Date of Application: _____

Section 4. Technical Assistance / Professional Services Grants

Commercial farms that have DACF-confirmed elevated levels of PFAS may apply to DACF for a grant to pay for technical assistance to help guide their response to the discovery of PFAS and/or to implement mitigation strategies. Eligible producers may work with service providers to obtain expert advice, estimates, drawings, plans, research, and technical or professional assistance related to modifying their operations in response to PFAS contamination. Service providers may be marketing consultants, accounting firms, farm and/or business support organizations, engineering firms, law firms, and other organizations that DACF determines may provide valuable services that support sustained farm viability. Technical Assistance is governed by rule 01-001 CMR c. 402 (2026).

Questions about Technical Assistance / Professional Services Grants may be directed to Beth Valentine, PFAS Fund Director, at Beth.Valentine@maine.gov or (207) 313-0962.

Required Documentation – Section 4

The following information must be submitted with this Section of the application:

A. Section 1. Applicant General Information with all specified attachments.

B. An estimate, invoice, or receipt from a service provider describing the scope of work, estimated timeline, and total cost;

C. If requesting direct reimbursement, provide Proof of Payment; and,

D. Any additional supporting documentation requested by DACF that DACF determines is necessary to review the request for assistance.

Additional Information Requested – Section 4

1. Describe the impacts PFAS contamination has had on the farm as it relates to the requested technical assistance/professional services:

2. Describe the problem technical/professional services will address:

3. A detailed description of the product the technical service provider will deliver. For example, a business planner may be asked to produce a comprehensive business plan that describes the farm, including its history, products, operations, and management; market analysis; proposed business ideas and strategies; financial analysis and projections; and an implementation plan. An engineer may be asked to render a plan for a new well or structure. A marketing firm may be asked to produce social media content and photography.

4. Description of next steps anticipated after obtaining the information sought from technical and/or professional services:

5. Total amount of support requested: $_____

6. Estimated start and end dates of service. Indicate whether there are any time constraints (e.g., approval is needed prior to spring planting):

7. **Payment Options – please check which one is requested:**

☐ Applicant will pay project costs and DACF will reimburse upon proof of purchase.

☐ DACF contracts with and pays applicant's approved vendors/contractors

☐ DACF reimburses a nonprofit for payment of approved project costs made on the applicant's behalf

Application Review – Section 4

Evaluation criteria may include but not be limited to the degree to which the farm has been negatively impacted by PFAS, likelihood of success, return on investment, total cost, timing, alternative options, level of risk, producer's demonstrated lack of available financial capacity, number of other requests for DACF support by the applicant and by other producers, and the farm's capacity and commitment to continue farming on the impacted property.

Evaluation criteria will also include an assessment by DACF of whether a given service provider is appropriately qualified to provide the particular type of technical assistance being sought.

DACF reserves the right to limit funding for all requests based on available resources and the evaluation criteria listed above.

Applications for technical assistance and professional services grants will be reviewed by DACF's PFAS Fund Director. The Director may request input from members of the DACF PFAS Response Program, including Agricultural PFAS Specialists (APS) and specialized consultants acting on the Program's behalf and who have worked with the farm and have knowledge of the applicant's operations. DACF will rely on all available information about the farm to assess the request. DACF reserves the right to request any additional supporting documentation that is necessary to evaluate the request for assistance. Decision-making authority rests with the PFAS Fund Director.

Payment Restrictions

DACF may pay for technical assistance costs directly related to a commercial farm's response to PFAS contamination. DACF will not pay for a commercial farm's technical assistance costs that are associated with routine operations that are unrelated to PFAS response.

(Section 4 Signature Block on Next Page)

Signature Block – Section 4

I certify that the information given in this Technical Assistance / Professional Services application is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge that payments may represent reportable income for tax purposes.

Applicant's Signature	Date
Applicant's Name (printed)	Title
Applicant's Signature	Date
Applicant's Name (printed)	Title

Please complete if someone assisted the applicant to complete this form:

Preparer Name (If not applicant)	Preparer's relationship to applicant

Permission to discuss application with Preparer: ☐ YES ☐ NO