

# Value-Added Producer Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2009

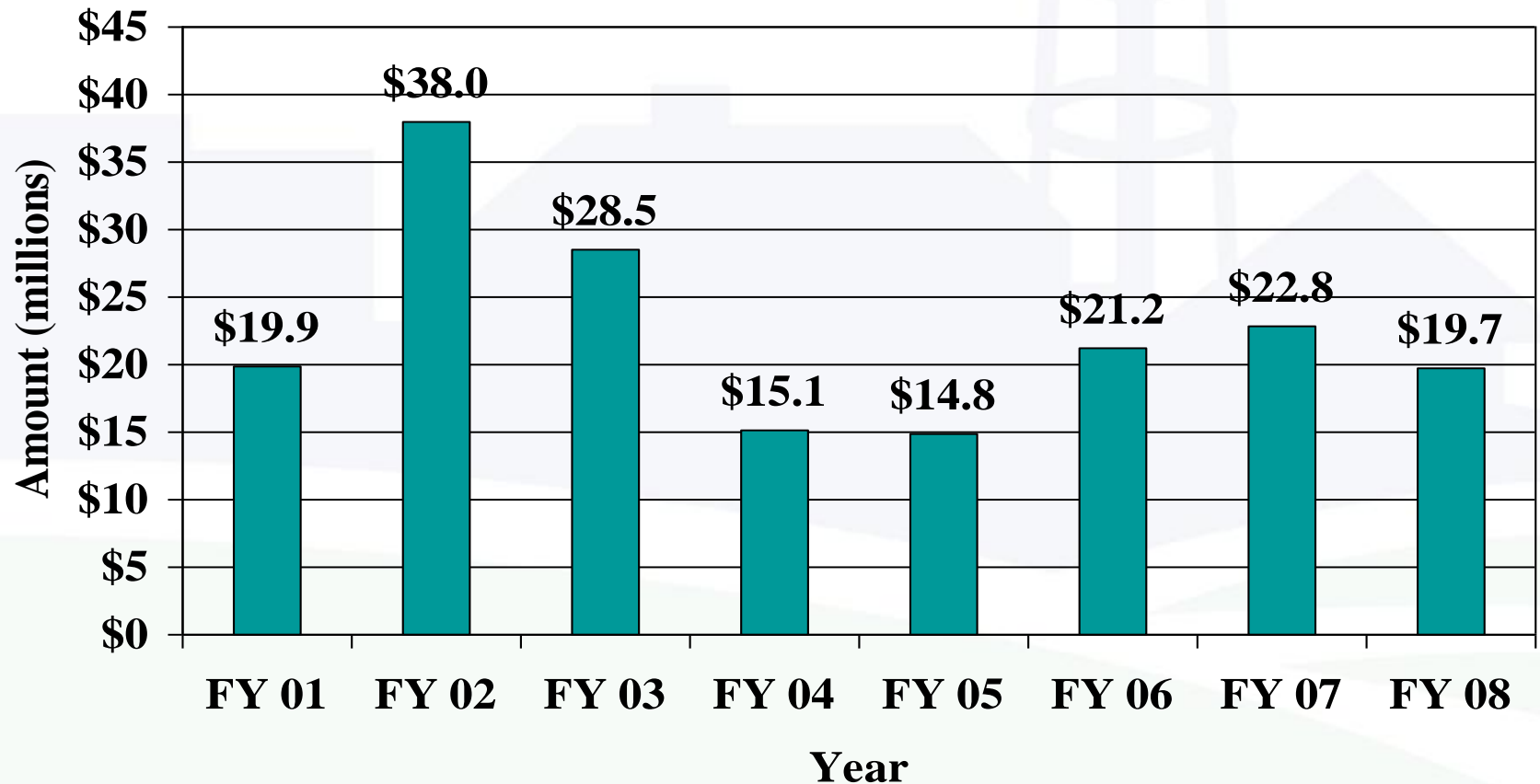


# Purpose

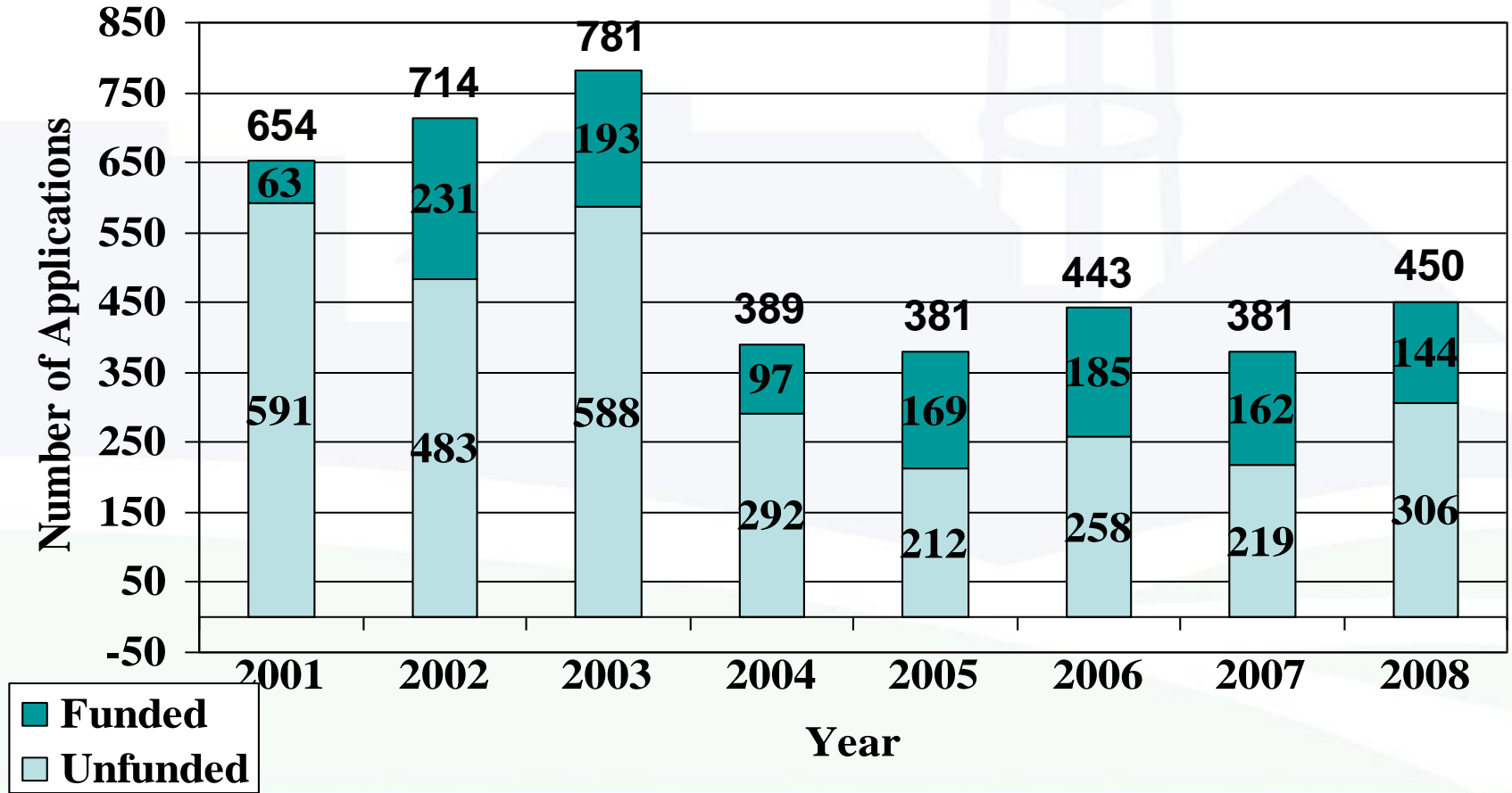
The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) Program is intended to provide grant funds to agricultural producers for planning activities and working capital expenses to assist them in receiving a greater share of the consumer's dollar for value-added agricultural products.



# Funds Awarded



# Applications



# Application Processing

- Eligibility
- Scoring
- Awards

# Eligibility

- Applicant eligibility
- Product eligibility
- Purpose eligibility
- Matching eligibility
- Other eligibility requirements

# Applicant Eligibility

- Independent Producer
- Farmer or Rancher Cooperative
- Agricultural Producer Group
- Majority-Controlled Producer-Based Business Venture

# Product Eligibility

- Change in physical state
- Produced in a manner that enhances value - must reference a business plan
- Physical segregation
- Ag commodity that is a source of renewable energy
- Locally-produced agricultural food product

# Product Eligibility (cont.)

- Customer base must be expanded
- Greater portion of the revenue must be available to the producer

# Purpose Eligibility

- Planning Activities (e.g. feasibility study, business plan, marketing plan)
- Working Capital (e.g. labor, inventory, advertising)

# Matching Eligibility

- Matching funds of at least 50% of total project costs are required
- Match must be spent at a rate equal to or greater than grant funds
- Match must be provided by the applicant or a third-party in the form of cash or in-kind funds
- Match must be spent on eligible purposes and must be from eligible sources

# Other Eligibility

- Grant period eligibility
- Completeness eligibility
- Multiple grant eligibility
- Current grant eligibility

# Grant Period Eligibility

- Applications cannot have a timeframe of more than 365 days.
- The NOSA will restrict the starting and ending dates of the project. Make sure the proposed work plan takes those restrictions into account.

# Completeness Eligibility

- Applications must contain all requested information to be considered for funding

# Multiple Grant Eligibility

- Only one application per applicant may be submitted in a funding cycle.
- Applicants who have already received a planning grant for a project cannot receive another planning grant for the same project.
- Applicants who have already received a working capital grant for a project cannot receive another grant for the same project.

# Current Grant Eligibility

- If the applicant currently has a VAPG, the grant period for that grant must be scheduled to expire by November 30, 2009.

# Required Elements

- SF-424
- SF-424A
- SF-424B
- Title Page
- Table of Contents
- Executive Summary
- Eligibility Discussion
- Goals of the Project
- Performance Evaluation Criteria
- Proposal Evaluation Criteria
- Certification of Matching Funds
- Verification of Matching Funds

# Application Submission

- Deadline will be announced in the annual NOSA
- Paper applications submitted to RD State Office in applicant's state
- Electronic applications submitted through [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov)

# Scoring Process

- Proposal Evaluation
  - Independent Review
  - State Office Review
- Administrator Points

# Evaluation Criteria

## Planning – Independent Reviewers

- Nature of the proposed venture
- Qualifications of those doing work
- Commitments and support
- Project leadership
- Work plan/budget

# Evaluation Criteria Planning - State Office

- Amount requested
- Project cost per owner-producer
- Other criteria as described in the annual NOSA

# Evaluation Criteria

## Working Capital – Ind. Reviewers

- Business viability
- Customer base/increased returns
- Commitments and support
- Management team/work force
- Work plan/budget

# Evaluation Criteria

## Working Capital – State Office

- Amount requested
- Project cost per owner-producer
- Other criteria as described in the annual NOSA

# Funding Decisions

- The Administrator of Business and Cooperative Programs makes the final funding decisions
- Applications will be funded in rank order until all available funds are expended

# Award Process

- Successful applicants notified by State Office – applicants must meet terms and conditions of the award within 90 days
- Unsuccessful applicants notified by State Office within 45 days of funding decision

# Contact Information

Bruce Pleasant  
Business Programs Specialist  
4405 Bland Road, Suite 260  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
(919) 873-2031  
[bruce.pleasant@nc.usda.gov](mailto:bruce.pleasant@nc.usda.gov)

## Program Website

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm>

