RFBC Program Summary

- In September 2022, USDA announced $400 million to fund the USDA Regional Food Business Center initiative.

- In May 2023, 12 organizations were selected to lead efforts in their region and serve all areas of the country.

- The USDA Regional Food Business Centers will support producers by providing technical assistance and capacity building to farms and food businesses to increase their viability and access a variety of local and regional markets.

- By strengthening connections between rural and urban areas, the Regional Food Business Centers will drive economic opportunities across the regions, creating a more diversified and resilient food system.

- The USDA Regional Food Business Centers serve small and mid-sized food and farm businesses, and prioritize work in historically underinvested communities in their region.

About The Northeast Regional Food Business Center

The **Northeast USDA Regional Food Business Center** is a program facilitated by the NASDA Foundation, established to develop and amplify local and regional supply chains, with a strong emphasis on building equity and community resiliency into these systems in the Northeast region.

MISSION STATEMENT

Provide sustainable and equitable regional network coordination and localized business support to invest in farm and food businesses throughout the Northeast.

VISION STATEMENT

We envision a Northeast food system with informed and connected networks, viable businesses and accessible markets that strengthen communities and economies.

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Program Structure
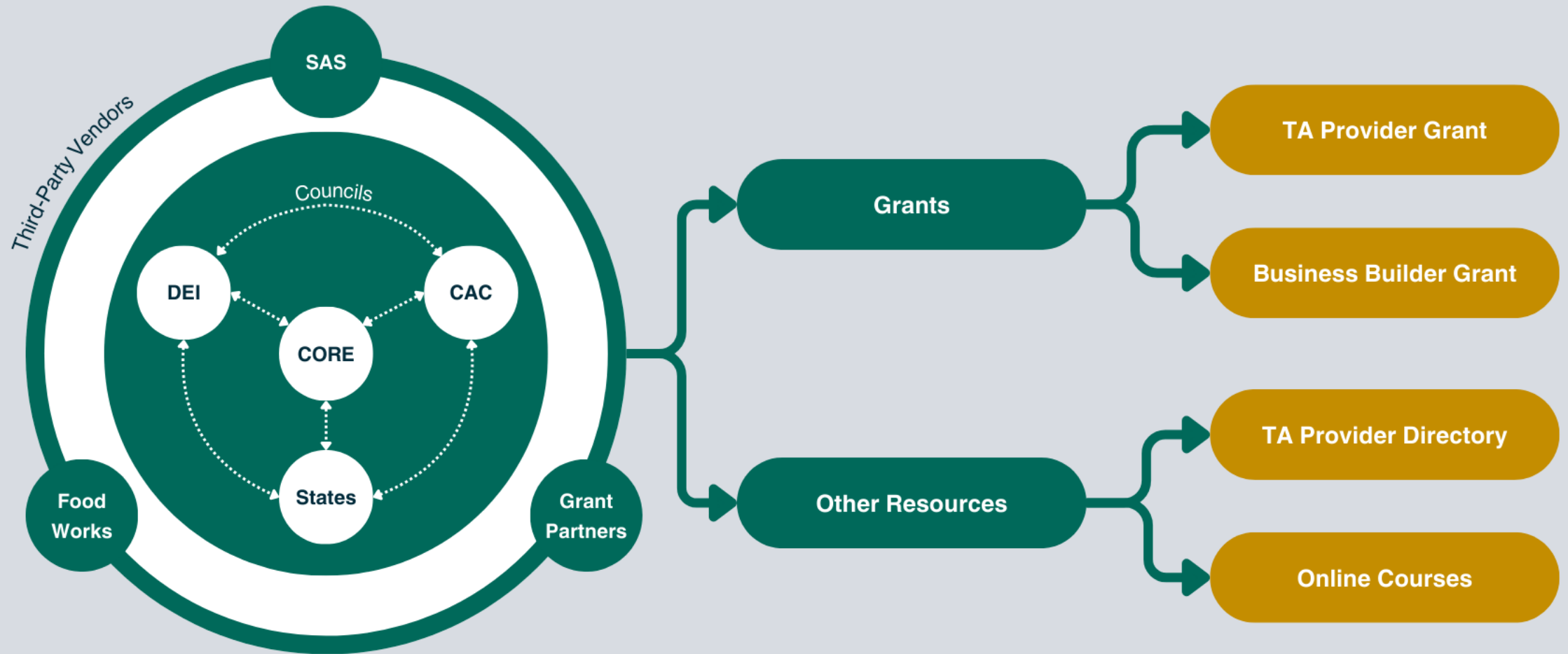
Center Objectives

Network Building

Supporting Technical Assistance

Capacity Building

Program Sustainability

DEI-Led Programs

Timeline: 1st Round of TA Provider Applications

July 22: Applications Open

July 22-August 23: Informational Sessions

August 23: Applications Close

Late September: List of Sub-Awardees Announced

October: Projects Commence

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Eligible Entities

- Be an established business and expect to maintain a physical presence within the Northeast Regional Food Business Center's defined geographic area for the duration of the award

- Have direct experience helping small, middle-of-the-supply-chain food and agricultural businesses to identify and navigate third party financial assistance

- Have direct experience in food and agriculture business development services and/or training

- Provide training and guidance to:
  - Producers focused on local and regional intermediate markets
  - Small- and mid-sized food processors, distributors, aggregators, and food hubs
  - USDA subaward applicants and recipients, prioritizing small food and agricultural businesses
  - Other entities as determined by the Regional Food Center and USDA

- Demonstrate an understanding of unique regional needs and the capacity to meet the needs of small and mid-sized food businesses in the region

**Priority will be given to technical assistance providers that are led by or have specialization in serving members of underserved or underinvested communities.

Allowable Activities

Technical assistance provider funds can be used for business development services or training, including:

- Business Technical Assistance
- Value Chain & Supply Chain Coordination
- Market Development
- Financial Resource Navigation Assistance
- Professional Development and Training
- Coordination of Technical Assistance Services

Project Examples

1. Develop and implement an online educational course to train other technical assistance providers on how to integrate DEI principles effectively into their operations and services.

2. Hire an additional staff member who assists businesses owned by immigrants, refugees and other new Americans with grant writing services, including individual application support for the upcoming Business Builder Awards.

3. Provide one-on-one support to a food business relating to food regulatory requirements and other legal considerations relevant to their operations.

4. Host additional cohort-based workshops focusing on business planning for small-scale food producers, emphasizing sustainability and market readiness.

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Resources to Help You Apply

- Obtain a Unique Entity ID (UEI)
- Request for Application (RFA)
- Scoring Rubric
- Application Checklist
- Webinar Recordings
- USDA AMS Regional Food Business Centers Program
- USDA AMS Terms & Conditions
- Community Hub - Technical Assistance Directory
- General Inquiries: NortheastRFBC@nasda.org
- Subscribe to Regional Food Business Center Newsletter

www.nasda.org/technical-assistance-provider-sub-awards/

Community Hub
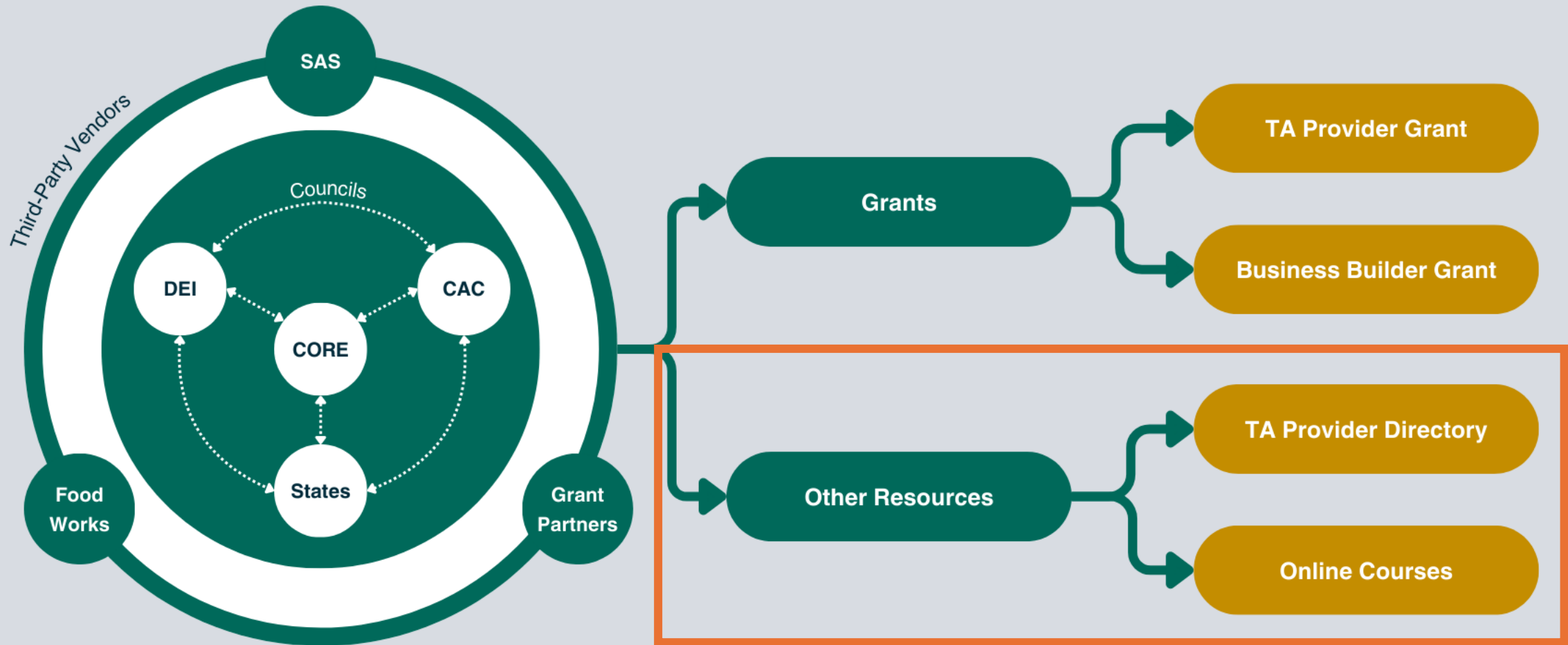
By connecting food producers with TAPs and providing free business development training, NERFBC's community hub will:

Amplify and promote TA providers

Help farms and food businesses succeed

Increase excellence of the Center

Ensure growth, resiliency, and sustainability in the region

COMMUNITY HUB PORTAL

Northeast Regional Food Business Center

The Northeast Regional Food Business Center provides sustainable and equitable regional network coordination and localized business support to grow farm and food businesses throughout the Northeast. We envision a resilient Northeast food system with informed and connected networks, viable businesses, and accessible markets that strengthens communities and economies.

The Northeast Regional Food Business Center aims to:

Coordinate a regional network of Northeast system partners and connect with other Regional Food Business Centers nationwide.

Increase the amount and diversity of regionally grown products and food businesses by providing technical assistance and financial support.

Increase the capacity of regional supply chains to identify, procure, aggregate, market and distribute products to major Northeast markets.

Build sustainability into the Regional Food Business Center activities to ensure continued growth and resiliency.

Claim a spot in the NERFBC TAP directory and promote your services to the Northeast region's food producers through the virtual community hub.