

## WLEI Strategically Invests in Businesses and Service Provider Organizations

**Business Grants:** Strategic investments in working lands businesses that influence their value chain, create jobs, boost sales, support worker wellbeing, adapt to climate change, increase production, or preserve or increase working lands acreage.

**Service Provider Grants and Contracts:** Investments in business and technical assistance service providers who work directly with working lands enterprises to support them as they grow, pivot, and adapt to an ever-changing marketplace, or prepare for new capital investment or an intergenerational transfer.

**Producer Association Grants:** Investments in the organizational development of VT-based producer associations supporting their members with technical assistance, marketing, research, and development.

**Trade Show Assistance Grants:** Investments in agriculture and forestry businesses to market and promote products at out-of-state trade shows.

| Fiscal Year | Funds Available | Total Funding Requests |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 2026        | \$1,000,000     | \$5,946,643            |
| 2025        | \$1,000,000     | \$5,372,191            |
| 2024        | \$2,150,000     | \$16,187,156           |
| 2023        | \$2,000,000     | \$10,575,516           |
| 2022        | \$5,594,000     | \$10,109,747           |
| 2021        | \$594,000       | \$2,043,716            |
| 2020        | \$1,594,000     | \$5,015,147            |
| 2019        | \$700,000       | \$1,178,287            |
| 2018        | \$694,000       | \$1,902,316            |

Until 2023, the annual base appropriation for WLEF was \$594,000. In 2023, the annual base appropriation increased to \$1,000,000. Funds available beyond these base amounts came from special appropriations.