

USDA Seafood Processors Pandemic Response and Safety Block Grant Program (USDA SPRS)

Applications for Connecticut's USDA SPRS are Now Available Application Deadline is JUNE 30, 2023

The 2021 SPRS Block Grant Program, part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, signed into law on December 27, 2020, authorized the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to provide \$50 million to eligible state agencies to provide relief to seafood dealers and seafood processors. Connecticut's allocation is \$200,000. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) will issue payments to CT based seafood dealers, wholesalers and processors for expenses required to prepare for, prevent exposure to, and respond to the COVID-19 between January 27, 2020 and December 31, 2021. To qualify for SPRS reimbursement, applicants must participate in a CT based seafood dealing/wholesaling/processing business. The CT DEEP will determine individual disbursements following the application closing date, as individual disbursements will be dependent upon the number of applicants and the proportion of expenses for each applicant in each of the six expense categories.

Application materials for Connecticut's USDA SPRS Block Grant are now available at:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Seafood-Processors-Grant-Program>

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) will distribute these reimbursement funds to qualified eligible beneficiaries at the direction of the CT DEEP. More details on CT's USDA SPRS program, including general information and eligibility criteria can be found in the Connecticut USDA SPRS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, available at the link above. All interested parties are strongly encouraged to review the FAQ document before applying for CT USDA SPRS reimbursement. The following is a brief summary of primary CT USDA SPRS reimbursement eligibility requirements:

- You must own or operate a seafood dealing/wholesaling/processing business in CT
- You must qualify to apply for reimbursement based on the definitions of eligible beneficiaries provided by the USDA
- You must have incurred eligible expenses to prepare for, prevent exposure to, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic during the period of January 27, 2020 through December 31, 2021
- You must not have applied for SPRS reimbursement from any other State or Territory
- Reimbursement disbursements cannot be made to minors or any business that owes a debt to the federal government

Please review the FAQ document for further details related to these requirements.

If you believe you are eligible for CT USDA SPRS Block Grant reimbursement, please fill out the required combined self-certification affidavit and application and submit it by using one of the following methods:

- E-mail submission: CTSEAPRO@asmfc.org
- Submission via U.S. Mail (must be received or postmarked **by June 30, 2023**):

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
ATTN: Laura Leach
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

We strongly encourage application submission via e-mail. If you submit your combined affidavit and application by U.S. Mail, we ask that you **please contact the Marine Fisheries Program to let us know, so that we can tell ASMFC to expect your application in the mail.** Please do so by leaving a voicemail at 860-434-6043 by selecting menu option 2, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

For questions regarding CT's USDA SPRS program, please e-mail deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov or leave a voicemail at 860-434-6043 by selecting menu option 2, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm and a staff member will return your call.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are seeking a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English, wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint, or require some other accommodation, including equipment to facilitate virtual participation, please contact us at 860-418-5910 or by email at deep.accommodations@ct.gov. Any person needing an accommodation for hearing impairment may call the State of Connecticut relay number - 711. In order to facilitate efforts to provide an accommodation, please request all accommodations as soon as possible following notice of any agency hearing, meeting, program or event.