

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Applications (RFA) Administrative Partner Subawards for IAMP Producer Enrollment and Engagement

Additional questions and answers will be posted as they become available.

General RFA information

1. Where is information on the Request for Applications (RFA)?

Information is available at iamp.uidaho.edu/subawards, or via the Innovative Agriculture and Marketing Partnership for Idaho (IAMP) homepage, iamp.uidaho.edu/, by clicking on the “Partner Subawards” link. A recording of an information webinar is also available [here](#).

2. How many subawards will be awarded?

The University of Idaho (U of I) has \$2,266,800 available to support subawards to administrative partners. U of I expects to fund approximately 22 subawards, with estimated amounts ranging from \$34,200 to \$245,400 over three years. The range of awards are estimates and do not indicate a minimum or maximum funding level.

3. How will subaward proposals be evaluated and selected?

There are several basic requirements applicants must meet to receive federal funding. For more information, see Section 7.4 in the [RFA](#), “Eligibility requirements.” Proposals will be evaluated based on criteria outlined in Section 9.1 in the [RFA](#), “Evaluation and Selection” — including experience working with producers, experience working with the practices supported by the program, producer interest in the district, and financial resources required per acre enrolled. This information was also reviewed in the informational webinar (a recording is available to view [here](#)).

4. Are successful applicants (Administrative Partners) required to recruit or support a certain number of underserved producers?

No. The IAMP project has a goal for approximately 30 percent of enrolled producers to be underserved, but there is no set requirement for the number or percentage of producers recruited or supported by Administrative Partners.

5. When should subaward applications be submitted?

Applications will be accepted and evaluated for funding until all available funds are awarded, or until April 30, 2025, whichever occurs first. Funds are limited, so applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

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6. When do applicants get notified if their application is successful?

Applicants can expect to hear from U of I within a month after their application is submitted, if not sooner. For successful applicants, the estimated time for a subaward agreement to be fully executed is about four months after the application is submitted. However, this timeline can vary depending on how long it takes U of I to receive approval from USDA, and how quickly the applicant responds to requests from U of I.

7. How can applicants ask additional questions about the RFA, including budgeting or technical requirements?

Questions can be submitted to iamp@uidaho.edu. You can request a call back if you'd like to speak with a team member over the phone.

Budget development

8. Where can applicants find guidance about creating a budget?

Links to budget and budget justification examples and templates are available in Section 10 of the [RFA](#), "Required Forms, Templates, Examples, and Resources for Applicants." You can also email iamp@uidaho.edu with any questions. Share your phone number if you'd prefer to call back.

9. Can funding be used to hire a contractor to serve in a key role/position (e.g., project manager)?

No. Contractors may not serve as key personnel. Hiring a professional services company or contractor to provide work as defined in [2 CFR 200.331 Contractor Determinations](#) is allowed. Please note that federal procurement guidelines must be followed. If you plan to include a service contractor in your application, please reach out to the IAMP team at iamp@uidaho.edu for additional guidance in drafting your application. Include your phone number if you would prefer a call back.

10. Can an organization partner with other organizations (like conservation districts) to submit an application?

U of I does not recommend an arrangement where a lead organization receives a subaward and then provides some of that funding to other organizations as their sub-subawardees; this adds a level of complexity due to the added financial and administrative burden

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involved for the lead organization. U of I's recommendation is for organizations partnering together to each submit their own application, and include an explanation about how the organizations plan to collaborate.

11. When can applicants start outreach activities to recruit producers? Are advance payments available to support this work?

In order to receive reimbursement for any work or activities related to IAMP, an organization selected for funding as an Administrative Partners must have a fully executed subaward agreement signed by both themselves and U of I. Administrative Partners should not expect to receive funding or reimbursement for any work performed before their subaward agreement was fully executed.

Working with producers

12. What producers are eligible to apply for IAMP?

Farmers and ranchers of the major commodities included in the IAMP project, who are located anywhere in the state of Idaho, are eligible to apply. Major commodities included are barley, beef, chickpeas, hops, potatoes, sugar beets and wheat.

13. What practices can producers implement to receive compensation through IAMP?

Covered practices include cover cropping, cover cropping with livestock grazing, reduced or no-till, interseeding, precision fertilizer application, and partial nitrogen fertilizer replacement with biochar or compost. Producers can pick which practices they would like to try. More information on practices is available at iamp.uidaho.edu/practice-summary/v1.1.

14. Can producers already using some of these practices still enroll?

Yes — however, producers who are already receiving funding for the same practice on the same acreage through another program will not be eligible for duplicate payments. Early adopters of some of these practices are encouraged to seize the opportunity to implement new climate smart practices they haven't adopted yet, that may become a staple in their operation.

15. Are there limits to the total compensation a producer can receive, the amount of incentive they can receive per acre, or the number of acres they can enroll?

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There are currently no limits on compensation or acres enrolled that apply across the entire project, but to meet IAMP's enrollment objectives, annual incentive payment limits or acreage caps may be imposed, and these may vary by region, commodity or partner organization.

16. If a producer already submitted an IAMP application last fall, do they need to submit a new application now?

No. If a producer submitted an application in the fall and has not heard anything yet, they should be contacted by U of I soon. If the producer would like to make changes to the application they already submitted, they can contact iamp@uidaho.edu.

17. When can producers start implementing practices?

When they have a fully executed contract, signed by themselves and U of I. Due to the time it takes to review and select successful applicants, and finalize subaward agreements, summer of 2025 is likely the earliest that practices can be implemented for producers working with Administrative Partners.

18. What if producers who want to enroll in IAMP are located in a conservation district that isn't participating in IAMP?

In those areas where conservation districts are not interested in participating in IAMP, another organization may be available to partner with the producer, or U of I may be able to work with producers directly.

Districts are encouraged to communicate and collaborate in specific regions or divisions to come up with creative solutions such as a lead district working with growers outside their district. A lead district may have some technical expertise they could share with a neighboring district. In these types of scenarios, the subaward application should define how a coordinated effort would work.

Although it may be possible for one district to lead a subaward and provide funding to other districts as their sub-subawardees, this is not recommended as it adds a level of complexity due to the added financial and administrative burden involved for the lead district. U of I's recommendation is for districts partnering together to each submit their own application, and include an explanation about how the districts expect to collaborate.

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19. Will successful applicants (Administrative Partners) be required to take soil samples of producers' fields?

Administrative Partners at Engagement Level 2 or 3 may be asked to assist with taking samples during site visits, or to help work with producers to coordinate a time when U of I staff can take samples.

20. Can subaward funding be used to promote our company's product or technology to producers?

Subaward funding should not be used to advertise, sell or promote a specific company's product or technology. For-profit businesses that receive subawards to become Administrative Partners cannot require the producers they support with subaward funds to become or remain customers of their business, or use a specific product or technology. Recruiting and supporting producers who are existing customers is allowable, as long as the producer is not required to maintain an ongoing business relationship in order to continue to receive IAMP support.

Administrative Partners may not prohibit or otherwise limit a producer from changing the provider of other services or materials not included as part of the IAMP grant. Administrative Partners may not condition, limit, steer, or discriminate in their provision or sale of non-project business functions or products to producers based on their participation or non-participation in or use of any services provided as part of IAMP.

Administrative Partners may not engage in any advertising deemed by USDA as disparaging to another agricultural commodity or competing product, or in violation of the prohibition against false and misleading advertising. Disparagement is defined as anything that depicts other commodities in a negative or unpleasant light via overt or subjective video, photography, or statements. Comparative advertising is allowable, provided the presentation of facts is truthful, objective, not misleading, and supported by a reasonable basis.

Please see Section U (For-Profit Organization Provisions) in USDA's [General Terms and Conditions October 2024.pdf](#) for additional information about for-profit organizations receiving federal funding, including subawards.

Next steps for successful applicants

21. After the subaward agreement is fully executed (signed by both parties), can changes be made to the budget?

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It is possible to make changes to the budget, but all changes need to be routed to U of I utilizing the university's IAMP Subrecipient Prior Approval Request Form. Additionally, some requests may require USDA approval, and/or U of I's approval may depend on whether funding is available to support the change.

Organizations whose applications are successful will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge of agricultural practices and increase their capacity to support producers — through trainings, resources and networking provided by U of I and other partners. When developing a budget and estimating costs, keep in mind that guidance and support will be available from U of I technical experts and graduate students to help Administrative Partners working with producers.

22. How will successful applicants receive funding?

U of I is not able to provide an upfront lump sum payment. Costs are reimbursed once invoices and all required documentation are submitted to U of I. However, U of I will provide a cash advance option for all Administrative Partners, if needed to assist the partners with cash flow.