



SUGARHOUSE GRANT PROGRAM & APPLICATION

Background

VMSMA's Sugarhouse Grant Program is funded through a 2022 federal earmark (aka Congressionally Directed Spending) in partnership with Senator Leahy's office. The earmark includes funding for VMSMA to create this Grant Program for Vermont sugar makers who participate in the Sugarhouse Certification Program. Funding, from \$1,500 to \$15,000 for individual operations, will be available to support Vermont's sugar makers as part of this five-year earmark. Funding will be on a first-come, first-served basis and will be available until funding is depleted.

Eligibility

Vermont sugar makers who participate in the Sugarhouse Certification Program are eligible to apply for grant funding in order to meet the requirements of their specific Certification.

There are several ways to receive funding from the Grant Program. The first step is always participation in the VMSMA Sugarhouse Certification Program. Once the onsite portion of Certification is complete, operations are either Certified or they receive a corrective action list that needs to be remedied before they are Certified.

1. **For Sugar Makers whose onsite Certification visit occurred before January 1, 2023.** Operations who complete the Certification Program, have no corrective actions to remedy before receiving their two-year Certificate, and who completed upgrades within 6 months of the onsite visit to ensure they were compliant with the Program requirements. These operations can apply for grant funding for upgrades completed (which are related to the Sugarhouse Certification Checklist) within 6 months prior to the onsite visit.
2. **For Sugar Makers whose onsite Certification visit occurs on or after January 1, 2023.**
 - a. Operations who complete the Certification Program and have no corrective actions to remedy before receiving their two-year Certification. These operations will receive free Certification at the two-year mark through this grant funding.
 - b. Operations who complete the onsite visit portion of the Certification Program and have corrective actions to remedy before receiving their two-year Certification. These operations can apply for grant funding for upgrades needed to remedy the stated corrective actions.



Funding & Timing of Funds

Eligible Vermont sugar makers can apply for one of the following levels of funding:

1. Up to \$1,500 in grant funding with no match requirements. VMSMA will grant up to \$1,500 in funding for eligible Vermont sugar makers as noted above.
2. \$1,501 to \$15,000 in grant funding with a 25% match requirement. For projects that are estimated to cost more than \$1,500, eligible sugar makers will need to fund 25% of the project cost and can apply for a grant for 75% of the cost. For example, if you have a project that totals \$20,000, you could apply for \$15,000 in grant funding and you would have to fund the remaining \$5,000 (or 25%).

For grants of less than \$1,500, you will need to include a reasonable project quote and VMSMA will mail a check to your business for the entire amount. See below for grant reporting requirements.

For grants of more than \$1,500, you will need to include a reasonable project quote. VMSMA will mail a check for 50% of the cost to your business. The remaining 50% will be paid upon project completion. If you would prefer that VMSMA pay your equipment dealer or similar contractor directly, please note that on your application. See below for grant reporting requirements.

Reporting Requirements

For grants of less than \$1,500: Within 30 days of the conclusion of the project, you will need to report on project completion to VMSMA via email or USPS mail, using the provided form. Appropriate completion of this form will close out your grant requirements.

For grants of more than \$1,500: Within 30 days of the conclusion of the project, you will need to report on project completion to VMSMA via email or USPS mail, using the provided form. Appropriate completion of this form will allow us to mail you the remaining 50% of your grant funding which will be based on actual costs if they are different from quoted/estimated costs.



VMSMA GRANT APPLICATION

Ready to apply? Please complete this form and email it to Allison Hope, VMSMA Executive Director, or mail it to VMSMA, PO Box 854, Richford VT 05476. We will not be able to consider applications that have not completed all sections of this application and attached a project estimate or quote as required.

Sugarhouse & Contact Information

Company Name:

Physical Address (Street number, City, State, Zip):

Mailing/Business Address (or same as above):

Company Contact Person:

Name:

Title:

Phone Number:

Email:

Grant Funding Requested

Funding Requested (not to exceed \$15,000):

Project Description (please share details on the specific project to be completed and how it relates to your corrective action list). Use additional sheets of paper as needed to describe your project.:

Any other information about the project you would like to share?

You must attach to this application (whether mailed or emailed) any estimates or quotes you have to support the amount of grant funding you are requesting.

For VMSMA to complete:

Date of onsite Certification:

VMSMA Certifier Name:

Date of Corrective Action List:

Date of Grant Application:

Final Grant Award:

Date Grant Paid: