Funding resources to visit periodically for open application timeframes:

USDA Rural Development
https://www.rd.usda.gov/ - https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs

Value-Added Producer Grants Program (VAPG)
https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/value-added-producer-grants

- Planning grants for feasibility studies, business and marketing plans
- Working capital grants for post-harvest, post-slaughter processing costs, packaging, labeling, distribution, advertising, inventory, some salaries, ingredients, cold storage, etc.

Rural Energy for American Program (REAP)
https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency-improvement-grants

---

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
https://www.nifa.usda.gov/apply-grant
https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program (AFRI)
https://simpler.grants.gov/opportunity/10a7404c-3e2f-4355-9044-78c8bafc35cd

---

Your local and state economic development councils often provide matching grants or specialized market-expansion funds for local processing facilities demonstrating job creation or regional economic impact.

USDA Small Business Administration (SBA) – www.sba.gov
https://www.sba.gov/article/2026/05/06/sba-announces-new-50-million-grant-opportunity-support-made-america-manufacturing-workforce-training
https://www.sba.gov/sba-learning-platform/empower-grow

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program (SPMGP)
https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/spmgp

American Lamb Board
https://lambboard.com/funding

National Sheep Industry Improvement Center
http://www.nsiic.org/
stevelee@nsiic.org

Western Ag Network
https://westernagnetwork.com/up-to-dollar23k-for-sheep-and-lamb-producers

---

National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)
https://www.ncat.org/sustainable-agriculture/wool-quality-improvement-program/

The purpose of the **Wool Quality Improvement Program (WQIP)** supports producers in improving wool quality, strengthening supply chains, and increasing access to domestic and direct-to-consumer markets. By investing in on-farm infrastructure, conservation practices and value-added processing, the program helps American wool compete more effectively in global and domestic markets while increasing producer income and resilience.
WQIP is a multi-state initiative designed to strengthen U.S. wool markets by supporting sheep producers with direct funding, technical assistance, and market-building resources. The program helps producers improve wool quality, implement on-farm conservation practices, and access new and expanded markets for American wool and wool products.

NCAT and its partners, Fibershed and New York Fibershed, will be working to expand wool markets in California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New York, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

Wool Improvement Fund
The Wool Improvement Fund supports producers in improving wool quality at the shearing and handling stage. Funds may be used to enhance shearing infrastructure, increase labor for sorting and classing wool, and access quality testing and education. The stipend is designed to help producers produce cleaner, more consistent wool that meets market standards.

Practice Implementation Fund
The Implementation Fund provides cost-share assistance for producers to implement NRCS-approved conservation and land management practices. These practices support healthy grazing systems, improved forage, and long-term land stewardship while enhancing the conditions needed to produce high-quality wool.

Market Innovation Fund
The Market Innovation Fund supports producer-led investments that expand market access and add value to wool. Producers may use funds to purchase specialized equipment, improve processing and handling infrastructure, develop value-added wool products, or strengthen marketing and sales efforts. This fund encourages innovation and helps producers reach new buyers, mills, and consumers.

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)
Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund
https://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/pima-agriculture-cotton-trust-fund
Contact: Program Operations Division podadmin@usda.gov
The Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund was authorized under Section 12314 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill) and reauthorized under Section 12602 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill) to reduce the economic injury to domestic manufacturers resulting from tariffs on cotton fabric that are higher than tariffs on certain apparel articles made of cotton fabric.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)
Wool and Mohair Program
https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/commodity-loans/non-recourse-loans/wool-and-mohair-program

---