



# **Grain Storage Facility Safety Grant Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027 Request for Proposals**

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# Grant Summary

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## Overview

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is making Grain Storage Facility Safety Grants available to help Minnesota farmers purchase and install eligible safety equipment for on-farm grain bins or silos.

The Minnesota Legislature provided funding for the [Farm Safety Grant and Outreach Programs](#), administered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture during the 2025 legislative session (MINN Statutes Sec. 17.1195). All information about the program is available on the [Grain Storage Facility Safety Grant webpage](#).

## Funding availability

A total of \$75,000 is available for this program and the Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) Rebate program in each fiscal year 2026 and 2027. The state fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 the following year.

Applicants may request up to 75% of eligible expenses up to \$400 per bin or silo with a limit of \$2,400 per farm per fiscal year.

- Applications will be reviewed in the order in which they are received until funds run out. Applications received by May 1 of each year will be prioritized; applications received after that may be put on hold until the new fiscal year starts on July 1.
- All purchases for the eligible items must be made after grant contract agreements are signed. We issue payments on a reimbursement basis (after work has been completed and paid for).
- Projects must include matching funds from personal or other non-state sources; see the [matching funds](#) section.

## 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. [Policy 08-02: Rating Criteria for Competitive Grant Review \(PDF\)](#) establishes the expectation that grant programs intentionally identify how the grant serves diverse populations, especially populations experiencing inequities or disparities.

## Application guidelines

Answer all questions completely within the character limits specified in the grant application. Review the [Application Scoring Sheet](#) included in this document to ensure you meet the evaluation criteria.

## Timeline

Applications will be reviewed in the order in which they are received until funds run out. Applications received by May 1 of each year will be prioritized; applications received after that may be put on hold until the new fiscal year starts on July 1.

## How to apply

Apply for the Grain Storage Facility Safety Grant using our [online application system](#):

- If you're a new user, first create an account.
- Once you're logged in to your account, select "FY 2026-2027 Grain Storage Facility Safety Grant."
- If you can't use the online application system, contact [MDA.AGRlgrants@state.mn.us](mailto:MDA.AGRlgrants@state.mn.us) or 651-201-6500 to request other arrangements.

## How to get help

For questions about the grant program, application, or online application system, email [MDA.AGRlgrants@state.mn.us](mailto:MDA.AGRlgrants@state.mn.us) with "Grain Storage Facility Safety Grant" in the subject line or call 651-201-6500.

## Eligibility

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### Eligible applicants

#### Applicants must:

- Applicants must be the principal operator of a farm in Minnesota.
- Be a resident of the state of Minnesota or be a business entity authorized to farm in Minnesota.
- Be in 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.

#### Who is a principal operator?

A principal operator is a person primarily responsible for the day-to-day operation of the farm. The principal operator could be an owner, hired manager, cash tenant, share tenant, or partner. Grant contract agreements may be written with the principal operator of the farm or business entity.

#### Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Fall protection systems.
- Spiral staircases, guardrail systems, or platforms for grain bins or silos built prior to June 2020.
- Engineering controls to prevent contact with an auger or other moving parts.
- Dust collection systems to minimize explosion hazards.
- Personal protective equipment to increase survivability in the event of a grain-bin-related emergency.
- Grain silo air quality monitoring equipment.
- Grain bin level gauges/indicators to reduce the need to climb bins.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for use in and around grain bins and silos, such as NIOSH-approved respirators and hearing protection.
- Other grain storage facility safety equipment with prior approval from the MDA.

## Ineligible expenses

The following items are examples of expenses that are not eligible for reimbursement:

- Expenditures incurred before the contract effective date or after its expiration date.
- Ladder cages.
- Spiral staircases, guardrail systems, or platforms for grain bin or silos built after June 2020.
- Grain condition monitors.
- Aeration vents/roof vents.
- Grain bin covers/lids.
- Replacing worn-out electrical cords/outlets.
- Truck stoppers and reflectors.
- Camera systems.
- Installing overhead electricity to bins.
- Replacing entry doors.
- Forklift platforms.
- Adding or replacing ladders.
- Personal or farm employee labor.
- Donated or volunteer (in-kind) services. While these may be given 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.
- Expenses paid for in cash.
- Service calls for general maintenance (contact grant administrator for prior approval of exceptions).

## Matching funds

Sources of matching funds may include cash, loans, other grants, and liquid capital assets dedicated to the project. State grant funds cannot be used for the grantee portion of the project, but non-forgivable loans from the state may be used as a match.

## Collaboration

Eligible applicants may collaborate with other farms, but this is not required. If you are submitting a joint application, you must determine which business or organization will have the grant contract agreement with the MDA and will work directly with the MDA to meet grant reporting requirements. Note that this organization will receive a 1099 from the State of Minnesota for income tax purposes.

## Disclaimer

The MDA is merely the grantor of state funds for this program. Approval and reimbursement of funds by the MDA for equipment purchased by the grantee does not make the MDA liable or responsible for the use of such equipment or any injuries or claims that might arise from such use. The MDA is also not responsible or liable for the quality of or inability to use such equipment purchased under this program.

# Application Review Policies

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## Application and review process

- Apply for the Grain Storage Facility Safety Grant using our [online application system](#).
- We are not responsible for any technical or logistical problems that result in a late submission. It is your responsibility to ensure we receive your application before the deadline.
- Only one application will be approved per farm per fiscal year.

A review committee will evaluate the project and make a funding recommendation. The project will either be:

- A. Approved, in which case you will receive a notification or award; or
- B. Denied, in which case you will receive a letter with the reason(s) for denial and how the application can be updated or resubmitted for reconsideration.

After your application is approved and you receive notification of the award, we will send you a grant contract agreement via DocuSign. You must sign your grant contract agreement within 30 days of it being sent to you. You may not begin to spend grant funds until your grant contract agreement has been fully executed (signed by you and the commissioner of agriculture or their designee).

## Privacy notice and data classification

The information provided by an applicant will be used to assess the applicant's eligibility to receive a grant under the Grain Storage Facility Safety Grant Program. 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 Government 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.

## 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 ([MINN. STAT.16B.98](#) and [OGM Policy 08-01 Conflict of Interest in State Grant-Making Policy](#)).

Organizational conflicts of interest occur when:

- A grantee or applicant is unable or potentially unable to give impartial assistance or advice to the MDA 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 suspected, disclosed, or discovered, the applicant or grantee will be notified and actions may be pursued, including but not limited to disqualification from eligibility for the grant award or termination of the grant agreement.

# Requirements for Grant Recipients

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## Grant award agreement

Upon approval of an application and before beginning work on the grant project(s) and receiving reimbursements, you must:

- Complete an IRS W-9 form or register as a vendor in SWIFT, the state's accounting system, and
- Submit other required documentation within 30 days of award notification; and
- Sign a grant contract agreement indicating your intention to complete the proposed tasks. The grant award document must be signed within 30 days.

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.

Grant contract agreement templates are available for review on the [Office of Grants Management Forms and FAQs](#) webpage.

## Payments

All grant funds are dispersed on a reimbursement basis. All grantee requests for reimbursement must correspond to the approved grant budget. To receive grant payments, you must provide proof that grant project work has been done by submitting details of each purchase on receipts or invoices and proof that the vendors have been paid. You must provide documentation showing payment for the full cost of the project, including the match portion.

## Accountability and reporting

Grant recipients must submit progress reports at the end of their project. Grant payments shall not be made on grants with past due progress reports unless the MDA has given the grantee a written extension.

Grant payments may be used to fulfill federal and state tax liabilities or may be withheld until the grantee has paid any tax liabilities ([MINN. STAT. 270C.65, Subd. 3](#) and other applicable laws).

## 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.



## Bidding requirements

All grantees must abide by the state's [bidding requirements](#) for items costing over \$10,000.

## Affirmative action and non-discrimination policy

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 ([MINN. STAT. 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](#).

## Project audits

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 MDA, the legislative auditor or the state auditor, and the commissioner of administration, as appropriate ([MINN. STAT. 16B.98, subd. 8](#)). This requirement will last for a minimum of six years from the grant 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.

## Voter registration requirement

The grantee will provide voter registration services for its employees ([MINN. STAT. 201.162](#)).

## Right of Cancellation

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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 Scoring Sheet

Evaluation criterion	Maximum score
<b>Applicant is a Minnesota resident and operates a farm or ranch located in Minnesota.</b>	Yes/No
<b>Project need</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicant clearly and compellingly describes the need for the project.</li> </ul>	Yes/No
<b>Project impact</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project will likely increase safety for those working near the grain bin(s) and/or silo(s).</li> </ul>	Yes/No
<b>Budget narrative and match</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget clearly details all project costs.</li> <li>Budget is cost effective and planned purchases are backed by quotes or estimates.</li> </ul>	Yes/No
<b>Eligible expenses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project request includes eligible expenses.</li> <li>Equipment will be purchased and paid for within the contract period.</li> </ul>	Yes/No
<b>Recommend for funding</b>	Yes/No

# Application Questions

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## Contact information

### Application information

- Applicant name
- Mailing address
- Applicant telephone
- Applicant email
- County
- Minnesota State House District (use the [District Finder](#) if you don't know your district.)

### Authorized representative

If awarded a grant, the person who will sign the Grain Storage Facility Safety Grant contract agreement for this organization. This is often you or other leadership on your farm.

- Name
- Telephone
- Email

### Farm operation

- Name of farm (if applicable)
- Farm address

## Eligibility

Confirm that the following statements apply to you or your organization.

- I am a current Minnesota resident or my business is authorized to farm in Minnesota. (Yes)
- I am the principal operator or have the authority to apply on behalf of the farm or business. (Yes)
- I warrant that I am not suspended or debarred from doing business with the State of Minnesota or with the federal government. (Yes)
- I understand that if my application is successful, the MDA cannot reimburse me for any project expenses incurred for work performed before the contract is fully executed (approximately six weeks after the application is submitted and approved). (Yes)
- Is the applicant, farm owner, or principal operator an MDA employee or spouse of an MDA employee? (Yes/No)
  - If yes, briefly describe the individual's role with the MDA and their relationship to the applicant/organization.
- Have you been awarded a grant from the State of Minnesota in the past 5 years? (Yes/No)
  - If yes, please provide the details of the award amount, the duties, and the outcomes of your grant.

## Project summary

### Project title

- Farm name and item(s) you're requesting; for example:
  - Peterson Farm, staircases on 2 grain bins
  - A1 Acres, silo air quality monitoring equipment

### Farm description

- Briefly describe your farming or ranching operation and include the total number of bins or silos on your farm. (500 characters, including spaces)

### Number of bins and silos

- How many bins and silos will receive or benefit from the equipment?
- List the year each bin or silo was built. (Note: Under this grant, the installation of spiral staircases, guardrail systems, or platforms on bins or silos built after June 2020 is not an eligible project.)

### Project description

- Tell us what kind of equipment will be purchased. How will this benefit your farming operation? (1,000 characters, including spaces)

### Total project cost

(number only)

### Total grant you are requesting

(number only)

- The grant requires a 25% match and reimburses 75% of eligible expenses up to \$400 per grain bin or silo with a maximum of \$2,400 per farm per fiscal year.

### Match confirmation

- I confirm that no other State of Minnesota funds will be used as a match for this project. (Yes)

### Project date

Note: Project materials and services cannot be purchased until after a grant contract agreement has been signed by all parties and has reached its start date. The contract period will be for one year after the start date. Any expenses incurred outside of the contract period are not eligible for reimbursement.

- When will you complete your project? (mm/dd/yyyy)

## Project budget

### Budget

- Create a budget using the example format below.
  - Do not attach bid sheets or quotes from vendors in place of a budget table.
  - **Tip:** If you name the contractors or suppliers you plan to use in your budget, you won't need to use a formal bidding process. This can save you time and effort later.

Item	Quantity	Number of bins benefitting	Total estimate	Source of estimate
Level alerts	4	2	\$705	ABC Supply
Face and hearing protection	3	5	\$250	Pete's PPE

### Budget narrative

(2000 characters, including spaces)

- Describe the need for each item listed in your budget.
- Explain how you plan to pay for your project (financing, other grants, private investment, personal investment, organization funds, etc.). While other state grant funds cannot be used to pay for this project, non-forgivable loans from the state may be used as a match.

### (Optional) Quotes and estimates

- Submit quotes or estimates for equipment or services.