

## **Veterinary Services Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions**

**The Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP) was authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill. The overall goal is to help mitigate food supply and public health veterinary shortage situations in the U.S.**

### **Who can apply?**

There are 7 broad categories:

1. A US-based for-profit, nonprofit, or individual operating a veterinary clinic and providing services in a designated veterinarian shortage situation and in a rural area (as defined in 7 U.S.C. 1991 (a)(13));
2. State, national, allied, or regional veterinary organizations or specialty boards recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association;
3. American Veterinary Medical Association accredited colleges or schools of veterinary medicine;
4. University research or veterinary medical foundations;
5. Departments of veterinary science or comparative medicine accredited by the Department of Education;
6. State agricultural experiment stations; or
7. State, local, or tribal government agencies.

### **What types of projects/activities can be supported?**

Broadly speaking, there are two types of competitive grants supported, “education” and “equipment”. To qualify for a grant, eligible entities must substantially relieve veterinarian shortage situations or support or relieve private veterinary practices engaged in public health activities. “Education grants” can support recruitment; training programs in food safety or food animal medicine; establishing or expanding veterinary residency, fellowship, internship or externship programs; continuing education and extension including telemedicine and other distance-based education to strengthen veterinary programs and enhance food safety; or technical assistance for preparing shortage situation nominations. “Equipment grants” are for establishing or expanding veterinary practices by equipping veterinary offices; sharing in overhead costs; or establishing mobile veterinary facilities that address education or extension needs.

### **Will these be renewable grants?**

Equipment grants will not be renewable. However, education grants may be subject to competitive renewal in future fiscal years depending on Congressional appropriations. Our current funds are for one year and thus all funds must be obligated prior to the end of the fiscal year.

### **How will NIFA encourage applicants to collaborate with each other?**

This is a legislative requirement for prioritizing funding, thus the request for application (RFA) will specify that applications proposing collaboration among qualified entities will be strengthened.

**Are both the educational and equipment grants limited to the shortage areas or are just the equipment grants limited to shortage areas?**

Applicants for equipment grants must be practicing in shortage situations. Applicants for educational grants need not be located in a shortage situation, but the program proposed must be designed to alleviate veterinarian shortage situations.

**Are applications available? If not when and where will they be available?**

Applications will be available through grants.gov once the application period opens. We anticipate opening the application period in late April 2016. Please check our website [www.nifa.usda.gov/vsgp](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/vsgp) for access to application materials and application instructions. You can also sign up to receive notifications from Grants.gov when NIFA publishes the request for applications here <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/manage-subscriptions.html>.

**Can VSGP funds be used for building new facilities and adding to existing facilities (e.g., stocks)?**

The legislation specifically prohibits using the funds to build a new building or facility or to acquire, expand, remodel, or alter an existing building or facility, including site grading and improvement and architect fees.