monitoring of practice implementation, including the anticipated number of farms and acres reached through project activities,

C. Approach to reporting and tracking of greenhouse gas benefits including the anticipated GHG benefits per farm, per project, per commodity produced, per dollar expended, and the anticipated longevity of GHG benefits,

D. Approach to verification of greenhouse gas benefits, and

E. Agreement to participate in the Partnerships Network (see entry below in "Considerations for Successful Projects").

Note: Applicants must describe how they will track GHG benefits through the supply chain. This funding opportunity is focused on projects that generate climate-smart commodities, and not on projects that focus on generating carbon offsets. Projects may investigate systems that track GHG benefits associated with both climate-smart commodities and carbon offsets. Applicants may consider approaches where the climate-smart activities could generate carbon offsets; however, applicants should ensure there is not double-counting of climate benefits entering commodity supply chains and the benefits being used to generate carbon offsets. Applicants must define how GHG benefit ownership will be transferred through different parts of the supply chain; and double counting will be avoided. Applicants will also have to attest that producers and land owners will not be involved in multiple USDA programs that fund the same practice on the same land . Federal funds under this funding opportunity may not be used to pay for implementation of the same practice on the same land, but funding may be used to enhance a practice or to further incentivize the climate-smart commodity generated, especially with respect to early adopters.

iv. A plan to develop and expand markets for climate-smart commodities generated as a result of project activities, including:

A. Any partnerships designed to market resulting climate-smart commodities,

B. A plan to track climate-smart commodities through the supply chain, if appropriate,

C. Estimated economic benefits for participating producers including market returns, and

D. Post-project potential, including anticipated ability to scale project activities, likelihood of long-term viability beyond project period, and ability to inform future USDA actions to encourage climate-smart commodities.

Proposals in the second funding pool (requesting from $250,000 to $4,999,999) are limited to particularly innovative pilot projects with a focus on:

- **enrollment of small and/or underserved producers, and/or**
- **monitoring, reporting, and verification activities at minority serving institutions.**

Proposals in the second funding pool are also encouraged to include plans for all of the elements listed above for the first funding pool. However, USDA recognizes that projects of this size may face limitations in the capacity to execute on all elements and will take these limitations into account during project evaluation.

Note: Under the second funding pool, digesters may be funded as a part of a project to help fund proving out technologies and building infrastructure on farm. Large digesters with high capital costs should plan to leverage other innovative financing as part of their applications. Small-scale digesters that can build off manure management strategies (e.g., covered lagoons that can be converted) and community digesters where one system serves multiple farms may be included. Funding for the digester(s) when combined with other sources may not exceed the cost of the digester(s). Applications requesting funding for digesters as part of the project MUST complete Appendix D and Appendix E, which include additional requirements and a feasibility study to be conducted by an outside consultant. All projects that incorporate digesters must include provisions for pollution and pathogen mitigation.

Considerations for Successful Projects

All projects must be tied to the development of markets and promotion of climate-smart commodities. Markets for climate-smart commodities may include companies or processors sourcing climate-smart commodities to meet internal targets or other supply chain goals, biofuel and renewable energy markets, companies seeking to sell branded consumer products, or other opportunities that could provide a premium or additional revenue for participating producers and land owners.

Sufficient incentives to encourage producer participation, as well as, generation of verifiable greenhouse gas reductions and carbon sequestration are critical to project success and will be considered in the evaluation criteria.

Requirements for (1) quantification, and (2) monitoring and verification of GHG benefits through Partnership projects are outlined below:

(1) Quantification Requirements

USDA encourages deployment of innovative, cost-effective methods for the quantification of greenhouse gas and carbon sequestration benefits in these pilots. Alongside such innovative approaches, the Carbon Management Evaluation Tool (COMET) should be used where applicable. COMET is an USDA online management system that provides land owners and conservation planners with an easy-to-use, web-based tool to evaluate potential carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reductions from adopting production practices. The methodologies used in the suite of COMET tools are documented in USDA's entity-scale methods, "Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Agriculture and Forestry: Methods for Entity-Scale Inventory" ("Entity Scale Methods"), and are based on peer-reviewed science. At present, USDA uses COMET-Planner to quantify the greenhouse gas and carbon sequestration benefits for a number of climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices. To help ensure comparability of project results, funded projects also should use COMET-Planner, where applicable, to determine common estimates of the GHG impacts of activities. Projects are encouraged to use USDA's Entity Scale Methods when GHG benefit estimates are not available in COMET-Planner. Applicants are also encouraged to use innovative quantification methodologies in addition to those mentioned above or for situations. The outcomes of the alternative methods should be compared against the Entity-Scale Methods and/or COMET-Planner, as appropriate. Alternate methodologies should be documented transparently, be based in peer-reviewed literature whenever possible, be replicable by third parties, and be available for other projects to implement.

(2) Monitoring and Verification Requirements

USDA is not prescribing monitoring and verification methodologies, and is seeking proposals that include innovative, rigorous and cost-effective approaches. Innovation in approaches to monitoring and verification will help to facilitate the deployment of climate smart agriculture and forestry at scale and provide information critical to adapting quantification models in the future. Proposed monitoring and verification approaches should ensure the integrity of the GHG benefits and resulting climate-smart commodities, while also ensuring that transaction costs are not a barrier to participation.

Additional requirements for quantification, monitoring and verification may be provided at the time of award.

Partnerships Network

A representative from each awarded project must be designated as a member of the "USDA **Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities** Learning Network" (Partnerships Network). Participation involves up to two virtual meetings and two in-person meetings a year during the project duration, subject to change. The Partnerships Network will be co-chaired by the Office of the Chief Economist and FPAC. The Partnerships Network will inform synthesis reports to be assembled by USDA on a range of topics related to the implementation of **Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities** projects, including:

- Lessons-learned as projects are implemented;
- Options for providing technical assistance;
- Procedures for measurement/quantification, monitoring, reporting, and verifying GHG benefits;
- Options for tracing climate-smart commodities through the supply chain;
- Mechanisms for reducing costs of implementation;
- A forum for discussion and learning regarding approaches to CSAF program implementation (including but not limited to deployment; measurement/quantification, monitoring, reporting, tracking, and verification of associated greenhouse gas benefits and marketing of climate-smart commodities).
- Synthesis of outcomes and successes; and
- Opportunities for USDA and others to inform future approaches to generating new and expanded markets for climate-smart commodities.

If your proposal will include information collection from non-Federal sources, ensure the collection meets the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act. Surveys of individuals or entities are generally prohibited without prior approval from the Office of Management and Budget. For additional guidance about allowable and unallowable activities, please visit the following website: https://pra.digital.gov/do-i-need-clearance/ .

The following documents do not count toward the above-stated page limit.

b. Application Form

(Standard Form 424 Application for Federal Assistance) See Instructions for Completing SF-424 located at the end of this document.

c. Standard Form (SF) 424A, Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs

Fill in all spaces as appropriate. Section B, Item 6, Column 1 should reflect the agency funds, and Column 2 should reflect the applicant's matching funds. This form is the summary budget for the project and should include the full project totals on pages one and two. See Instructions for Completing SF-424A located at the end of this document. Refer to Section D of this opportunity for information regarding indirect costs.

d. Budget Narrative

i. In a separate document titled "Budget Narrative," explain and justify all requested budget items/costs. (Refer to the budget narrative guidance located at the end of this document.) Detail how the totals on the SF-424A were determined and demonstrate a clear connection between costs and the proposed project activities. For personnel salary costs, include the base-line salary figures and the estimates of time (as percentages) to be directly charged to the project. Describe any item that under the applicable Federal cost principles requires the agency's approval and estimate its cost. The pages included as the budget narrative do not count toward the page limit. Cost sharing/matching must be committed at the time of application submission. The budget narrative must show the amounts and sources of match or cost share (including both cash and in-kind contributions).

ii. Any non-Federal entity (except State and local governments that receive more than $35 million per year in Federal funding) that does not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. No documentation is required to justify the 10 percent de minimis indirect cost rate. As described in 2 CFR 200.403, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as a non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-Federal entity may apply to do at any time.

iii. Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first $25,000 of each subaward (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards under the award). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward in excess of $25,000. Other items may only be excluded when necessary to avoid a serious inequity in the distribution of indirect costs, and with the approval of the cognizant agency for indirect costs.

iv. As required in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F Audit Requirements, all U.S. states, local governments, Federally recognized Indian tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending $750,000 or more in Federal award funds in a fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System.

e. Grants.gov Lobbying Form, Certification and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Under Title 31 of the United States Code, Section 1352, an applicant or recipient must not use any federally appropriated funds (both annually appropriated and continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a grant or cooperative agreement award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is defined as influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress connection with the award. Submission of an application also represents the applicant's certification of the statements in 2 CFR Part 418, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying. If you/your organization have/has made or agrees to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying, you must also complete and submit the SF LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities located at 2 CFR 418, Appendix B. See 2 CFR 418.110 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

f. Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) if applicable

If charging indirect costs, upload the NICRA under Other Attachments (listed as an Optional Form) in the Grants.gov Opportunity Application Package. See Section D for information regarding indirect costs.

g. Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest

Applicants must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the performance of its employees in the selection, award, and administration of Federal awards. No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a Federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties referenced, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from an applicant considered for a Federal award. The standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the applicant.

If the applicant has a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization that is not a state, local government, or Indian tribe, the applicant must also maintain written standards of conduct covering organizational conflicts of interest. Organizational conflict of interest means that because of the relationships with a parent company, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, the applicant is unable or appears to be unable to be impartial in conducting a Federal award action involving a related organization.

h. Post Award Documentation

Post award documentation may be required in addition to what is described elsewhere in this funding opportunity.

i. Unique entity identifier (UEI)/DUNS and System for Award Management (SAM)

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to: (i) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application; (ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and (iii) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency. The agency may not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the agency is ready to make an award, it may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

Entities must obtain a DUNS or UEI and register in SAM prior to registering with Grants.gov. A description of each is below. Entities are strongly encouraged to apply early for their SAM registration.

System for Award Management (SAM) Registration: To register, go to: https://www.sam.gov. The Federal Service Desk is available for registration assistance and can be contacted via the Help tab at the website listed above.

Awarding agency staff cannot support applicants regarding DUNS/UEI or SAM issues.

The Government intends to replace the D-U-N-S® number with a "new, non-proprietary identifier" requested in, and assigned by SAM.gov. This new identifier is being called the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), or the Entity ID. See Planned UEI Updates in Grant Application Forms for UEI updates.

j. **Support Letters** – The applicant organization must provide letters of support from all project partners identified in the project narrative. Additional letters of support from organizations or individuals not directly involved in the project, which demonstrate past success of the applicant's activities may also be provided.

k. **A resume for the lead project administrator is also required.**

4. Submission Dates and Times and Correspondence

Applicants must submit applications via Grants.gov. Applications must be received by 11:59 pm Eastern Time (ET) on

- April 8, 2022 for the first funding pool (applications $5 million to $100 million)
- May 27, 2022 for the second funding pool (applications $250,000 to $4,999,999)

An application submitted or resubmitted after the deadline is late (an application is considered on time at 11:59.59 pm ET, but it is late at 12:00 am ET). Late submissions will not be reviewed or considered.

Grants.gov will provide either an error or a successfully received transmission in the form of an email sent to the applicant's Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) attempting to submit the application. The Grants.gov Support Center reports that some applicants end the transmission because they think that nothing is occurring during the transmission process; be patient and give the system time to process the application.

If you have trouble submitting an application to Grants.gov, you should FIRST contact the Grants.gov Help Desk to resolve any issues. Keep a record of any such correspondence. See Section D. 2. for Grants.gov contact information.

For applications successfully transmitted to Grants.gov before the deadline: The applicant with the AOR role who submitted the application will receive:

- an acknowledgement of receipt and a tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov

- an email with the official date/time stamp (this stamp is used to determine if the application was received prior to the deadline) and Grants.gov

When the agency successfully retrieves the application from Grants.gov and acknowledges the download of submissions, Grants.gov will also provide an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of the application to the applicant.

5. Intergovernmental Review

This funding opportunity is not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

6. Funding Restrictions

Funds may not be used to pay any of the following costs unless otherwise permitted by law and approved in writing by the agency in advance of incurring such costs:

a. Costs above the amount of funds authorized for the project.
b. Costs incurred prior to the effective date of the award, including time spent applying for this opportunity.
c. Costs which lie outside the scope of the approved project and amendments thereto.
d. Entertainment costs, regardless of their apparent relationship to project objectives.
e. Compensation for injuries to persons, or damage to property arising out of project activities.
f. Consulting services performed by a Federal employee during official duty hours when such consulting services result in the payment of additional compensation to the employee.
g. Capital expenditures for general purpose equipment, buildings, and land, and for improvements to land, buildings, or equipment which materially increase their value or useful life. See 2 CFR 200.439 for additional information.
h. Management fees and profit. Any funds awarded to for-profit entities must be used for reimbursement of award related direct and indirect costs only.
i. Meals may be charged to an award only if they are necessary for the performance of the project. For instance, meals (normally only lunch) that are a necessary part of the costs of meetings and conferences (i.e., required attendance and continuity of a meeting), the primary purpose of which is the dissemination of information, are allowable, as are costs of transportation, rental of facilities, speakers' fees, and other items incidental to such meetings or conferences. Note: meals consumed while in official travel status do not fall in this category; they are considered to be per diem expenses and should be reimbursed in accordance with the organization's established travel policies subject to statutory limitations or in accordance

with Federal travel policies.

j. Costs normally charged as [indirect costs] may not be charged as [direct costs] without proper justification and agency approval. Proper justification includes documentation that the costs meet the criteria for allowability (see 2 CFR 200.403). Examples of such costs include rent, utilities, depreciation on buildings and equipment, the costs of operating and maintaining facilities, and general administration and general expenses, such as the salaries and expenses of executive officers, personnel administration, and accounting.
k. Salaries that are not commensurate with level of work. All costs must be reasonable to be allowable (2 CFR 200.403), and 2 CFR 200.404 defines a reasonable cost as one if, in its nature and amount, it does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the cost. Salaries determined not to be reasonable compared to the level of work will be unallowable.

This list is not exhaustive. For additional information please refer to 2 CFR Part 200, subpart E, Cost Principals.

Funding will be provided on a reimbursable basis based on benchmarks for each project. Advances may be considered in limited circumstances particularly for small and underserved entities consistent with 2 CFR 200.

7. Indirect costs limitations

a. To be eligible to recover any indirect cost under a Federal award, recipients must either 1) have a current negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) with a Federal agency that has not expired; or 2) qualify for use of the de minimis rate authorized by 2 CFR 200.414(f). A State, local, or tribal governmental department or agency unit that receives more than $35 million in direct Federal funding is not eligible for the de minimis rate.

b. Applicants that have a current NICRA must calculate indirect costs using the rate and base specified in their NICRA. A recipient may voluntarily reduce or waive recovery of indirect costs at its sole discretion and must not be encouraged or coerced in any way to do so by the agency. A copy of the applicant’s current NICRA must be provided with the application. Indirect costs may not be recovered under an expired NICRA.

c. Recipients are prohibited from shifting unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Review and Selection Process

Applications will be screened for completeness and compliance with the provisions of this notice. Incomplete, noncompliant, and/or applications not meeting the formatting criteria may be eliminated from competition. In that event, the agency will send notification of elimination to the applicant. The agency intends to select and award without conducting any discussions or allowing applicants to correct deficiencies or omissions in their applications. Consequently, applicants must ensure their applications are complete and accurate. However, while the agency intends to select without contacting applicants, it reserves the right to request applicants to revise their applications to correct deficiencies or omissions it identifies. If this occurs, the agency will conduct discussions with all applicants, identify deficiencies and omissions for all, and give applicants an opportunity to submit a revised application by a common cut-off date. The agency may also contact individual applicants to clarify certain components of their applications.

Merit/technical reviews will be conducted by a technical review board nominated by the approving official. Risk reviews will be conducted by the FPAC Business Center, Grants and Agreements Division. The approving official will make the final award decisions. The approving official for this opportunity is the FPAC Under Secretary. A multi-phase approval process may be utilized if determined necessary by the approving official.

2. Merit/Technical Criteria

In general, all proposals will be evaluated at minimum on the following primary evaluation criteria and sub-criteria as drafted below. For applications in the second funding pool (under $5 million), equity and outreach criteria will be weighted more heavily.

a. Benefits Associated with the Production of Climate-Smart Commodities

   i. **Projected benefits from GHG mitigation and carbon sequestration from ongoing or new on-farm practices associated with the production of climate-smart commodities (bolded to emphasize that this criterion is weighted most heavily in first funding pool)**
   ii. Anticipated GHG benefits associated with the production of climate-smart commodities per farm, per project, per commodity produced, per dollar expended
   iii. Anticipated longevity of GHG benefits associated with the project
   iv. (Non-GHG) Environmental co-benefits (e.g., water quality, soil quality, localized air pollution, wildlife habitat) of climate-smart commodity production
   v. Climate adaptation benefits of climate-smart commodity production

b. CSAF Market Development for Climate-smart Commodities
    i. Scalability
    ii. Likelihood of long-term viability beyond project period
    iii. Ability to inform future USDA actions to encourage climate-smart commodities
    iv. Ability to help producers realize greater market returns by overcoming barriers to adopting CSAF practices, including estimated market returns to participating producers.

c. **Equity/Environmental Justice (EJ)/Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) Reach (weighted most heavily in the second funding pool)**
    i. Economic benefits for producers, including underserved producers
    ii. Proposed number of underserved producers to be enrolled
    iii. Partnerships with EJ/MSI/equity/small farmer representation organizations

d. Project Management Proposal
    i. Budget proposal
    ii. Estimated GHG benefits from the production of climate-smart commodities per dollar invested

        Note: The size, complexity and diversity of operations reached will be considered in weighing this factor.

    iii. Innovative collaborations/partnerships among organizations
    iv. Prior experience/confidence in the team

e. Technical proposal
    i. Measuring, monitoring, and reporting plan:
        A. Project’s contribution to advancing supply chain tracing and incentive structures,
        B. Completeness and credibility of measurement/quantification, monitoring, tracking and verification approach
        C. Innovation in approaches to quantification, monitoring and verification of GHG benefits associated with specific CSAF practices.
        D. Project’s direct benefit to producers, particularly small and historically underserved producers.
    ii. Approach to reducing transaction costs
    iii. Technical assistance plan
    iv. Producer reach/number of producers targeted to be enrolled
    v. Consideration of how proposal fits into broad portfolio of funding opportunity (underserved, commodity type, etc.)

Diversity of applications, including geographic diversity and size and scale of projects, will be considered when making award decisions. The Biden-Harris Administration issued EO 14036 on “Promoting Competition in the American Economy” in July 2021 and is committed to selecting a variety of projects such that this emerging marketplace starts out with robust competition and options for producers. USDA is committed to equity and environmental justice in program delivery and explicitly seeks to ensure that all projects provide direct, meaningful benefits to a representative cross-section of production agriculture, including small and/or historically underserved producers, consistent with Justice40 and other related initiatives.

Administrative and Risk Criteria

Notice of selection after merit/technical evaluation does not guarantee that an applicant will receive an award. Following notification of selection for funding (see Section F), the FPAC Business Center, Grants and Agreements Division’s staff conducts a final administrative and risk review of those applications. The administrative review includes, but is not limited to, a check to ensure that NFO requirements were met (e.g., applicant meets eligibility criteria, application was submitted via Grants.gov by the established deadline), and proposed costs are allowable, allocable, and necessary. During this process, it may be necessary to request further documentation from the applicant (e.g., organizational information as part of the risk assessment, more detail regarding proposed costs).

In addition, to comply with the requirements at 2 CFR 200.206, the agency will follow, at a minimum, the risk review process described below (additional steps may be taken).

The awarding agency will check SAM to ensure the applicant is not suspended or debarred, which would preclude receiving an award. In addition, prior to making a Federal award with a total Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold ($250,000), the agency must review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (the Federal Awardee Performance Integrity Information System, FAPIIS) (see 41 USC 2313 and 2 CFR 200.206(a)).

An applicant must meet the following standards to be considered for award:

a. **Financial Stability**

   The applicant maintains an adequate financial resources or cash flow to meet its financial obligations on a routine basis in order to successfully complete any agreement it may be awarded.

b. **Quality of Management Systems and Ability to meet Management Standards prescribed in 2 CFR Part 200**

The applicant has a financial management system adequate to segregate and track federal funds. It has adequate systems in place for proper agreement administration; compliance with the standards outlined in 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart D for procurement, property, and records management; and required financial and performance reporting.

c. **History of Performance**

If the applicant has previously obtained Federal financial assistance award, it has never failed to materially comply with the Federal award terms and conditions and further, that it has never had an award terminated on that basis.

Submission of an application constitutes certification that an applicant meets these standards (items a. through c. above). The agency may request documentation to substantiate the certification. Based on risk assessment, the agency may impose specific award conditions in accordance with 2 CFR 200.208.

4. Awards Over the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (if applicable)

a. Prior to making a Federal award with a total Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold ($250,000), the agency must review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM, the Federal Awardee Performance Integrity Information System (FAPIIS). FAPIIS is a federal database intended to serve as a government-wide source of information about the prior performance and compliance of federal procurement contractors, grantees, and cooperative agreement holders (see 41 U.S.C. 2313 and 2 CFR 200.206(a)).

b. An applicant may review information in FAPIIS accessible through SAM and comment on any information about it that a Federal awarding agency previously entered.

c. The agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR 200.206, Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notices

The agency will provide notice that an application has been selected before it actually makes the Federal award. As such, the selection notification is not an authorization to begin performance. Any pre-award costs incurred by the awardee will not be reimbursed. The Notice of Grant and Agreement Award (ADS-093) signed by the authorized agency official is the only authorizing document and will be provided electronically to the entity's authorized official for signature.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

All project funds will be used in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 and the General Terms and Conditions, which are available at the following website: https://www.fpacbc.usda.gov/about/grants-and-agreements/award-terms-and-conditions/index.html.

Projects performed pursuant to this opportunity may be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). For any project that involves on-the-ground activities undertaken by partners and agricultural producers following the issuance of the award, but prior to any ground disturbing activities related to the **Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities** project, the awardee must work with the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office to complete an Environmental Evaluation (EE) related to each individual producer's activities under the project. Based on the outcome of the EE, the project may proceed as planned, proceed under an alternative designed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse impacts, or awardees may be required to prepare or pay for preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS), should the EE find that an EA or EIS is required.

In addition, should the outcome of the EE require it, a National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 106 review and consultation by an NRCS State or area office with consulting parties (such as the pertinent State Historic Preservation Officer and federally recognized Indian Tribes) may be required prior to the implementation of project activities that have the potential to impact cultural resources. NHPA Section 106, its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and other related authorities, require Federal agencies to determine if a project has the potential to cause an effect to historic properties and, if so, if they are adverse and how the effects may be addressed. The NHPA review and compliance in accordance with Section 106 of NHPA and implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800 must be completed by NRCS and applicants may be required to pay for any cultural resource surveys needed for NRCS to assess project effects. More information on the applicant's role in the NHPA Section 106 process can be found on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation website at https://www.achp.gov/digital-library-section-106-landing/section-106-applicant-toolkit.

Agency consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is also required for projects that may affect listed or proposed species or destroy or modify critical habitat. The ESA consultation in accordance with Section 7 of the ESA and implementing regulations at 50 CFR Part 402 must be completed by NRCS prior to the implementation of project activities that have the potential to impact species or habitat protected under the ESA. More information on the Section 7 consultation process can be found at https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/consultations-overview.html.

Allocation of rights to patents, inventions, and copyrights shall be in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200. This regulation provides that small businesses normally may retain the principal worldwide patent rights to any invention developed with USDA support. In accordance with 2 CFR Part 200, this provision will also apply to commercial organizations for the purposes of this funding opportunity. USDA receives a royalty-free license for federal use, reserves the right to require the patentee to license others in certain circumstances, and requires that anyone exclusively licensed to sell the invention in the United States must normally manufacture it domestically. With regard to copyright, the grant recipient may copyright any work that is subject to copyright and was developed, or for which ownership was acquired, under an award. USDA reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the work for federal purposes and to authorize others to do so.

All tools produced must meet the accessibility of Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) requirements as specified in Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d) as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-220). Specifically, subsection 508(a)(1) requires that when the federal government procures EIT, it must allow federal employees and individuals of the public with disabilities comparable access to and use of information and data that is provided to federal employees and individuals of the public without disabilities. All EIT that is subject to the 36 CFR 1194 standards will have a Section 508 acceptance test and will be validated upon acceptance. All maintenance for EIT that requires upgrades, modifications, installations, and purchases will adhere to the Section 508 standards and 36 CFR 1194. Email the inbox below in Section G with specific questions with regard to the applicability of this section.

3. Reporting

Reporting will follow the guidelines included in the agency's General Terms and Conditions, which are available at the following website: https://www.fpacbc.usda.gov/about/grants-and-agreements/award-terms-and-conditions/index.html

If the Federal share of any agreement awarded under this opportunity notice may include more than $500,000 over the period of performance, recipients must also comply with the post award reporting requirements reflected in Appendix XII of 2 CFR Part 200 —Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.

Applicants that receive awards pursuant to this opportunity and any sub awardees must comply with the reporting requirements described at 2 CFR Part 170 unless an exception applies. Applicants must ensure they have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with those requirements. A list of exceptions can be found at 2 CFR 170.110(b).

Progress reports will be required after the first quarter and at least biannually thereafter on the project, including the following components:

- Producers and land owners participating, and demonstration of equitable enrollment, including enrollment of underserved and small producers.
- Practices applied
- Outreach and training
- Financial assistance for producers/land owners to implement CSAF practices
- Greenhouse gas and carbon sequestration benefits accrued and verified and other ancillary environmental benefits associated with the production of climate smart commodities
- Marketing and outreach related to climate-smart commodities as a result of project activities including information on impacts related to a variety of farm sizes and types
- Technical assistance and resources provided, especially to help producers overcome barriers to adopting CSAF practices
- Partnerships developed and leveraged including public-private partnerships to foster and develop CSAF markets
- Climate-smart commodity supply chain and demand impacts as well as other economic benefits, and
- Implementation of MMRV and supply chain traceability systems.

Notes: Additional reporting and data sharing requirements may apply at time of award. Certain reporting elements will be required to be georeferenced. Financial reporting will also be required consistent with 2 CFR 200. Spot checks may be required upon review of reporting documents or other USDA analyses.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT

For questions regarding this opportunity, please contact the following individual with the NFO number in the subject line:

Name: Crystal Blackburn
Grants Management Specialist
FPAC Business Center

Email: FPAC.BC.GAD@USDA.GOV with a copy to Climate-Smart-Commodities@usda.gov

H. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Questions regarding this opportunity must be submitted to the Federal Awarding Agency Contact identified above via email with the NFO number in the subject line.
2. For technical issues with Grants.gov, please contact Grants.gov Applicant Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov. Awarding agency staff cannot support applicants regarding Grants.gov accounts.

3. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Applications are considered confidential information. Applications are not shared with individuals or entities seeking public disclosure through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) without the consent of the applicant. More specifically, Executive Order 12600 and USDA FOIA regulation 7 CFR Part 1, Subpart A requires the awarding agency to provide notice to applicants that a third party has requested copies of their business information and requires the awarding agency to consult with applicants regarding the releasing their records.

4. Government Obligation

The Federal Government is not obligated to make any Federal award as a result of this opportunity. Only authorized federal officials can bind the Federal Government to the expenditure of funds.

5. Any award made pursuant to this NFO may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

APPENDIX A - Instructions for Completing SF 424

Available on Grants.gov

APPENDIX B - Instructions for Completing SF 424A

Available on Grants.gov

APPENDIX C - Budget Narrative Guidance

All costs must comply with the cost principles of 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E – Cost Principles. All costs (both Federal and any required non-Federal cost sharing/match) that are part of an award must be:

- allowable (2 CFR 200.403),
- allocable to the agreement (2 CFR 200.405), and
- reasonable in amount (2 CFR 200.404).

A thorough budget narrative will aid the administrative review and processing of a recommended award. Amounts included in a budget and budget narrative are estimates; in the event of an award, payments will be based on actual expenditures. The following is guidance for your use in preparing a thorough budget narrative. The guidance follows the order of the budget items.

COST SHARING/MATCHING: If you are including match as part of your application, you must provide the information below for the Federal portion of costs and *separately* provide the information below with the same level of detail for the cost sharing/matching portion, as applicable, as part of the budget narrative.

PERSONNEL – Only include employees of applicant organization

This category includes salaries and wages of personnel of the applicant organization (i.e., employees) that will be working directly on the project. For each individual, identify their role and describe their contributions to the project. Also include their annual salary, percent of effort, and the period of time they will contribute to the project along with the associated funds requested for support. The following format is an appropriate way to provide the information.

Mr. Jones – Project Director. Accountable for assuring that all project activities are carried out in a timely, cost-efficient and responsible manner. He will provide oversight of daily activities and lead and direct the project toward accomplishment of the objectives of the project. He is responsible for the submission of the required reports.

Salary	% effort	Project Duration	Funds Requested
$50,000	25%	12 months	$12,500

FRINGE BENEFITS – Only related to salaries identified under Personnel

Fringe benefits include, but are not limited to, the costs of leave (e.g., vacation, family-related, sick or military), employee insurance, pensions, and unemployment benefit plans.

Also, see [2 CFR 200.431](#), Compensation-Fringe Benefits. Provide information about how fringe benefits are determined along with the amount requested.

For instance: Amt. Requested
Fringe benefits - 25% of salaries and wages ($12,500 @ 25%). $3,125

TRAVEL

Refer to your organization's travel policy for guidance on how to arrange travel. If your organization lacks a policy, it is expected that you follow the U.S. federal government policy, see http://www.gsa.gov/federaltravelregulation.
For the budget narrative, identify the total funds requested for travel. Provide as much detail as possible including purpose, destination, dates of travel, and number of individuals for each trip. If the dates of travel are not known, specify estimated length of trip. Identify what will be followed (e.g., organizational travel policies or government per diem rates). The following are a few examples of how to provide the information.

- 2 people - travel to Washington D.C. once per year for a two-day meeting [identify purpose of meeting].

  Airfare $800 x 2 for airfare = $1,600
  Airport parking = $64
  Hotel for 3 nights x 2 @ $200 = $1,200
  Meals for 2 days x 2 = $24;
  Rental car for 3 days @ $110/day = $330
  Total for trip: $3,439
- Local travel for project manager is calculated at $0.50 per mile throughout primary service area x 326 miles/month x 12 months = $1,956.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment is defined as an item of property that has an acquisition cost of $5,000 or more (unless the organization has established lower levels) and an expected service life of more than one year. List each item of equipment along with the applicable cost. Include justification of its need in accomplishing the goals of the project.

Example: To complete objectives #1 and #2, Refrigerated Trailer is required. XYZ Refrigerated Trailer, Model #123, at $5,555

These costs should only include the costs to purchase new equipment. The cost of renting or leasing equipment is not to be included in this category but instead, include under the Contractual category. If equipment is costly, include a lease vs. purchase comparison in the budget narrative in support of route chosen.

SUPPLIES

Supplies is defined in 2 CFR 200.1 as all tangible personal property other than those described in 2 CFR.1,under the definition of Equipment. A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-

Federal entity for financial statement purposes or $5,000, regardless of the length of its useful life. We also suggest viewing 2 CFR 200.453, Materials and Supplies Costs, Including Costs of Computing Devices, regarding the allowability of costs.

Indicate general categories of expendable supplies including an amount for each category. Caution: If a category is viewed as too general or the associated amount is too high, further itemization may be requested. Therefore, use good judgement in determining the level of detail to provide.

Example: General office supplies $50/mo. x 12 mo. = $600
Postage $37/mo. x 8 mo. = $296
Laptop Computer 1 x $900 = $900
Printer 1 x $300 = $300
Projector 1 x $900 = $900
Copies 8000 copies x .10/copy = $800

CONTRACTUAL
This category includes consultants, subcontracts, etc.

Consultants -- List the total costs for all consultant services. Identify each consultant, the services he/she will perform, total number of days, rate of pay, travel costs, per diem, and total estimated costs.

Contract -- A contract is defined in 2 CFR 200.1 as a legal instrument by which a non-Federal entity purchases property or services needed to carry out the project or program under a Federal award. The term as used in this part does not include a legal instrument, even if the non-Federal entity considers it a contract when the substance of the transaction meets the definition of a Federal award or subaward (see §200.1 Subaward).

Explain the need for each agreement and how their use will support the purpose and goals of the project. For each contract, describe the associated activities, scope of work or services to be provided and how the costs were estimated. If budgeting for a procurement action, document if a solicitation process has occurred or if the contract will be a sole source.

Example:

- ABC Company: Training $250/individual x 3 staff 5 days = $ 750
- Amy White to provide Technical Assistant Services
  1FTE @ $25,000 + 20% Fringe Benefits of $5,000 = $30,000
  Travel at 2,000 miles @ .50 per mile = $ 1,000

Training course $ 175
Supplies @ $42.50 x 12 months = $ 510
Telephone @ $40 x 12 months = $ 480
$32,165

- John Doe, Consultant $40 per hour x 220 hours for 12 month period = $ 8,800
- To Be Announced Outreach Coordinator Annual salary $30,000 x 10% level of effort/12 months = $ 3,000

CONSTRUCTION

Construction efforts are to be included under this category with the same level of detail as described under the "Other" category below.

OTHER

Costs not fitting under one of the other categories are to be included under this category. The level of detail is to be commensurate with other categories. Subawards should be included in this category. Per 2 CFR 200.1, a subaward is an award provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to carry out part of a Federal award received by the pass-through entity. It does not include payments to a contractor or payments to an individual that is a beneficiary of a Federal program. A subaward may be provided through any form of legal agreement, including an agreement that the pass-through entity considers a contract.

Example: Outreach Workshop		
Rental of facilities ($750/2 days)	$1,500	
Information technology services	$ 400	
Training packets (approx. 125/$40 each)	$5,000	
Total		$6,900

Note: Percentage for contingencies is not an allowable cost.

INDIRECT

2 CFR 200.1 defines *Indirect (facilities and administrative (F&A)) costs* as those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. To facilitate equitable distribution of indirect expenses to the cost objectives served, it may be necessary to establish a number of pools of indirect (F&A) costs. Indirect (F&A) cost pools must be distributed to benefitted cost objectives on bases that will produce an equitable result in consideration of relative benefits derived.

This cost category guidance includes several components:

- Calculation (This is to be included as part of the budget narrative)
- Indirect Cost Rates
    - Negotiated Rate
    - 10% De Minimis Rate
- Limitation (i.e., indirect cost cap)
- Unrecovered Indirect Costs for Cost sharing/Match
- Voluntarily Reduce/Waive

Calculation.

If indirect costs are requested as part of the proposed budget, you must provide details used in determining the indirect costs requested. For instance, provide the calculation specifying the amounts used in applying the base (the base specified in the applicable rate agreement) by the applicable rate (see indirect cost rate info below, as well as the Limitation section, below). The calculation can be displayed in different formats but must capture the components (i.e., amounts used in applying the base and the applicable rate).

EXAMPLE 1: For purposes of this example, the recipient uses the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate (10% of Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)). MTDC means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first $25,000 of each subaward. MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward in excess of $25,000.

Budget	Indirect Eligible Amounts	
Salaries and wages	$50,000	$50,000
Materials and supplies	3,000	3,000
Equipment	5,500	-0-
Subaward	30,000	25,000
		$78,000 x 10% = $7,800 Indirect Costs

EXAMPLE 2: For purposes of this example, the recipient has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) of 20% with a base of salaries and fringe benefits.

Budget	Indirect Eligible Amounts	
Salaries and wages	$50,000	$50,000
Fringe Benefits	10,000	10,000
Materials and supplies	3,000	-0-
Equipment	5,500	-0-
Subaward	30,000	-0-

$60,000 x 20% = $12,000 Indirect Costs

Indirect costs may only be recovered if the non-Federal entity has one of the following indirect cost rates.

1. **Negotiated Rate:** If the organization has a *current* NICRA established with the cognizant Federal agency (the agency that provides the most funds to the organization), then provide a copy of the NICRA; expired rates are not acceptable. If unable to obtain a current negotiated rate from the cognizant agency, you are permitted to opt to use the 10% de minimis cost rate (you may only be reimbursed for allowable direct cost). Violation of cost accounting principles is not permitted when re-budgeting or charging costs to awards. Rather, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct

costs. Along with a copy of the NICRA, include the rate and base as part of the budget narrative.

Example: Rate 24.87% of MTDC - 24.87% applied to the following items: $97,300 of Personnel, $23,352 of Fringe, $110,000 of other, and the first $25,000 of three (3) subawards = $76,015.65 indirect costs

2. **10% De Minimis Cost Rate:** In accordance with 2 CFR 200.414(f), any non-Federal entities, unless excepted, may elect to forgo calculation of an indirect cost rate and request a 10% de minimis indirect cost rate. The 10% de minimis rate is applied to modified total direct costs (MTDC). For this purpose, MTDC means total direct costs related to the award, such as direct labor, fringe benefits, materials and supplies, publications, consultant services and travel costs. MTDC excludes the following costs: equipment, capital expenditures, participant support costs, and the portion of each subaward and subcontract in excess of $25,000. Violation of cost accounting principles is not permitted when charging costs to awards. Rather, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

   If the 10% de minimis option is chosen, it must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time you choose to negotiate for a rate, which you may apply to do at any time. If the organization previously opted for the de minimis rate, a copy of the rate agreement must be provided. If the organization is currently electing the de minimis rate, use an indirect cost rate of no more than 10% of MTDC when preparing the budget. If selected for award, a de minimis rate agreement will be executed along with the award, as appropriate.

   Example: Rate 10% of MTDC – 10% applied to the following items: $45,000 of Personnel, $10,800 of Fringe, and $59,000 of Other = $11,480 indirect costs

Limitation: Some programs may not allow the recovery of indirect costs. In such instances, the limitation flows down to subcontractors. Refer to the applicable notice of funding opportunity to determine if indirect costs are unallowable.

USDA appropriation acts limit indirect costs to 10 percent for cooperative and contribution agreements with nonprofit entities; for purposes of this limitation, “nonprofit entities” includes institutions of higher education. For agreements subject to this limitation, first apply the 10 percent indirect cost rate to the agreement’s total direct costs; this is shown on line 6.i of the SF424A. Then, calculate indirect costs using the rate and the direct cost application base specified in the recipient’s NICRA. Use whichever rate results in the lower amount.

If the organization has a NICRA, both the NICRA calculation and the 10% TDC must be completed in order to determine the lesser (i.e., maximum allowed indirect costs) for the applicable project.

Calculation instructions: First, multiply the NICRA rate by the base stated in the NICRA to arrive at Amount A. Next, multiply the statutory limit of 10% by TDC to arrive at Amount B. The lower of Amount A and B is the maximum amount of allowable indirect cost, therefore include this amount on the budget.

Voluntarily Reduce/Waive: A recipient may voluntarily reduce or waive recovery of indirect costs at its sole discretion and must not be encouraged or coerced in any way to do so by the agency. If organizations waive indirect cost recovery and request only direct costs, the organization is required to include in the award budget only those types of costs consistently treated as direct costs by the organization.

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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

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APPENDIX D: Additional Application Requirements for Anaerobic Digester Projects

Responses to the prompts below will not count toward the 15-page narrative limit. Applications in the smaller funding pool requesting funding for digesters MUST complete Appendix D and Appendix E.

Section A - Agreements and Permits. Describe the necessary agreements and permits (including any for local zoning requirements) required for the project and the anticipated schedule for securing those agreements and permits. For example, interconnection agreements and power purchase agreements are necessary for all renewable energy projects electrically interconnected to the utility grid.

Section B - Resource Assessment. Describe the quality and availability of the renewable resource and the amount of renewable energy generated through the deployment of the proposed system. Provide adequate and appropriate data to demonstrate the amount of renewable resource available. Indicate the substrates used as digester inputs, including animal wastes or other Renewable Biomass in terms of type, quantity, seasonality, and frequency of collection. Describe any special handling of feedstock that may be necessary. Describe the process for determining the feedstock resource. Provide either tabular values or laboratory analysis of representative samples that include biodegradability studies to produce gas production estimates for the project on daily, monthly, and seasonal basis. If an anerobic digester project, identify the type of operation (e.g., dairy, swine, layer, etc.), along with breed, herd population size and demographics, and the type of waste collection method and frequency information available. For the biogas produced, identify the type of digester (e.g., mixed, plugflow, attached film, covered lagoon, etc.), if applicable, or the method of capture (landfill, sewage waste treatment, etc.) and treatment. Identify the system designer and determine the digester design assumptions such as the number and type of animals, the bedding type and estimated annual quantity used, the manure and wastewater volumes, and the treatment of digester effluent (e.g., none, solids separation by screening, etc. with details including use or method of disposal).

Section C - Design and Engineering. Describe the intended purpose of the project and the design, engineering, testing, and monitoring needed for the proposed project. The description shall support that the system will be designed, engineered, tested, and monitored so as to meet its intended purpose, ensure public safety, and comply with applicable laws, regulations, agreements, permits, codes, and standards. In addition, identify that all major equipment is commercially available, including proprietary equipment, and justify how this unique equipment is needed to meet the requirements of the proposed design. In addition, information regarding component warranties and the availability of spare parts must be presented.

Section D - Project Development. Describe the overall project development method, including the key project development activities and the proposed schedule, including proposed dates for each activity. The description shall identify each significant historical and projected activity, its beginning and end, and its relationship to the time needed to initiate and carry the activity through to successful project completion. The description shall address applicant project development cash flow requirements. Details for equipment procurement and installation shall be addressed in Section E of this appendix.

Section E - Equipment Procurement and Installation. Describe the availability of the equipment required by the system. The description shall support that the required equipment is available and can be procured and delivered within the proposed project development schedule. Describe the plan for site development and system installation, including any special equipment requirements. In all cases, the system or improvement shall be installed in conformance with manufacturer's specifications and design requirements, and comply with applicable laws, regulations, agreements, permits, codes, and standards. Applications should include adequate information to:
(1) Ensure open and free competition will be used for the procurement of project components in a manner consistent with the requirements of 2 CFR part 200 of this title.
(2) Ensure that the system or improvements will be installed in full compliance with the National Electric Code, and all applicable local building codes and standards, with permits, and in conformance with the manufacturer's intended purpose for the specified products.

Note: Anaerobic digester projects must also complete Appendix E "Feasibility Study."

APPENDIX E – Digester Feasibility Study Components

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Provide an overview to describe the nature and scope of the proposed project and it connection to the production of climate-smart commodities, including the purpose, project location, design features, capacity, and estimated capital costs. Include a summary of the feasibility determinations made for each applicable component.

ECONOMIC	
What is it?	Cost benefit analysis
What are the factors to consider?	Minimum amount of inputs (labor, infrastructure, utilities, renewable resources, feedstocks) to operate successfully Contracts in place and contracts to be negotiated, including terms and renewals Environmental risks Cost of project relative to the increase in revenues or benefits provided Overall economic impact of project including new markets created and economic development

MARKET	
What is it?	Analysis of the current and future market potential, competition, sales or service estimations including current and prospective buyers or users
What are the factors to consider?	Competition Type of project: service, product or commodity based Target market, new versus established End user analysis, captive versus competitive By-product revenue streams Industry risk

TECHNICAL	
What is it?	Analyzing the reliability of the technology to be used and/or the analysis of the delivery of goods or services, including transportation, business location, and the need for technology, materials, and labor.
What are the factors to consider?	Commercial availability Product and process success record and duplication of results Experience of the service providers Roads, rail, airport infrastructure Need for local transportation Labor market Availability of materials Liability of technology

	Construction risk

FINANCIAL	
What is it?	Analysis of the operation to achieve sufficient income, credit, and cashflow to financially sustain the project over the long term and meet all debt obligations.
What are the factors to consider?	Commercial or project underwriting Management's assumptions Accounting policies Source of repayment Dependency on other entities Equity contribution Market demand forecast Peer industry comparison Cost-accounting system Availability of short-term credit Adequacy of raw materials and supplies Sensitivity analysis

MANAGEMENT	
What is it?	Analysis of the legal structure of the business or operation; ownership, board and management analysis.
What are the factors to consider?	History of the business or organization Professional and educational background Experience Skills Qualifications necessary to implement the project

RECOMMENDATION
Conclude with an opinion and recommendation presented by the consultant

QUALIFICATIONS
Provide a resume or statement of qualifications of the author of the feasibility study, including prior experience.