

LOOKING FOR A GRANT? Please keep in mind that government grants typically fund *projects* and *research*, **not** people or small businesses (this includes farms, both traditional *and* aquaponic). **State and Federal grants are *not* for individuals looking to begin, save, maintain or expand a business.** Federal grants are paid for by taxpayers, so there are *very strict* eligibility, application, selection and reporting requirements.

Generally, you must be an *IRS-designated*-non-profit 501(c)3, cooperative, commission, university, or unit of local government to qualify for a federal/state grant. People and/or private businesses very rarely qualify for these grants. If you're advised to form a non-profit just for the sake of getting government grants, you're being misled! It's not that simple.

That said, below are some resources that could be helpful in your search. **Note that the below grants/loans are *not* administered through the Georgia Department of Agriculture** and the *only* information that we can provide on these grants is contained in the links below.

The Federal government has compiled this info: <http://afsic.nal.usda.gov/farms-and-community/grants-and-loans-farmers> and http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=GRANTS_LOANS which may be helpful in your search.

Farm Bill programs: <http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/farm-bill-programs-and-grants/>

Agriculture grants that may occasionally be available to individuals (on a competitive basis with specific requirements) are the USDA-SARE grants: <http://www.southernshare.org/Grants/Types-of-Grants>

Another set are administered by NRCS/USDA:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/ga/home/?cid=nrcs144p2_021771

If you're looking to *start* a farm, here is some good info: <https://newfarmers.usda.gov/>

Do you own a farm? You may want to speak with someone from your local [county agriculture extension office](#), as well as the local [USDA Rural Development office](#). They may be able to give you some advice.

Are you a US Veteran? If so, you may want to look into the 2501 program: <http://www.outreach.usda.gov/grants/>

The Small Business Administration offers low interest **loans** for those who qualify <http://www.sba.gov/>

The USDA also offers a **loan** program: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=landing>

So does the Georgia Development Authority (GDA): <https://www.gdaonline.com/>

You may also want to read these **helpful articles** from the FSA and the SBA, which clear-up some of the most common misconceptions about Federal grants:

http://askfsa.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1179

<https://www.sba.gov/blogs/truth-behind-government-grants-small-businesses>

And finally, from the Federal government's own [Grants.gov](#) Website: Are you an individual or family looking for financial assistance? Visit the [Benefits.gov](#) site and find benefits, browse State programs, or learn about Federal programs. We have all seen them; late night infomercials, websites, and reference guides, advertising "millions in free money." **Don't believe the hype!** Although there are many funding opportunities on Grants.gov, few of them are available to individuals and *none* of them are available for personal financial assistance. To find an alphabetical listing of federal personal assistance visit the [USA.gov website](#).