

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Down Payment Assistance Grant – Fiscal Year 2024

Application Part A—Farmer Information

Complete the farmer information section and answer the yes/no eligibility and demographic questions using the definitions below. Note: Applicant name must match the purchaser of the land.

Definitions

Minnesota Resident means the applicant has established a permanent home within Minnesota’s borders and has no present intention of moving outside the state.

Good Standing with the State of Minnesota:

- No back taxes owed.
- No defaults on Minnesota State-backed financing for the last seven years.
- Acceptable performance on past MDA grants.
- Compliant with current state regulations.

Direct Ownership is when an individual is the direct owner of farmland, shareholder in an operation that includes farmland, or the beneficiary of a life estate that includes farmland. **Indirect Ownership** is any interest or traceable interest in farmland.

Emerging Farmers include farmers or aspiring farmers who are **women, veterans, persons with disabilities, American Indian or Alaskan Natives, members of a community of color, young** (35 and younger), lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, or asexual (**LGBTQIA+**), **urban** (reside in cities with a population over 5,000 or within the boundaries of federally recognized tribal land regardless of population size), and any other emerging farmers as determined by the commissioner.

Application Part B – Purchase Information

Complete the farmland purchase information section with as many details as you have for the land you intend to purchase. If you do not have some this information, you may leave questions blank; however, you will need to be prepared with all this information and close on your farmland purchase within six months if your application is approved. If your grant application is approved, you will also need to provide copies of:

- Purchase agreement
- Schedule F or a signed statement confirming no farm sales to report
- Loan estimates or other proof of secured financing
- Other documentation required as needed to ensure the applicant qualifies for this program

Applications are open between July 1 and July 31. Submit your application via email :

RFA.loans@state.mn.us

This application is also available as an online form open from July 1 to July 31 at:

www.mda.state.mn.us/down-payment-assistance-grant-program

The RFA will award these grants using a random **lottery process, with preference given to emerging farmers**. Approvals will remain valid for purchases closing withing 6 months or until June 30, 2024, whichever is sooner.

APPLICATION • Down Payment Assistance Grant – FY24

A. Farmer Information

Name:	Spouse' Name (if applicable):	
Current Mailing Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Age at time of application (optional):	County:	
Phone:	Email:	

Please Check (YES) or (NO) Boxes

I am a Minnesota Resident.	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
I will be purchasing the farmland as an individual (LLCs, partnerships, non-profits, corporations, and other businesses are not eligible)	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
I am in good standing with the State of Minnesota.	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
The farmland is located within Minnesota's borders.	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
I will provide the majority of physical labor and management for the farm I wish to purchase.	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
I agree that for each year I do not own and farm the land during the following five-year period, I will pay a penalty to the commissioner equal to 20 percent of the grant amount.	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Have you or your spouse ever had direct or indirect ownership in farmland or other agricultural property (tillable acres, hog barn, commercial greenhouse, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Did you gross more than \$250,000 from the sale of farm product in the most recent tax year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Have you been convicted of criminal offense related to a state grant agreement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Are you considered an Emerging Farmer?	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO

B. Purchase Information

Briefly describe the type of farming operation you will be running.

If available, please provide the following information about the farmland you are purchasing.

County:	Number of Acres:	Sale Price:
Name of all sellers(s):	Estimated closing date:	

Legal description (section/sub-section, section, township, range) *Ex. SW ½ of NW ¼, Sec. 20, Township 100, Range 50:*

If available, does this farm purchase include a home or other non-agricultural improvement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
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If available, please provide financing amounts, including as applicable

Type	Amount	Bank, Institution or Grant Name	Type	Amount	Source
Purchaser Cash	\$		Other Grant	\$	
Loan	\$		Other Grant	\$	
Loan	\$		Other Source	\$	
This Grant	\$		Other Source	\$	

I certify that the above information and any supplemental information is correct and true to the best of my knowledge. Furthermore, I will adhere to the Down Payment Assistance Grant Program Act and Regulations.

Signature / Date:

Privacy Notice: The information provided by an applicant will be used to assess the applicant's eligibility to receive a Down Payment Assistance Grant from the MDA. The decision to apply for this grant is voluntary, and applicants are not legally required to provide any of the requested information. Applicants may decline to complete this application without any legal consequence. However, only completed applications will be considered for a grant; incomplete applications will not be considered.

Access to private or nonpublic data provided as part of this application is limited to those authorized by law, including but not necessarily limited to MDA staff and contractors with a valid work assignment to access the data, parties authorized by the applicant, parties identified in a valid court order or federal subpoena, Minnesota Management and Budget, Minnesota Department of Administration, the state auditor, and the legislative auditor. If necessary, the MDA may also share the data with law enforcement or the Office of the Attorney General.