



Inflation Reduction Act Assistance for Producers Who Experienced Discrimination in USDA Farm Loan Programs

(Last updated 5/15/2023; check <https://www.farmers.gov/22007> for updates.)

Overview

Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act, signed by President Biden in August 2022, provides \$2.2 billion in financial assistance for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA's farm lending programs prior to January 1, 2021.

USDA took immediate steps to convene listening sessions and seek public comment about the design of the program to ensure that farmers, advocates, academics, legislators, tribal governments, and other experts were heard. USDA has committed to making payments to farmers by the end of 2023.

Where We Are Now

After considering the public feedback, in March 2023, USDA announced the basic structure of the program. The IRA specifies this assistance must be delivered to impacted producers by nongovernmental program administrators.

USDA is in the process of finalizing plans with vendors who, together, will serve as a national administrator and four regional hubs that will conduct outreach and process applications from eligible farmers.

The application process is not yet open. USDA and the vendors are working to ensure the process will be simple and that technical assistance will be available. Applications for this program are free, and do not require a lawyer.

USDA is encouraging the vendors to partner with organizations that have experience in agriculture and that work with and represent producers, and who have a relationship with USDA. These partners or subcontractors may conduct outreach and assist potential applicants with the financial assistance application process.

In addition, USDA is bringing in other trusted cooperators to help conduct outreach and technical assistance, ensure potential applicants are informed about the program and have the opportunity to apply.

The vendors who will process the applications include Midtown Group, which will serve as the national administrator; Windsor Group, which will serve farmers in the eastern regions of the U.S.; and Analytic Acquisitions, which will serve the western regions. All three organizations have experience in professional services, supporting government contracts, and USDA programs.

What's Next

Specific details concerning the producer application process and timing will be made available soon.

USDA aims to distribute payments to impacted producers by the end of 2023. More information will be posted to <https://www.farmers.gov/22007> as it becomes available.

Learn More

Specific details concerning the producer application process and timing will be available in the coming weeks at <https://www.farmers.gov/22007>. For help with additional questions, please email askusda@usda.gov.

What to do if you are currently experiencing discrimination in USDA programs or need to find answers about a previously filed complaint?

If you are currently experiencing discrimination, you may contact the **Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR)** at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer>, Information Research Service, at (866) 632-9992 (toll free) or send an email to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at CR-INFO@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact OASCR through the Federal Relay Service on 711. Those who prefer Spanish can use (800) 845-6136.

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack:

“These funds are yet another step in the long march towards justice and an inclusive, equitable USDA. Through this program and a neutral, comprehensive financial assistance process, USDA will acknowledge wrongs of the past and open up avenues that provide farmers, ranchers and forest landowners who have experienced discrimination by USDA the opportunity to be heard.

“In providing this financial assistance, our goal is to make sure eligible people have adequate, understandable information about what is available to them, how to apply, and what to expect from USDA at each step. As we work to make all our programs more equitable, accessible and accountable, we are applying these same principles to make sure all Americans know how to engage with USDA's services so we can prevent more inequities and build new levels of trust with the People's Department going forward.”