

Agricultural Workforce Development Program FAQ

Question: Do we have to file a Schedule F to qualify? (Schedule F reports farm and ranch income)

Answer: No.

Question: The application says priority will be given to internships focusing on production agriculture. Where does forestry fit in? Would priority be given to loggers, or to mill owners?

Answer: The rule says that preference shall be provided to businesses engaged in the production of agricultural crops, livestock, dairy, timber or greenhouse and nursery products. Priority will be given to the foresters who are planting and caring for the trees and the loggers who are harvesting the timber.

Question: Why is the time frame so short?

Answer: Funding for the program was authorized on a state fiscal year basis. As such, funds appropriated for the current fiscal year can only be spent for internships completed by June 30, 2019. We anticipate additional funds will be appropriated during the upcoming legislative session for FY19/20, allowing us to fund internships to begin July 1, 2019 and running through June 30, 2020. If applying, please indicate in the business application which period you are proposing for the internship. You may propose internships in both periods but each must be submitted individually.

Question: Can we pay the intern a stipend?

Answer: No, the intern must be an employee, and FICA and Medicare must be paid. The intern may not be a contractor with a 1099 payment system as internships are not consistent with the IRS requirements for determining a contractor relationship.

Question: Can we reimburse the intern for room and board?

Answer: In order for living expenses to qualify for reimbursement, back-up documentation must be provided itemizing the expenses incurred. You may not be reimbursed for room and board which is normally provided to interns at no cost to them.

Question: The intern(s) I will have this spring (April-June) will be the same intern(s) I have after July 1st, so are they still eligible for the matching funds for the next year?

Answer: No, that is considered a separate internship and the business would not be eligible to hire the same intern again. This is due to the state fiscal year-end.

Question: Can I "convert" an existing employee, intern, or contractor into an intern for this program.

Answer: No.