

County Agricultural Inspector Grant Fiscal Year 2026 Request for Proposals

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Grant Summary

Overview

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting grant applications from county agricultural inspectors (CAIs) and county-designated employees (CDEs) to support their required duties under the Noxious Weed Law. The County Agricultural Inspector Grant (CAI) Program is authorized under the [Minnesota Noxious Weed Law](#) (Minn.Stat. 18.76-18.91). Funding and priorities are established by the State Legislature at 2025 Laws of Minnesota, Chapter 34, Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 2 (g).

The County Agriculture Inspector (CAI) Grant Program will support CAIs and County's Designated Employees (CDEs) to complete their duties under the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law. Reimbursement to eligible counties to cover costs of implementing and maintaining noxious weed control programs and in addressing special weed control problems. The grant program is intended to protect public health, the environment, public roads, crops, livestock, and other property from the injurious effects of noxious weeds.

All information about the CAI Grant Program is available on the [program's webpage](#). Applications will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on September 4, 2025.

Funding Availability

The Minnesota Legislature has appropriated \$500,000 for these grants in fiscal year 2026. MDA will determine which counties are eligible for funding based on criteria outlined in statute. Once the total number of eligible counties is determined, MDA will divide the available grant funds equally between the eligible CAI/CDEs across the State. Eligible counties are required to report to MDA with each request for reimbursement to demonstrate that they have met all the necessary criteria to receive funds. A report on progress will be required of all Grantees prior to the end of the performance period. If a county fails to successfully meet the requirements, it will not receive funds, and its allocated amount will be redistributed equally among the remaining eligible counties who successfully meet the requirements.

If selected, Grantees may only incur eligible expenditures when the grant contract agreement is fully executed, the grant has reached its effective date, and the Grantee has been notified by the state's authorized representative that they may begin work.

Project Dates

The grant application will be open until September 4, 2025.

Grant projects are projected to begin around October 16, 2025 and complete by June 30, 2026.

Priorities

It is the policy of the State of Minnesota to ensure fairness, precision, equity, and consistency in competitive grant awards. This includes implementing diversity and inclusion in grant-making.

[Office of Grants Management \(OGM\) Policy 08-02: Rating Criteria for Competitive Grant Review \(PDF\)](#) sets up the expectation that grant programs intentionally show how the grant serves diverse populations, especially populations experiencing inequities or disparities.

The CAI Grant is awarded non-competitively to eligible counties as specified in 2025 Laws of Minnesota, Chapter 34, Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 2 (g) and this Request for Proposals. The funding is designated for county agricultural inspectors (or a county's designated employees) complete their duties under [Minnesota Noxious Weed Law](#). The policy and outcomes are detailed by statute (Minn.Stat. 18.75 and 18.90.). County agricultural inspectors and county-designated employee are identified at Minn.Stat. 18.80. The policy and outcomes of the Noxious Weed Law are detailed at (Minn.Stat. 18.75 and 18.90.).

Questions

Direct questions about the grant program, completing the application, or additional accommodations to:

Emilie Justen

emilie.justen@state.mn.us

MDA Noxious Weed Law Coordinator
Plant Protection Division
625 Robert Street North
St. Paul MN 55155-2538

Questions regarding the Request for Proposals (RFP) must be submitted in writing (mail or email) c. Answers will be posted for all applicants to review on the [CAI Grant webpage](#).

Questions and answers will be posted within 3 days of receipt at emilie.justen@state.mn.us with "County Agricultural Inspector (CAI) Grant" in the subject line.

MDA employees are not authorized to give advice on any applications. Applicants who solicit or receive advice from unauthorized MDA employees may be disqualified from eligibility for a grant award.

Eligibility and Application Instructions

Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for this grant, a county must employ a county agricultural inspector or county-designated employee (CAI/CDE)* who meets the following criteria:

1. Has attended training for new county agricultural inspectors offered by the commissioner.
2. Coordinates with the commissioner to review applicable laws and enforcement procedures.
3. Compiles and submits to the commissioner local weed inspector annual report data.
4. Conducts an annual meeting and training for local weed inspectors, and
5. Assists the commissioner with control programs and other agricultural programs when requested under Minnesota Statutes, section 18.81, subdivision 1b, as directed by the county board.

Eligible Expenses

Funds are appropriated to support county agricultural inspectors and county-designated employees to perform their required duties under the noxious weed law (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 18.81; Subdivision. 1a, 1b, and 3).

Eligible expenses may only be incurred after the contract has been signed by all parties. Grant contracts may not extend beyond two years from the effective date of the contract.

Eligible expenses include but are not limited to:

- Inspection and reinspection of noxious weeds on public and private lands
- Enforcement of the noxious weed law when violations occur
- Management performed of noxious weeds
- Assisting MDA with seed, screenings, invasive plant, feed, fertilizer, and pesticide programs, and other agricultural programs when requested by the commissioner
- Training of and assisting local weed inspectors
- Attending required meetings and hosting meetings for local weed inspectors
- Development of outreach materials for noxious weed identification, management, prevention and the noxious weed law and lists
- Development of a Noxious Weed Management Plan
- Issuing Transport Permits and inspection of noxious weed infested materials
- Posting a General Notice and serving individual notices
- Serving on an appeal committee
- Attending hearings or appeal reviews

Ineligible expenses include but are not limited to:

- Expenditures not related to duties outlined in Minnesota Statute 18.81.
- Expenditures incurred prior to grant contract execution.
- Applicant or partner agency overhead or administrative costs not related to the grant.
- Fundraising including financial campaigns, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred to raise capital or obtain contributions regardless of the purpose for which the funds will be used.
- Taxes, except sales tax on goods and services.
- Lobbyists, political contributions.
- Bad debts, late payment fees, finance charges, or contingency funds.
- Donated or volunteer (in-kind) services. While these may be furnished to an applicant by professional and technical personnel, consultants, and other skilled and unskilled labor, the value of these services is not an eligible cost.
- Parking or traffic violations.
- Out of state transportation and travel expenses (Minnesota will be considered the home state for determining whether travel is out of state).
- Capital expenses greater than \$5,000.

Application Instructions

Applications are due by 3:00 p.m. on September 4, 2025.

- Submit grant proposals through our [online application system](#).
 - If you are a new user, you'll need to create an account first.
 - Once you're logged in, select "County Agricultural Inspector (CAI) Grant FY26".
- We will not consider late applications.
 - The MDA is not responsible for any technical or logistical problems resulting in the MDA not receiving the application on time.
 - We are not responsible for any technical or logistical problems that result in a late submission. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that submission is received by the MDA before the deadline.

- Apply early so there is enough time to get help with the online application system if needed. It's best practice to submit your application at least 24 hours in advance.

Incomplete applications will be rejected and not evaluated. Counties submitting an application must include all required application materials, including attachments. Do not provide any materials that are not requested in this RFP, as such materials will not be considered nor evaluated. The MDA reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet these requirements.

By submitting an application, each the county warrants that the information provided is true, correct, and reliable for purposes of evaluation for potential grant award. The submission of inaccurate or misleading information may be grounds for disqualification from the award, as well as subject the applicant to suspension or debarment proceedings and other remedies available by law.

All costs incurred in responding to this RFP will be assumed by the county submitting the application.

Application Tips:

- Answer all questions completely within the character limits specified in the grant application.
- Although some questions are labeled as optional, we strongly recommend responding to those questions or uploading the appropriate documents.
- Ensure your application is unique to your county.

Timeline

The application will close at 3:00 p.m. on September 4, 2025.

- We will review applications after the deadline closes.
- If we have questions on your application, we will contact you within one month of your submission. Please respond promptly to our questions so you have time to change your proposal before we create the grant contract.

August 28, 2025, at 12 p.m. CT.....Deadline to ask grant program questions.

September 4, 2025, at 3 p.m. CT....Applications due.

October 16, 2025.....Applicants notified of decisions; grant agreement negotiations begin.

October 16, 2025.....Anticipated start date for projects awarded funding.

Budget Guidelines

The applicants must provide an estimated rate per hour and hours to be completed for CAI/CDE duties in 2025/2026. Estimates for other expenses must also be provided with the application. MDA will determine amount of money available per county for expenses after the application closes.

Application Review Policies and Processes

Review Process

MDA staff and leadership will review applications for accuracy and meeting of the eligibility criteria. MDA staff will inform the applicant of any ineligible components. The commissioner of agriculture reviews the recommendations and is responsible for award decisions. Funding decisions may consider the applicant's history as a state Grantee, including progress made on previous grants, compliance with state rules and regulations, and capacity to perform the work.

The MDA will notify applicants, both successful and unsuccessful, in writing.

MDA staff and leadership will review applications for accuracy and inform the applicant of any ineligible components. The commissioner of agriculture is responsible for award decisions.

Privacy Notice and Classification

The information provided by an applicant will be used to assess the applicant's eligibility to receive a grant under the Grants for CAIs and CDEs. 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.

Data provided in this application is initially classified by the Minnesota Data Practices Act as private or nonpublic, although some or all of the data will generally become public at various points of the application process unless the data are otherwise classified by state or federal law. Access to private or nonpublic data 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.

Per Minnesota's statute on grants (MINN. STAT. 13.599):

- Names and addresses of grant applicants, and the grant amount requested, will be public data once application responses are opened.
- All remaining data in application responses (except for data otherwise classified by law, including trade secret information, see below) becomes public data after the evaluation process is completed (for the purposes of this grant, when all grant agreements have been fully executed).
- All data created or maintained by the MDA as part of the evaluation process (except trade secret information, see below) will generally be public data after the evaluation process is completed.

Procedure for claiming protection of trade secrets:

Trade secret information is classified as not public data. In order to qualify as trade secret information, the data in question must be provided to the MDA by the affected person (i.e. the data must be about the applicant) and otherwise meet the legal definition found in statute (MINN. STAT. 13.37, subd. 1(b)). In order for an applicant to assert trade secret protection for data submitted as part of this application the applicant must:

- 1) clearly identify the specific formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or process that the applicant believes to be trade secret information;
- 2) describe what efforts the applicant takes to maintain the secrecy of the data; and
- 3) adequately explain how the data derive(s) independent economic value from not being generally known to, and not readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons.

Merely asserting trade secret protection does not, in and of itself, classify the data in question as not public; determining what data meet the definition of trade secret information is ultimately the legal responsibility of the MDA, and the MDA cannot guarantee that data identified as trade secret information by an applicant will be classified as such. If the MDA determines that data do not meet the definition of trade secret information, the data in question will be available to the public unless the applicant secures a court order saying otherwise.

All persons, businesses, and individuals applying for grants in the state of Minnesota must comply with applicable laws. Under the law titled Right of Setoff (MINN. STAT. 270C.65, subd. 3), a Grantee consents to disclosure of its social security number, federal employer tax identification number, and/or Minnesota tax identification number, already provided to the State, to federal and state tax agencies, and to state personnel involved in the payment of state obligations. These identification numbers may be used in the enforcement of federal and state tax laws which could result in action requiring a Grantee to file state tax returns and pay delinquent state tax liabilities, if any.

Liability

The MDA will not be held liable for any costs incurred by any firm for work performed in the preparation and production of a proposal, nor for any work performed prior to the formal execution of the contract.

Pre-award Risk Assessment and Financial Review

Grant applicants may be required to submit financial, capacity, and internal control documents prior to a grant award based on state or federal requirements. In accordance with Minnesota Statute §16B.981 and OGM Policy 08-06: Pre-award Risk Assessment of Potential Grantees, MDA just consider a grant applicant's past performance and financial and operational capacity before awarding grants of \$50,000 or more.

Conflicts of Interest

State grant policy requires that steps and procedures are in place to prevent individual and organizational conflicts of interest, both in reference to applicants and reviewers per Minnesota Statutes § 16B.98 Subd. 2-3 and OGM Policy 08-01 Conflict of Interest in State Grant-Making Policy.

Conflicts of interest occur when:

- a Grantee or applicant is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice to the Department due to competing duties or loyalties
- a Grantee's or applicant's objectivity in carrying out the grant is or might be otherwise impaired due to competing duties or loyalties

In cases where a conflict of interest is in question or disclosed, the applicants or Grantees will be notified and actions may be pursued, including but not limited to, revising the grant work plan or Grantee duties to mitigate the risk, requesting the grant applicant to submit an organizational conflict of interest mitigation plan,

disqualification from eligibility for the grant award, amending the grant, or termination of the grant contract agreement.

Requirements for Grant Recipients

Pre-award Risk Assessment

Under [MINN. STAT. §16B.981](#) and [OGM Policy 08-06: Pre-award Risk Assessment of Potential Grantees \(PDF\)](#), the MDA is required to complete a pre-award risk assessment of Grantees selected to receive a grant award of over \$50,000.

If the MDA determines that a potential Grantee has substantial risks that inhibit its ability to perform the required duties under the grant contract agreement, then the MDA may either request more information for the purpose of satisfying the concerns, develop a risk mitigation plan to protect the interests of the state, not award the grant.

Grant Award Agreement

Upon approval of an application, and following completion of the pre-award risk assessment, and prior to beginning work on the County Agricultural Inspector Grant and receiving reimbursements, the county, as the applicant and potential Grantee, must do the following:

- Confirm that the information in SWIFT (the state's accounting system) is correct, and if not, complete an IRS W-9 form or register as a vendor in SWIFT.
- Submit other required documentation within 30 days of award notification.
- Sign a Grant Award Agreement indicating their intention to complete the proposed tasks. This agreement must be signed within 30 days of being sent to the Grantee.
- The agreement also authorizes the MDA to monitor the progress of the project.

Each Grantee must formally enter into a grant contract agreement. The grant contract agreement will address the conditions of the award, including implementation for the project. Grantees should read the grant contract agreement, sign, and once signed, comply with all conditions of the grant agreement. No work on grant activities can begin until a fully executed grant contract agreement is in place and the State's Authorized Representative has notified the Grantee that work may start. The funded applicant will be legally responsible for assuring implementation of the work plan and compliance with all applicable state requirements including worker's compensation insurance, nondiscrimination, data privacy, budget compliance, and reporting.

Accountability and Reporting Requirements

It is the policy of the State of Minnesota to monitor progress on state grants by requiring Grantees to submit written progress reports with requests for reimbursements until all grant funds have been expended and all of the terms in the grant agreement have been met.

Grantees are required to submit evidence of progress during the grant period, a final report at the completion of the project and supply additional information as required by the commissioner about the long-term impact of the project, up to 3 years after the grant period.

All Grantees of the County Agriculture Inspector Grant must submit a final report to the MDA no later than May 31, 2026. The final report should include:

- Summary data for CAI/CDE duties completed, including LWI participation

- Date attended training for new county agricultural inspectors or refresher course offered by the commissioner
- Date and copy of the agenda of the local weed inspector training conducted
- Summary data for assistance provided to MDA through control programs and other agricultural programs under Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.81, subdivision 1b, as directed by the county board
- Grantees must also annually review applicable laws and enforcement procedures for the noxious weed law. The MDA will hold a webinar to satisfy this requirement.

The Grantee must send invoices, signed timesheets, and supporting financial documentation with the final reports to the State's Authorized Representative.

The MDA reserves the right to modify reporting requirements during the project. Information submitted in any report is a public record. If the grant recipient considers any information in the report to be trade-secret protected, the grant recipient may request that trade-secret information be kept confidential and must specifically label that information. The MDA shall notify the grant recipient if a public records request is made for the information claimed as protected by the grant recipient.

Failure to regularly report, respond to surveys, and promptly respond to information requests may impact the Grantee's ability to secure future funding from the MDA.

Monitoring and Site Visits

The grant contract agreement allows the MDA to monitor the progress of the project. The MDA will perform a monitoring visit for all Grantees with awards of \$50,000 or more prior to approving final payment. Other Grantees may receive monitoring visits at the discretion of the MDA.

For any Grantee receiving funds over \$50,000 the Minnesota Department of Agriculture will conduct a monitoring visit and a financial reconciliation of Grantee's expenditures at least once during the grant period.

Grant Payments

Eligible expenses may only be incurred after the grant contract agreement has been signed by all parties.

Grant funds are dispersed on a reimbursement basis. All requests for reimbursement must correspond to the approved grant budget. To receive grant payments, Grantees must provide evidence of progress. Requests must include two types of proof for each expense: proof of purchase (e.g., invoices, itemized receipts, etc.) and proof of payment (e.g., cleared checks, credit card statements, bank statements, etc.). Ineligible items and their cost must be clearly delineated in the proof of purchase.

Invoices may be submitted throughout the project performance period but must be submitted on the completion of the project, no later than 30 days after the grant expiration date. Invoices must be submitted with actual receipts and proof of payment of purchases described in the grant contract; timesheets recording billable hours incurred for completing CAI/CDE duties must be signed and dated by a supervisor.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture will not issue grant payments without the evidence of Grantee's progress. All requests for reimbursement must correspond to the approved grant budget. To receive grant payments, Grantees must provide evidence of progress. Upon completion of the grant project, submission and approval of a final progress report will be required to receive the final payment.

Authorized Representatives

Pursuant to [MINN. STAT. 16B.98, subd. 5\(d\)](#), Grantees must clearly post on the Grantee's website the names of, and contact information for, the Grantee's leadership and the employee or other person who directly manages and oversees a grant contract agreement on behalf of the Grantee.

Contract and Bidding Requirements

Grantees of this grant program are required to comply with [Minnesota Statutes §471.345, Uniform Municipal Contracting Law](#).

- The Grantee and any subrecipients must comply with prevailing wage rules per [Minnesota Statutes §§ 177.41 through 177.50](#), as applicable.
- The Grantee and any subrecipients must not contract with vendors who are suspended or debarred by the State of Minnesota or the federal government: [Suspended and Debarred Vendors, Minnesota Office of State Procurement](#).
- The Grantee must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award and administration of contracts.

Audits

Per [Minnesota Statutes § 16B.98 Subdivision 8](#), the Grantee's books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the Grantee or other party that are relevant to the grant or transaction are subject to examination by the Commissioner of Administration, the State granting agency, the State Auditor, the Attorney General, and the Legislative Auditor as appropriate. This requirement will last for a minimum of six years from the grant contract agreement end date, receipt, and approval of all final reports, or the required period of time to satisfy all state and program retention requirements, whichever is later.

Publicity

All projects primarily funded by state grant appropriations must publicly credit the State of Minnesota, including on the Grantee's website. Grantees must further clearly post on the Grantee's website the names of, and contact information for, the Grantee's leadership and the employee or other person who directly manages and oversees a grant contract agreement on behalf of the Grantee as required under [Minnesota Statutes §16B.98, subd. 5 \(d\)](#), and referenced under the "Authorized Representative" section of this Request for Proposals.

Grant Provisions

The grant contract agreement will address the terms and conditions of the award for funded applicants, including terms for the implementation for the project. Grant contract agreement templates are available for review at: [Office of Grants Management Policies, Statutes, and Forms/Forms and FAQs tab](#).

Affirmative Action and Non-Discrimination Requirements

The Grantee agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status in regard to public assistance, membership or activity in a local commission, disability, sexual orientation, or age in regard to any position for which the

employee or applicant for employment is qualified per [Minnesota Statutes § 363A.02](#). The Grantee agrees to take affirmative steps to employ, advance in employment, upgrade, train, and recruit minority persons, women, and persons with disabilities.

The Grantee must not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of physical or mental disability in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified. The Grantee agrees to take affirmative action to employ, advance in employment, and otherwise treat qualified disabled persons without discrimination based upon their physical or mental disability in all employment practices such as the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment, advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship. ([Minnesota Rules, part 5000.3500](#)).

The Grantee agrees to comply with the rules and relevant orders of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights issued pursuant to the [Minnesota Human Rights Act](#).

Voter Registration Requirement

The Grantee will comply with [Minnesota Statute 201.162](#) by providing voter registration services for its employees and for the public served by the Grantee.

Right of Cancellation

The State reserves the right to cancel this solicitation if it is considered to be in its best interest. The State reserves the right to negotiate modifications to the application or to reject any and all applications received as a result of this Request for Proposals. The State does not intend to award a grant contract solely on the basis of any response made to this request or pay for information solicited or obtained.

Application Form Questions

- Name of Contact Person
- Organization Name
- Organization Mailing Address
- County
- Office Phone Number
- Cell Phone Number
- Email

Eligibility

Please confirm your eligibility by checking the box.

- ☐ I am a county agricultural inspector or county designated employee OR my CAI/CDE has approved the application.

Proposal Summary

Review the Request for Proposals (RFP) before submitting your application. Details on the requirements may be found in the [Grant Overview](#) section.

Work Plan

(Limit: 7,000 characters)

Please give concise explanations for each section.

Provide a step-by-step description of how you will use the grant funds – how and when you will carry out each item or activity using these funds. Describe the specific activities, objectives, deadlines for accomplishing each activity, and responsible parties.

Example:

Activities – In partnership with townships and private landowners, inspect roadsides of all county roads to map noxious weeds.

1. *Who: John Johnson, Hennepin County Ag Inspector (By May 15, 2026). Set two days per month during growing season to drive county roads.*
2. *Who: John Johnson, Hennepin County Ag Inspector (By May 15, 2026). Map any noxious weeds, on paper or on EDDMaps.*
3. *Who: John Johnson, Hennepin County Ag Inspector (By May 30, 2026). Submit invoices and signed timesheet for reimbursement and final report to MDA.*

Example:

Activities – Plan local weed inspector training.

4. *Who: John Johnson, Hennepin County Ag Inspector (By May 15, 2026). Set date for annual local weed inspector meeting and send invites out to all townships and cities in county.*
5. *Who: John Johnson, Hennepin County Ag Inspector (By May 15, 2026). Document any weed complaints from municipalities and address any concerns.*
6. *Who: John Johnson, Hennepin County Ag Inspector (By May 30, 2026). Submit invoices and signed timesheet for reimbursement and final report to MDA.*

Budget

Budget Narrative

(Limit: 6,000 characters)

The budget narrative is a detailed description of each of the costs using the grant funds, per line item.

- A cost estimate is required for all personnel; equipment, tools, supplies, herbicides; education and outreach materials; contracted services; in-state travel; other.
- Explain how you developed the budget estimates. Please indicate if specific vendors or contractors have been identified. You do not need actual bids at the time of application.

Budget Table

The budget table is an overview of how grant funds will be spent by category and budget year. Create a budget table that includes grant funds requested. Upload a budget in the following format:

Category	Grant Request
Personnel – number of hours @ wage rate	
Equipment, tools, supplies, herbicides (maximum \$5,000 for equipment purchases)	
Education and outreach materials	
Contracted services	
In-state travel (mileage rate, per diem)	
Other (specify what the expense is for)	
Total	

Certifications

This certification must be signed by the county's Authorized Representative and is part of the response to the RFP. Prior to issuing a grant award contract the applicant's Authorized Representative must provide an authorized signature to this certification through DocuSign which will be included as an exhibit in the grant award contract.

Certification

I certify that:

- The county board of commissioners is aware of this grant program and supports this application and is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure that the CAI/CDE completes their required duties under the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law.
- To the best of my knowledge and belief, the data in this application is true and correct and supporting documentation for the claims and assertions made within this application is available to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for its review.
- I understand that submitting false or misleading information in connection with this application may be grounds for disqualification from the grant contract agreement award and may subject me and my organization to suspension or debarment proceedings, as well as other remedies available to the State, by law.
- I further understand that receiving public funds as a consequence of false representations constitutes an act of fraud.
- I understand that Minnesota Department of Agriculture and may conduct audits, check references, and conduct site inspections and monitoring after grants are awarded and prior to dollars being disbursed.
- I understand that the data provided in this application is subject to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and have read and understand the Data Privacy Notice contained herein. I verify all information supplied in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand that State of Minnesota requires that its agencies not award a grant to a vendor or Grantee that has been suspended or debarred from doing business with the State of Minnesota or with the federal government. I warrant that neither the county applicant or its principals (including the designated CAI or CDE employee(s)) are suspended or debarred from doing business with the State of Minnesota or with the federal government. Office of Grants Management (OGM) Policy 08-04: *Grant Contract Agreements and Grant Award Notifications*.
- I understand prior to issuing a grant award contract, I must provide an authorized signature to this certification through DocuSign which will be incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the contract.

Authorized Representative signature (Required)

Print Name of Authorized Representative	Signature	Title	Date
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