

Appendix B: Optional Priority Group Declaration Checklist (Bonus Points)

If your project reaches one or more priority groups and you would like to be considered for bonus priority points, please fill out this checklist and include it with your application submission.

Applicants that do not submit the completed checklist with their application will not receive bonus points. Applicants should include the Priority Declaration Checklist as its own page or as a separate attachment to ensure full credit.

An applicant reaching any of the racial equity priorities is eligible for seven bonus points. More than one racial equity priority may apply to the applicant's project, and applicants are encouraged to check multiple, but only seven bonus points will be awarded regardless of how many racial equity priorities are selected. Applicants will receive one priority point for each organization type priority their project satisfies. The maximum number of bonus priority points awarded shall not exceed ten (10) points.

Please check all the priority group(s) that your project will serve and for which you would like to identify for priority consideration. If USDA is unable to verify that an applicant is eligible for any priority groups claimed below, the applicant may not be permitted to qualify for priority consideration. Please see Section 1.7 of the FY 2025 RFA for more details. Do not edit any language.

Racial Equity priorities (seven points):

Applicant is an Indian Tribal Organization, Alaska Native Corporation, or an entity led and/or staffed by American Indians and Alaska Natives and serving American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Applicant is an organization led and/or staffed by Black/African Americans and serving Black/African American communities.

Applicant is an organization led and/or staffed by people of color and serving communities of color (defined as Black/African American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, and/or Pacific Islander).

Organization Type priorities (one point each, three points maximum):

At least 40 percent of children served are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Applicant is a small- to medium-sized agricultural producer or group of small- to medium-sized agricultural producers.

Project is located in and serving eligible CNP sites in a rural area.