Application Flow

Applicants
Submit applications online, by mail, or in-person.
Note: Application period closed January 17, 2024.

Regional Hubs or National Administrator
Log and acknowledge application. Scan and enter data from paper applications.

Regional Hubs
- Check applications for signatures, social security numbers, verification of address/identity.
- Seek supplemental information if these items are missing or inconsistent.

National Administrator
Two independent teams each assess eligibility by asking:
- Did the applicant farm or ranch or try to farm or ranch?
- Did the applicant participate in USDA farm lending or try to participate in USDA farm lending?
- Did the applicant experience discrimination by USDA before 2021?

If yes, the team scores the application using the USDA-approved guidance.
If the answer to any of these questions is no, the team deems applicant ineligible.

Reconciles differences between the two teams.

USDA
Sets and enforces standards; oversees payment integrity with a focus on higher-risk areas, including applications where review teams disagree; and endorses final decisions on awards and denials.

National Administrator
Makes payments.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. Updated March 22, 2024