

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN FARMERS UNION AND FARM AID'S EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANTS

## QUICK SHEET

### PROGRAM'S OBJECTIVE

The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union has partnered with Farm Aid and a coalition of other organizations throughout the west to help distribute small grants to those who are experiencing hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These small grants are intended as emergency relief to assist farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers with household expenses.

### AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE

Successful applicants will receive a one-time \$500 emergency resilience award.

Use of the funds is restricted to household expenses, such as:

- Groceries
- Home utilities
- Medical bills
- Counseling
- Other household expenses not directly related to the commercial operation of a farm or ranch.

The funds may not be used for any business expense or investment. The IRS guidelines regarding direct assistance to farm, ranch, and farmworker families prevent Farm Aid from granting funds to support a farm or ranch and its business costs. By accepting the award, the awardee signifies that they understand and agree to these requirements.

### ELIGIBILITY

Farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers who have suffered hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis in CO, WY, NM, ID, UT, AZ, and MT are eligible to apply for the emergency grant. Funds are reserved for those who have the highest need, with 50 percent of funds reserved for farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers who are in a socially disadvantaged group. A list of qualifying socially disadvantaged groups is provided by the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and Farm Aid below.

Family farms and ranches are defined as those where a substantial portion of family income comes from agricultural production and one or more members of the family is actively engaged in day-to-day farm or ranch management and labor. Only one grant is allowed per family/farm or ranch operation.

To qualify for the preference, more than half of the agricultural business must be owned by individuals who are socially disadvantaged. Groups that qualify for preference under this fund are women and/or farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers of color (Black/African American, Asian/Asian American, Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, or Alaska Native).

### REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed on a weekly basis until funds run out. Checks will be issued to approved applicants within 10 business days of weekly review meetings. Applications can be submitted online via the online form, available [here](#). Applications may also be mailed to Nick Levendofsky, 7900 East Union Ave. Suite 200 Denver, CO 80237. It is encouraged that individuals submit their applications as soon as possible, using the online form to ensure funds are still available.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN FARMERS UNION AND FARM AID'S EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANTS

### CONSIDERATIONS

- Rural residences that obtain a small portion of income from agricultural products are not eligible for the emergency grants.
- The Intermountain West Partnership and its member organizations will only use this information for processing applications and the required reporting to Farm Aid. The Intermountain West Partnership and member organizations will not share this information with any other individuals or organizations unless required by law.

### WHO CAN BE CONTACTED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT?

For assistance with the application, please contact Harrison Topp, 303-918-3538, [Harrison.topp@rmfu.org](mailto:Harrison.topp@rmfu.org).

---

*Source: [www.rmfu.org/](http://www.rmfu.org/)*

*Version 8/3/20*