

26 Consumer Services to support the start-up functions associated
27 with new farming and ranching operations.

28 (a) Grants administered by the Department of Agriculture
29 and Consumer Services through the program must be for the
30 purpose of fostering the creation and expansion of agricultural
31 businesses by young farmers and ranchers in this state.

32 (b) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
33 shall select grant recipients based on selection criteria
34 adopted pursuant to subsection (2).

35 (2)(a) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
36 shall adopt rules governing the operation of the program,
37 including an application process and selection criteria for
38 grant recipients.

39 (b) At a minimum, in order to be eligible to receive a
40 grant, an individual must meet all of the following
41 requirements:

42 1. Be an agricultural producer, be an employee of a farm
43 or ranch, or be an agricultural producer who is a veteran as
44 defined in s. 1.01(14).

45 2. Be at least 18 years of age but not older than 35 years
46 of age.

47 3. Have operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10
48 years.

49 4. Demonstrate, at minimum, a dollar-for-dollar matching
50 investment for the grant amount requested.

51 5. Submit, on a form prescribed by the Department of
52 Agriculture and Consumer Services, a grant application during
53 the application period established by the Department of
54 Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Department of Agriculture
55 and Consumer Services may designate only one period each year
56 for accepting applications.

57 (3) Each grant award under the program must be at least
58 \$5,000 but not more than \$20,000, and a grant recipient may not
59 receive more than one award per grant period.

60 (4) Annual grant funding for this program is contingent
61 upon specific annual appropriation by the Legislature.

62 Section 2. For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the sum of
63 \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General
64 Revenue Fund to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
65 Services for the purpose of implementing this act.

66 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.