

# First Industries Fund

## SUMMARY

First Industries is one of 19 programs in the June 2004 economic stimulus package. It provides \$100 million for agriculture, and \$50 million for tourism. Final guidelines were approved by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) in December 2004 and can be accessed at [www.newPA.com](http://www.newPA.com). Funds flow to agriculture and tourism in three ways:

- Dedicated funding for the Small Business First program (SBF)
- Dedicated funding for the Machinery and Equipment Loan Fund (MELF)
- A loan guarantee program

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Production agriculture
- Agriculture processing
- Farmers' markets
- Sale of farm commodities at wholesale
- Agribusiness
- Retail grocers (but not convenience stores) in rural and urban under-served areas

## ELIGIBLE USES

- Land, buildings, working capital, equipment, etc. per current SBF and MELF guidelines
- Implementing Best Management Practices
- Energy-related activities impacting production agriculture or agribusiness

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