

What is the Butchery Innovation and Revitalization Program?

The Butchery Innovation and Revitalization Fund, administered by the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), was created in 2021. The fund provides financial assistance in the form of grants to businesses for projects relating to small-scale meat processing, licensed custom lockers and mobile slaughter units.

Who is eligible to apply for the program?

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

- Incorporated or authorized to do business in Iowa
- Employ less than fifty (50) individuals
- An establishment that holds a current license from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) OR an establishment that documents it is actively working with IDALS to obtain a license (per IDALS/Meat and Poultry Inspection Service, Iowa Code section 189A)

What recent changes have been made to the program rules?

The following changes to administrative rules for the program are expected to be effective on or around October 24, 2022:

- Require that applicants complete an assessment of the proposed investment with the Center for Industrial Research and Service at Iowa State University (CIRAS)
- Create more flexibility in designation of the application review committee
- Increase the maximum award amount from \$50,000 to \$100,000
- Update the scoring criteria.

What types of projects are eligible for grant funding?

Eligible projects include:

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



How much total funding is available for the grant program?

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

What is the maximum award available to a qualified business?

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

Are there matching funds required?

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

What is the application process?**STEP 1:**

An assessment provided by the Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) must be completed before applying for the Butchery grant program. CIRAS will provide you a feedback report, which is required as part of your IEDA your grant application.

- See “CIRAS Assessment” link on [IEDA Butchery Innovation website](#). **The Assessment application opens on Oct. 10, 2022, and the deadline for submitting to CIRAS is Nov. 28, 2022.**

STEP 2:

The IEDA application for the program will open on November 1, 2022, and close on December 21, 2022. After receiving your CIRAS Assessment report, you can start your IEDA Butchery Grant application.

An online Butchery Innovation and Revitalization Program Application Form will be available on the [IEDA website](#). The ‘live’ application will be available on Nov. 7, 2022. **NOTE: No paper or handwritten applications will be accepted.**

**Can I save the application and return to complete it at a later time?**

NO. All online applications must be completed in a **single session**. The online form cannot be saved and restarted. Please plan ahead and use the Draft Application form and the Application Checklist sheet to have the proper information and supporting documents available for completion of the application.

What is the application deadline?

All applications must be received by Noon/12 p.m. on December 21, 2022.

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

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

What resources are available to help with my application process?

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

How are applications reviewed and evaluated for funding?

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

What are the criteria used for scoring applications?

Applications will be scored according to the following criteria:

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

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

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