



Council Connections

Bridging Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties
April 13, 2023



U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

Workforce Opportunities for Rural Communities (WORC) Round 5: A Grant Initiative for the Appalachia, Delta, and Northern Border Regions

The WORC Initiative provides grant funds to enable impacted communities to develop local and regional workforce development solutions aligned with existing economic development strategies and community partnerships to promote new, sustainable job opportunities and long-term economic vitality.

To learn more about this opportunity, visit [this link](#).



MARBIDCO



Value-Added Producer Grants Now Available

MARBIDCO has grant funds available in conjunction with the USDA Value-Added Producer Grant Program to help meet USDA's fund-matching requirement. These grant funds must be used for planning or working capital purposes in line with USDA regulations.

These federal grant funds can be used for planning (up to \$75,000) or working capital expenses (up to \$250,000) in accordance with USDA regulations.

Eligible purposes include feasibility studies or business plans, working capital for producing and marketing value-added agricultural products, and for farm-based renewable energy projects.

The USDA VAPG offers two options:

Grant and matching funds can be used for **planning activities or for working capital** expenses related to producing and marketing a value-added agricultural product.

Examples of planning activities include conducting feasibility studies and developing business plans for processing and marketing the proposed value-added product.

Examples of working capital expenses include:

- Processing costs
- Marketing and advertising expenses
- Some inventory and salary expenses

The MARBIDCO maximum grant amount is \$11,250 for Planning Grants and \$25,000 for Working Capital Grants.

Eligible applicants must be an independent producer, agricultural producer group, farmer or ranch cooperative, or majority-controlled producer-based business venture (all defined terms under federal regulations).

The deadline for the MARBIDCO grant application is May 1, 2023

The deadline for the **USDA grant application** is May 16, 2023.

Please visit USDA's Rural Development website for information about the USDA Value Added Producer Grant, **here**.

Visit www.marbidco.org for an application and more information.

Read press release **here**.



8(a) Certification Including Doing Business With The Federal Government

April 18, 2023

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

For more details and to Register, follow [this link](#).

Effective Marketing Strategies Focusing On Social Media

April 19, 2023

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

For more details and to Register, follow [this link](#).

Visit the [SBDC Training Calendar](#) for more Event Opportunities

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