



# Year-Round Market Infrastructure Grant Program

Listening Session – April 23, 2026



# Agenda



Provide an overview of the grant program

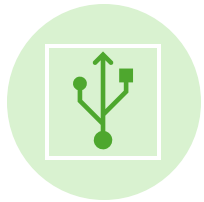


Share additional funding opportunities



Take questions and feedback

# Program Development Status



Currently developing the Request for Applications (RFA)



Seeking feedback to ensure program meets community needs



Questions and feedback will be considered in RFA development

# Program Overview

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Funded by the California Climate Bond



The Year-Round Market Infrastructure Grant Program (YRMI) funds the development of year-round infrastructure for Certified Farmers' Markets, fishermen's markets, and tribe-operated or native-serving farmers' markets



\$20 million of funding available

# Purpose & Available Funding

- Aims to increase the sustainability of agricultural infrastructure and facilities that support food systems and increase market access
- Up to \$18.45M is available for infrastructure grants
- Competitive grant application process
- Two rounds of funding
  - Applications open Summer 2026
    - Grants awarded Spring 2027
  - Applications open Spring 2027
    - Grants awarded Fall 2027
- Applications submitted electronically through the Salesforce system
- Cost sharing is not a requirement of this program



# Eligibility

Any of the following entities operating, applying for funding to begin operating, or applying on behalf of year-round:

- Certified Farmers' Markets
- Fishermen's markets
- Tribe-operated or native-serving farmers' markets

- Public agencies
- Local agencies
- Nonprofit organizations
- Special districts
- Joint powers authorities
- Tribes
- Public utilities
- Local publicly owned utilities
- Mutual water companies

# Eligibility (cont.)

## Markets must operate year-round

- Markets operating seasonally are not eligible for this program
- Seasonal markets planning to transition to operating year-round markets may still apply but will need to demonstrate a strong, detailed plan and timeline for the transition in their application

## Certified Farmers' Markets

- Must be certified by CDFA by the start of their grant

## Tribe-operated or native-serving farmers' markets

- Any farmers' market operated by or predominantly serving California Native American Tribes (both federally and non-federally recognized)

# Vulnerable Populations & Disadvantaged Communities

- At least 40% of the total funds available will be allocated for projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to vulnerable populations or disadvantaged communities (DAC)
  - Of this 40%, at least 10% of the total funds available will be allocated for projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to severely disadvantaged communities (SDAC)
- Applicants must demonstrate their project's direct benefits for these populations in their application
  - CDFA will provide examples of mapping tools and other resources to identify DACs, SDACs, and vulnerable populations
  - Historically, Tribes and other underrepresented communities have not been accurately reported in Census data and many mapping tools do not provide data from Tribal lands and various other local reporting metrics. When identifying these communities in the application, other sources can be utilized outside of traditional mapping tools.

# Vulnerable Populations & Disadvantaged Communities (cont.)

## Disadvantaged Community (DAC):

A community with a median household income of less than 80 percent of the area average or less than 80 percent of statewide median household income.

## Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC):

A community with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the area average or less than 60 percent of statewide median household income.

## Vulnerable Population:

A subgroup population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts.

# Examples of Direct Benefits to DACs, SDACs, and Vulnerable Populations:

- Offering certified agricultural products for sale from small- and medium-sized farms, socially disadvantaged farmers, beginning farmers or ranchers, and veteran farmers or ranchers.
- Offering certified agricultural products for sale from farmers who prioritize improving the health of the land, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, using practices that help slow climate change, and other climate-friendly initiatives.
- Supporting or building better agricultural infrastructure that supports local food systems and increases market access, including urban and community agriculture.
- Expanding access to healthy, affordable, and nutritious food in low food-access areas.
- Supporting Tribal food sovereignty.
- Creating good local jobs with fair wages, benefits, and job training.
- Expanding education and awareness through partnerships with community groups, schools, nonprofits, and Tribal organizations.
- Providing meaningful leadership roles to members or representatives of DACs, SDACs, or vulnerable populations.
- Including project components that consider how the project's proposed actions will affect the social, economic, and physical health and resilience of DACs, SDACs, or vulnerable populations.



# Types of Awards

## Infrastructure Projects

- Funding for infrastructure projects for new or existing year-round Certified Farmers' Markets, fishermen's markets, or tribe-operated or native-serving farmers' markets

## Block Grants

- Funding for entities who will allocate funds to new or existing year-round Certified Farmers' Markets, fishermen's markets, or tribe-operated or native-serving farmers' markets for small-scale infrastructure projects

# Allowable Expenses

## For All Grantees:

Infrastructure to operate year-round Certified Farmers' Markets, fishermen's markets, and tribe-operated or native-serving farmers' markets

Installation, unloading, and placement costs

Removal and recycling of infrastructure being upgraded

Minor electrical costs

Contingency reserves – additional 10% of total quoted costs for the above expenses

## For Block Grant Providers:

Up to 10% of the total grant amount to provide technical assistance to DACs, SDACs, or vulnerable populations; including:

- Staff time and benefits
- Travel
- Materials
- Other direct costs

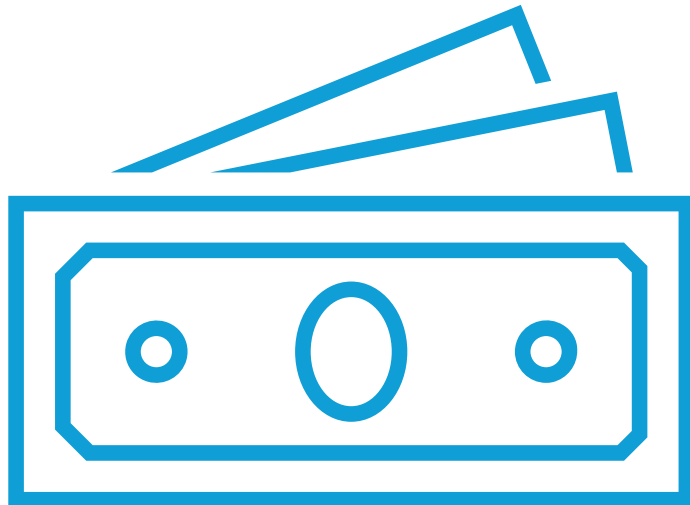
Indirect rate per bond guidance

# Allowable Infrastructure



- All-weather infrastructure such as canopies and shade structures
- Tables and seating
- Market stalls
- Restrooms
- Hand wash stations
- Tent weights and tie-downs
- Produce washing stations
- Barricades and bollards for traffic management and pedestrian safety
- Bicycle parking racks
- Cold storage
- Facilities for food preparation, cooking demonstrations, and other nutrition education
- Wireless electronic benefits transfer point-of-sale terminals to process CalFresh transactions and electronic cash value benefit for WIC or equivalent tribal programs
- Equipment to support the seniors' farmers' market nutrition program or equivalent tribal programs
- Signage
- Heat mitigation equipment
- Other equipment

# Reimbursement & Advance Payments



## Reimbursement:

- Monthly, quarterly, or annually
- Payments issued ~90 days after invoices are approved

## Advanced Payments:

- Up to 3 months of expenses
- No more than 25% of total grant at a time
- Complete application form
- Funds must be spent before new advance
- Grantees can't earn interest on advances
- Can be combined with reimbursements

# Technical Assistance

## Application Assistance:

- **CDFA staff can assist applicants with program and process-related questions**
  - Virtual webinars
  - Weekly office hours
  - Posting frequently asked questions
- **CDFA staff will review draft application materials for a specified number of applicants**
  - Applicants eligible for assistance include:
    - California Native American Tribes (both federally and non-federally recognized)
    - Tribal-led nonprofit organizations
    - Organizations run by members of historically & socially disadvantaged groups

# Funding Priorities

## Communities Served:

- DACs, SDACs, and/or vulnerable populations
- Historically & socially disadvantaged populations
- Markets operated by members of minority or socially disadvantaged groups

## Climate Benefits:

- Clearly identify how the project will deliver a climate benefit
- If applicable, energy-efficient and climate-friendly equipment

## Track Record of Success or Strong Project Plan:

- A new market would need to demonstrate a strong plan for sustainability and a strong commitment
- If applicable, a CDFA Certified Farmers' Market certification or a plan for certification
- Community reach and market stability

## Implementation Plan:

- Clear and realistic timelines, goals, and outcomes
- Directly address at least one of the items on the program's list of meaningful and direct benefits
- Markets offering agricultural products from farmers or ranchers from priority populations

## Budget:

- Proposed costs should be reasonable
- Includes sufficient and clear details
- Projects that leverage private, federal, and/or local in-kind services or cost sharing funding

# Proposed Program Timeline

Round One	
RFA Released for Public Comment	June 2026
RFA Comments Addressed and Application Opens	August 2026
Grant Applications Due	November 2026
Application Review Process	Nov – Dec 2026
Anticipated Award Announcement	December 2026
Tentative Start Date for Grant Terms	April 2027

Round Two	
RFA Released for Public Comment	January 2027
RFA Comments Addressed and Application Opens	March 2027
Grant Applications Due	June 2027
Application Review Process	June – July 2027
Anticipated Award Announcement	July 2027
Tentative Start Date for Grant Terms	November 2027

# Additional Funding Opportunities

- Proposition 4 (Climate Bond) was passed in 2024
- \$255 million are designated for programs at CDFA

## Existing Programs/Activities (\$185 million)

- **Healthy Soils Program** (\$65 million) – open for organizations to apply now
- **State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program** (\$40 million) -open for organizations to apply now
- **Fairgrounds upgrades** (\$40 million)
- **Invasive Species Council** (\$20 million)
- **Urban Agriculture** (\$20 million)

## New Programs (\$70 million)

- **Tribal Food Sovereignty** (\$15 million)
- **Certified Mobile Farmers Markets** (\$20 million)
- **Year-Round Market Infrastructure** (\$20 million)
- **Regional Farm Equipment Sharing** (\$15 million)
- **Healthy Soils Tribal Practices Program Expansion**



# Questions & Feedback

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Contact us at  
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