Choose Iowa Value-Added Grant
Allowable Costs

Cost Category	Description, Guidance, and Exceptions
Buildings and Land - Construction	***Allowable*** for the acquisition of buildings, new construction, additions; improvements, modifications, or alterations of an existing building. This includes the cost of construction related materials, which may include, but are not limited to, wood, nails, concrete, asphalt, roofing, gravel, sand, paint, insulation, drywall, wiring, plumbing. ***Unallowable*** for the purchase of land on which to build or place a structure, connecting electric or water lines from the municipality/rural to the project property, septic system costs, landscaping, mulch, paving or gravel of driveway or parking, heating and cooling, water heater, rest room facilities ***Unallowable*** for permit and inspection fees ***Allowable*** for the extension of existing utility lines to the project structure or upgrade for new project needs.
Consumable Items	***Unallowable*** costs for materials that are for one use or part of a sellable item, including, but not limited to, labels, printer paper, office supplies, packaging and shipping supplies, jars/containers, pouches, floral arrangement items that are single use (wire wreath rings, clamp rings, vases, etc.)
Contractual	***Allowable*** for services performed by an individual or organization/company other than the recipient or recipient's immediate family members during the term of the grant contract. ***Unallowable*** for studies, research, attorney/legal fees
Equipment	***Allowable*** costs for specialty equipment, this includes rental of equipment during the contract term ***Unallowable*** for general use equipment including but not limited to hand trucks, power tools, hand tools, shovels

Equipment – Information Technology Systems	***Allowable*** for special purpose systems, food sales and traceability applications, systems and software that support specialized equipment by design, printers, labelers ***Unallowable*** for internet costs, Point of Sale (POS) systems, software subscriptions, Camera security system, hosting fees, domains
Fencing	***Unallowable*** mobile or permanent fencing
Insurance	***Unallowable***
Lobbying	***Unallowable*** for lobbying, fundraising, or other political activity
Selling and Marketing Costs	***Unallowable*** for costs designed to solely promote the image, logo, or brand or the recipient's business or product. This includes, but is not limited to, advertising, signs, promotional kits, graphics, labels, and vehicle stickers and/or wraps, public relations, entertainment
Shipping and Taxes	***Allowable***
Storage	***Allowable*** for cost of containers and shelving for storage of items ***Unallowable*** for bulk storage, including but not limited to grain storage and fuel tanks
Vehicles	***Allowable*** for the purchase of specialty vehicle or trailer, taxes, and shipping of vehicle, addition of specialty equipment such as cooling units and storage racks ***Unallowable*** for the registration and licensing of vehicle, fuel, tonneau covers for truck beds, semi-trucks, or tractors
Wages	***Unallowable*** for employee wages and benefits

The above table summarizes allowable and unallowable costs in common categories for the Choose Iowa Value-Added grant program. It is not a complete explanation of the allowability of costs. If applicants or awardees have questions concerning the allowability of costs after reviewing this section, they should contact Choose Iowa at ChooseIowaGrant@IowaAgriculture.gov