

Veterinary Services Grant Program

Fact Sheet

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the establishment of the Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP; [Veterinary Services Grant Program](#)) as a companion to the Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP; [Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program](#)) to incentivize service in veterinarian shortage situations. VSGP expands on the educational loan repayments offered under the VMLRP by offering competitive grant funding to bolster national food supply veterinary capacity and infrastructure needs.

In fiscal year (FY) 2019, approximately \$3 million is available for VSGP awards 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. Grant proposals are being solicited under two project types: “**Education, Extension and Training**” and “**Rural Practice Enhancement**”.

Applicant Eligibility for *Education, Extension and Training (EET) Projects*

- State, national, allied, or regional veterinary organization or specialty board recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association;
- College or school of veterinary medicine 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 agricultural experiment station; or
- State, local, or tribal government agency.

Program Area Priorities and Requirements for EET Projects

Proposed educational, extension or training activities must be designed to substantially relieve veterinarian shortage situations or facilitate or 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 purposes:

- To allow veterinary students, veterinary interns, externs, fellows, and residents, and veterinary technician students to cover expenses (other than the types of expenses described in the rural practice enhancement program area) of attending training programs in food safety or food animal medicine.
- To establish or expand accredited veterinary education programs (including faculty recruitment and retention), veterinary residency and fellowship programs, or veterinary internship and externship programs carried out in coordination with accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.
- To 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.

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

***Applicants should refer to the RFA for categories of trainees targeted in FY 2019. ***

Applicant Eligibility for *Rural Practice Enhancement (RPE) Projects*

- For-profit or nonprofit entities that operate a veterinary clinic providing veterinary services in designated rural veterinarian shortage situations; or
- Individuals who, operate a veterinary clinic providing veterinary services in designated rural veterinarian shortage situations

Program Area Priorities and Requirements for RPE Projects

Rural Practice Enhancement grants will support the establishment or expansion of veterinary services to relieve veterinarian shortage situations in areas of the U.S. officially designated as “rural”. Funds may be used for one or more of the following:

RPE grant funds may be used for one or more of the following purposes:

- Equip veterinary practices;
- Share in reasonable overhead costs of operating a veterinary practice;
- Establish mobile veterinary facilities in which a portion of the mobile facilities will address education or extension needs.

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

Eligible designated shortage situations for the RPE vary year to year. See the VSGP RFA during the open period for further guidance regarding eligible shortage situations and instructions to confirm “rural” status.

Applying for Funding

Only electronic applications submitted via Grants.gov will be accepted. For instructions on how to apply visit nifa.usda.gov/vsgp-applicants.

Agency Contact

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact **Dr. Robert M. Smith**, National Program Leader, Veterinary Clinical and Non-Clinical Medicine, at (202) 401- 4892 or vsgp@nifa.usda.gov.