



Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP)

7 U.S.C. 3101, Section 1415B



AVMA SUPPORTS

AVMA Recommendation: \$2.5 million for the Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP).

VSGP, newly authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (PL 113-79, Section 7104), compliments the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) and is designed to meet gaps that are not fully met by VMLRP. This is why Congress should support and fund VSGP. Both VSGP and VMLRP are vital programs that will help ensure that veterinarians are able to provide essential food animal and public health medicine in USDA-designated veterinary shortage situations around the country.

Fiscal 2015 Agriculture Appropriations Bill				
Authorization	AVMA Recommendation	President	House	Senate
\$10,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$0	TBD	TBD

What will VSGP funding support?

VSGP grantees must develop, implement and sustain veterinary services; substantially relieve veterinary shortage situations; or facilitate private veterinary practices engaging in public health activities; and/or facilitate the practices of veterinarians providing services under the VMLRP. The VMLRP places veterinarians around the country where there is a shortage in food animal and public health veterinary medicine.

VSGP grantees may also promote the recruitment, placement and/or retention of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary students and/or vet tech students. Grantees may support training in food safety or food animal medicine and establish or expand accredited veterinary education programs (including residencies, fellowships, internships and externships) carried out in coordination with accredited colleges of veterinary medicine. Grantees may provide continuing education and extension, including veterinary telemedicine and other distance-based education, which is needed to strengthen veterinary programs and enhance food safety. Grantees may provide technical assistance for the designation of veterinary shortage situations under the VMLRP.

VSGP grants may not be used to construct a new building or facility, or to acquire, expand, remodel or alter an existing building or facility, including site grading or improvement and architect fees.

Who is eligible for the VSGP?

State veterinary medical associations; national, allied, or regional veterinary organizations; specialty boards; accredited colleges or schools of veterinary medicine; university research and veterinary medicine foundations; accredited departments of veterinary science and comparative medicine; state agricultural experiment stations; state, local, or tribal government agencies; and entities that operate a U.S. veterinary clinic providing veterinary services in rural areas or to alleviate veterinary shortage situations are eligible to compete for the Veterinary Services Grant Program.

Key points:

- VSGP is a competitive research, extension and education grant program that is designed to address gaps in veterinary shortage situations.
- VSGP will complement the existing VMLRP by promoting veterinary medicine in areas of the country where there is a need for livestock and public health veterinary medicine.
- A maximum of 267 veterinary shortage situations may be designated in 2014 by the USDA based on livestock and livestock product total sales and land area in combination with nominations by State Animal Health Officials.