



Frequently Asked Questions – Tools, Innovation, and Equipment (TIE) Award Program

Updated December 2024

1. Do I have to be a SEMAP member to apply or to score well?

Nope! We ask about SEMAP membership for our records. That information (along with your farm name and location) will be redacted before we share applications with the review team.

2. I'm not farming in Southeastern Massachusetts. Am I eligible?

The 2025 TIE award is open to land and sea based farmers in Bristol, Norfolk, Plymouth and Barnstable Counties of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Farms that are really near the border with SE MA will be considered. If you are not sure if you are eligible, please reach out to Susan (smurray@semaponline.org).

3. Can I apply for multiple projects or do I have to select one?

We will only review one application per farm. But you are very welcome to group several projects into one application, so long as you're still only requesting a maximum of \$3,000.

4. Can I request funds for leased equipment?

Leased equipment is an eligible expense, but purchased equipment will score higher. Keep in mind that reviewers are looking for long-term sustained impact beyond the duration of the award.

5. This will be my farm's first official operating year. Am I eligible?

Yes, beginning farms are eligible to apply, even if 2025 will be your first year.

6. Do you prefer to fund applications where the grant award will fully fund a piece of equipment or system, or is it fine to apply for something which will only be partially funded by the TIE award (rest of funding coming from myself)?

We prefer to fund projects for which the TIE funds will be impactful. As an example:

- requesting \$1,000 to fund a small equipment purchase in full – impactful!
- requesting the full award amount of \$3,000 for a \$5,000 deer fencing project – impactful! That's a considerable chunk of the project cost, and the project might not be able to happen unless you receive TIE funds
- requesting \$3,000 to put towards a \$60,000 tractor – not so impactful. TIE funds would be a small drop in the bucket, and wouldn't make-or-break whether you'd be able to buy the tractor

So while TIE funds don't need to cover the whole project, they should be important to your ability to complete a project.



7. *I don't have the necessary permits for my project yet. Can I apply without having them in place?*

Yes, you can apply even if you'll still need to get permits or landlord approval before you can begin your project. But keep in mind that large-scale capital projects are ineligible – and these are the likeliest to need permits/approvals.

8. *Is hiring someone to train our farmers how to operate a tractor or other machinery an eligible expense?*

Yes, hiring a trainer for this or similar purposes would be eligible. Other types of consultants may be available for free through [our Business Assistance program](#) – we'll contact you if your project can be implemented through another SEMAP program.

9. *How detailed should the project description be?*

Just detailed enough to get a sense of your project's purpose and impact! A bulleted list, or a couple short paragraphs works for us. Our review team is mostly fellow farmers – we get that you're busy!

10. *What do you mean by itemized project budget?*

Please let us know what each component of your project will cost. A bulleted list is fine, and no quotes are required at this time. You may provide where you expect you might purchase your project components from. The response to this question should be more detailed than just the amount you are requesting.