

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State of Montana

Steve Bullock
Governor



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, June 4, 2020

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**Governor Bullock Announces Support for Local Meat Processors, Small
Businesses and Local Governments Across Montana**

CARES Act funding will be used to put more Montana meat on shelves and reimburse local governments for COVID-19 related expenses

MONTANA - Governor Steve Bullock today announced funding through the federal CARES Act will be used to boost in-state processing and storage capacity for local meat processors, to provide additional financial assistance for small businesses, and to reimburse local governments for COVID-19 related expenses.

The Montana Meat Processing Infrastructure Grant is available to aid small and medium-sized meat processors responding to COVID-19 supply chain disruptions by supporting local meat processing infrastructure and capacity in Montana.

"These grants will boost processing and storage capacity. They'll help Montana businesses put more Montana meat onto more shelves. Plus, an increase in in-state processing means more direct sales, and better, value-added markets for producers," Governor Bullock said. **"These investments will bolster Montana's food security, making us stronger in response to the pandemic, as well as long into the future."**

Due to interruptions in national supply chains, meat processing capacity throughout the US has been significantly impacted. Supporting in-state meat processing infrastructure and capacity will provide alternative market channels for Montana's cattle, hog and poultry producers. Examples of eligible expenses include equipment and infrastructure that increases processing and/or storage capacity, costs associated with becoming state or federally inspected, and other business adaptation and diversification activities. Total funding available through the program is \$2,000,000, with a maximum award of \$150,000. Applications are being accepted now at COVIDRELIEF.MT.GOV. The deadline to apply is July 2, 2020 at 5:00pm.