

State Representative
John Patterson
99th House District



State Representative
Sarah LaTourrette
76th House District

Dear Friend of Maple,

We would like to bring your attention to a grant opportunity through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). AMS is seeking to competitively award grants specific to the maple syrup industry. Below is information from the USDA about the grant criteria, as well as a link to the USDA AMS website's page for grant application instructions.

Acer Access and Development Program

Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Marketing Service

USDA-AMS-TM-ACER-G-18-0006

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), requests applications for the fiscal year (FY) 2018 Acer Access and Development Program (Acer). AMS will competitively award grants to eligible applicants for projects that support the efforts of States, tribal governments, and research institutions to promote the domestic maple syrup industry through activities associated with: promotion of research and education related to maple syrup production; promotion of natural resource sustainability in the maple syrup industry; market promotion for maple syrup and maple-sap products; encouragement of owners and operators of privately held land containing species of trees in the genus *Acer*—to initiate or expand maple-sugaring activities on the land; or to voluntarily make the land available, including by lease or other means, for access by the public for maple-sugaring activities.

Approximately \$3 million is available in total to fund applications under this solicitation. The final amount available is subject to Congressional action. The maximum award is \$500,000. In the FY 2017 application cycle, AMS received 11 applications and funded 3 (27%) of the applications. As such, to be competitive, applications must be complete and of high quality.

To support the efforts of States, tribal governments, and research institutions to promote the domestic maple syrup industry through the following activities:

- (1) Promotion of research and education related to maple syrup production.

- (2) Promotion of natural resource sustainability in the maple syrup industry.
- (3) Market promotion for maple syrup and maple-sap products.
- (4) Encouragement of owners and operators of privately held land containing species of trees in the genus Acer:
 - A. to initiate or expand maple-sugaring activities on the land; or
 - B. to voluntarily make the land available, including by lease or other means, for access by the public for maple-sugaring activities.

This announcement provides information about the eligibility criteria for applicants and projects, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for an award.

Dates: June 08, 2018

Link:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/acer/how-to-apply>

We believe that this grant complements our maple property tax exemption proposal through House Bill 606, and encourage you to apply for this opportunity or share it with others.



John Patterson
State Representative
Ohio House District 99



Sarah LaTourette
State Representative
Ohio House District 76