

FACT SHEET

VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM (VSGP)



Food animal veterinarians are critical to maintaining a healthy, secure, and safe food supply. Today, there is a critical shortage of food animal veterinarians in both private and public practice, particularly in rural communities in the United States and territories. Food animal producers rely on veterinarians and veterinary technicians with expertise in food animal medicine and surgery as well as advanced training in herd health, diagnostic medicine, epidemiology, public health, and food safety.

VSGP SUMMARY

The Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP) provides funding to establish or expand educational programming, extension activities, and veterinary practices to ease food supply veterinarian service shortages in the U.S. and U.S. Insular Areas. There are two types of grants for VSGP: Education, Extension, and Training (EET) and Rural Practice Enhancement (RPE).

Important Facts

- VSGP has approximately \$3 million available for awards in fiscal year 2022
- VSGPP is authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).
- For FY 2021, VSGP received 51 applications
- For FY 2021, 7 EET awards were granted with an average amount of \$240,000
- For FY 2020, 10 RPE awards were granted with an average amount of \$125,000

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY FOR EET

- State, national, allied, or regional veterinary organization or food animal professional organizations by the American Veterinary Medical Association
- College or school of veterinary medicine and veterinary technician programs accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association
- University Research foundation or veterinary medical foundation

- Department of veterinary science or department of comparative medicine accredited by the Department of Education
- State agriculture experimental stations
- State, local, or tribal government agency

Program Area Priorities and Requirements for EET

Proposed EET activities must be designed to relieve veterinarian shortage situations or facilitate and support veterinary practices engaged in public health activities in the U.S. Proposals will be accepted for the development and implementation of traditional or non-traditional learning opportunities, non-degree educational training programs, courses associated with degree programs, certification programs, and/or continuing education. EET grant funds may be used for one or more of the following:

- Establish or expand accredited veterinary education programs, veterinary residency and fellowship programs, or veterinary internship and externship programs carried out in coordination with accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.
- Provide continuing education and extension, including veterinary telemedicine and other distance-based education, for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and other health professionals needed to strengthen veterinary programs and enhance food safety and public health,
- Cover travel and living expenses of veterinary students, veterinary interns, externs, fellows, and residents, and veterinary technician students attending training programs in food safety, public health, or food animal medicine.
- To expose students in grades 11 and 12 to education and career opportunities in food animal medicine.

***Preference will be given to EET applications proposing coordination with other qualified applicants. ***

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY FOR RPE

- Individuals and for-profit or nonprofit entities that operate a veterinary clinic providing veterinary services in designated veterinarian shortage situations

Program Area Priorities and Requirements for RPE

Rural Practice Enhancement grants support the establishment or expansion of veterinary services to relieve veterinarian shortage situations in areas of the U.S. and insular areas. Awards may be used for one or more of the following:

- Establish mobile veterinary facilities in which a portion of the mobile facilities will address education or extension needs.
- Equip veterinary practices
- Share in reasonable overhead costs of operating a veterinary practice
- To expose students in grades 11 and 12 to education and career opportunities in food animal medicine.

***RPE grantees must commit to three years of service in a designated shortage situation. ***

Eligible designated [shortage situation areas](#) for the RPE vary year to year. See the [VSGP RFA](#) during the open period for further guidance.

Contact

National Program Leaders:

Bob Smith, DVM, PhD – Robert.m.Smith@usda.gov

Kathe Bjork, DVM, PhD – Kathe.e.Bjork@usda.gov