

AgTech Champion Communities

12-Month Community Capacity, Workforce & Innovation Program

Community Application

This application helps the selection team understand your community's readiness, leadership commitment, AgTech opportunities, workforce and entrepreneurship needs, and ability to participate fully in the 12-month program. Concise, specific responses are encouraged.

How to Apply: The application must be completed and submitted online through Qualtrics using the QR code at the end of this document. The questions in this document are provided for informational and planning purposes, so your community team can review the application, discuss responses, and gather the information needed before completing the online application.

Community Information

Community name:

Population:

Primary applicant organization:

Primary contact name/title:

Email:

Phone:

Secondary contact name/title:

Email:

Phone:

Community Readiness and Motivation

1. Why does your community want to become an AgTech Champion Community?

2. What are the two or three most important agriculture, workforce, economic, or community challenges your community hopes this program can help address?

3. What AgTech opportunities do you believe may exist in your community or region? These may relate to production agriculture, value-added agriculture, workforce, entrepreneurship, education, infrastructure, or other areas.

Community AgTech Champion Team

List the proposed 10-12-member core team. The strongest applications will demonstrate broad, cross-sector participation and individuals who are willing to attend, contribute, and help implement the work.

Name	Organization / Role	Sector Represented	Email / Phone	Commitment Confirmed date

Identify the two proposed community co-leads and explain why they are well-positioned to coordinate the local effort.

Community Environment and Support

4. Describe the agriculture and agribusiness base of your community/region. What commodities, businesses, employers, services, or institutions are especially significant?

5. What organizations, programs, mentors, lenders, spaces, or other resources currently support entrepreneurs and small businesses?

6. What local conditions make attraction or retention difficult? Consider housing, childcare, broadband, transportation, amenities, gathering spaces, quality of life, and other infrastructure.

Resources needed for Community AgTech Initiative

You do not need a finalized project or initiative before entering the program.

7. In order to initiate an ag-tech-related initiative, what resources, expertise, funding, facilities, or partnerships might be needed?

Capacity and Commitment

8. How will your community ensure consistent participation throughout the 12-month program?

Community Commitment Checklist

By submitting this application, the community affirms its willingness to:

- ☐ Maintain an active 10–12-member cross-sector Community AgTech Champion Team.
- ☐ Designate two community co-leads.
- ☐ Participate in coaching, learning, planning, peer exchange, and implementation activities.
- ☐ Complete program assessments, inventories, planning, and reporting requirements.
- ☐ Engage community members and partners beyond the core team.
- ☐ Develop a Community AgTech Opportunity & Action Plan.
- ☐ Select and implement or substantially advance at least one local AgTech initiative.
- ☐ Track agreed-upon measures and provide information needed for NSF AgTech Engine reporting.
- ☐ Share successes, challenges, and lessons learned.
- ☐ Develop a strategy to sustain the work after the program concludes.

Authorization

The signatures below indicate organizational and community support for this application and an understanding of the participation expectations if selected.

Type your name – lead and co-lead.

Optional Supporting Materials

Applicants may attach up to three brief items that demonstrate readiness or opportunity, such as a community/economic development plan, a workforce assessment, a letter of partner support, an AgTech project concept, or other relevant material.

Ready to Apply?

Complete and submit your application online through Qualtrics.

Scan the QR code below to access the online application.

Applications must be submitted through Qualtrics. This document is provided for planning purposes only.



https://ndstate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5hFJdWZlkrVK4R0