



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE
URBAN AGRICULTURE GRANT PROGRAM
2023 GRANT RECIPIENTS**



CDFA OFFICE OF
FARM *to* FORK

**Total Projects Awarded:
Total Funds Awarded: \$11,670,000**

TRACK 1	TRACK 2
Projects: 6 Funds: \$4,688,487.00	Projects: 27 Funds: \$6,981,512.65



TRACK 1: Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant

PROJECTS FUNDED: 6

FUNDS AWARDED: \$4,688,487

Track 1: The purpose of the Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant is to increase staff capacity and provide pass through funding for Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) with grassroots involvement in urban and regional food systems planning. Eligible CBOs may apply for awards from \$200,000 to \$800,000 in CDFA funding to engage and administer subawards to urban agriculture stakeholders in their region. Track 1 funded Organizations may utilize between \$5,000 and \$60,000 of the award towards eligible urban agriculture work being done internally. Subawards to external stakeholders will range from \$5,000 to \$60,000. At least one CBO within each urban region of California will receive an award, and at least one CBO with statewide reach will receive funding. CDFA aims to distribute awards geographically throughout California's urban areas to the extent possible.

	GRANT RECIPIENT	COUNTY	GRANT AWARD
1	Community Alliance with Family Farms	Statewide	\$ 778,061.00
2	Agroecology Commons	Bay Area	\$ 783,933.38
3	Asian Business Institute and Resource Center	Fresno	\$ 774,716.00
4	San Diego Center for Community Health	San Diego	\$ 783,907.00
5	Los Angeles Food Policy Council	Los Angeles	\$ 783,935.00
6	Inland Empire Resource Conservation District	Inland Empire	\$ 783,935.00

**California Department of Food and Agriculture
CA Urban Agriculture Grant Program
Track 1: Systems Builder Community Based Block Grant
Project Summaries**

Community Alliance with Family Farmers Statewide

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) will create more opportunities for urban agriculture communities to connect, increase access to resources and knowledge, and build strong networks, as well as direct financial resources to urban growers. Through this project CAFF plans to allocate direct financial resources via micro-grants to urban growers across the state with specific prioritization for



growers in Sacramento, Fresno, and Inland Empire. This project will uplift and foster continued community and growth of urban agriculture in California. \$340,000 will be redistributed as mini-grants.

Agroecology Commons

Bay Area

Agroecology Commons (AC) will implement a multifaceted project to uplift and reduce barriers for marginalized farmers by providing farm seed grants, mentorship, and technical assistance. Furthermore, it aims to enhance infrastructure, water stewardship, and expand the Food Sovereignty Tool Lending Library at the AC Incubator Farm. This project, rooted in collaborative decision-making and extensive outreach, seeks to engage and empower farmers, promote equitable and resilient agriculture, and prioritize social justice, sustainability, and community building.

Asian Business Institute and Resource Center

Fresno

Asian Business Institute and Resource Center will increase urban agriculture programming in Bakersfield and Fresno by implementing an internal project and providing up to 16 subawards totaling \$360,000 to stakeholders. The internal project will provide education and skills development to 40 urban farmers in Fresno and produce boxes for 1,400 or more food-insecure and low-income households in Fresno and Bakersfield. The subawards will allow stakeholders to implement a project that is led by or serves priority populations.

University of California San Diego Center for Community Health

San Diego

University of California (UC) San Diego Center for Community Health will promote a system of community food sovereignty by closing gaps and building equity amongst urban agriculture practitioners in San Diego County. UC San Diego Center for Community Health will execute a simple, accessible, inclusive, and fair process to award and disburse funds locally to urban farmers and farm organizations that have historically been underserved. UC San Diego Center for Community Health will catalyze the strengths of urban farmers and expand upon established successes to further invest in the sustainability of urban farming as a productive, healing movement building equitable practice. \$250,000 of funding is allocated for pass-thru to local applicants.

Los Angeles Food Policy Council

Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Food Policy Council's (LAFPC) Cultivating Farmers and Farms Program will build up the emerging yet historically under-resourced urban agricultural community throughout the Los Angeles region through peer-led workshops, one-on-one coaching, and office hours with expert technical assistance providers. The program will provide urban farmers with rapid, short-term support through the CDFA block grant funds while also registering farmers with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency and connecting farmers to USDA resources that can sustain their long-term growth and expanded impact. LAFPC will re-grant funds to at least 24 grantees for \$10,000-20,000 each.



Inland Empire Resource Conservation District

Inland Empire

The Inland Empire Resource Conservation District will administer subgrants and provide technical assistance to eligible stakeholders to increase the capacity and success of urban agriculture projects in the Inland Empire and support workforce development opportunities, infrastructure investment, community engagement, and expanded green spaces. In recent years, the Inland Empire has lost a lot of important agricultural land due to competing demands for housing and warehouse development, making urban agriculture investment even more critical for supporting the communities living in the Inland Empire. \$595,000 will be reserved for subgrantee applicants to carry out projects that meet the intention of the urban agriculture block grant in \$5,000 - \$60,000 subgrant awards.

TRACK 2: Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant

PROJECTS FUNDED: 27

FUNDS AWARDED: \$6,981,512.65

Track 2: The purpose of the Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant is to directly fund urban agriculture projects, providing awards from \$75,000 to \$300,000 for eligible for-profit businesses, non-profit organizations, Resource Conservation Districts, Tribal Based non-profits, and Tribal Governments that are led by or serve priority populations identified using the California Air Resources Board's California Climate Investments Priority Populations map and located in urban areas as defined by CDFFA.

	GRANT RECIPIENT	COUNTY	GRANT AWARD
1	Fresh Approach	Contra Costa	\$ 249,931.00
2	Ceres Community Project	Sonoma	\$ 300,000.00
3	Center for Food Faith and Justice	Alameda	\$ 283,000.00
4	John Muir Land Trust	Contra Costa	\$ 299,583.00
5	West Fresno Family Resource Center	Fresno	\$ 300,000.00
6	Zenjay	San Bernardino	\$ 300,000.00
7	Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District	Riverside	\$ 299,750.12
8	Food Exploration and Discovery	Los Angeles	\$ 148,788.00
9	Black Thumb Farm	Los Angeles	\$ 300,000.00
10	Feed and Be Fed	Los Angeles	\$ 82,959.00
11	Avenue 33 Farm	Los Angeles	\$ 300,000.00



12	Malaia's Microgreens	Los Angeles	\$ 250,000.00
13	Build Hope	Los Angeles	\$ 300,000.00
14	First Congregational Church	Los Angeles	\$ 200,000.00
15	Project New Village	San Diego	\$ 300,000.00
16	MAKE project	San Diego	\$ 299,687.52
17	Fred's Urban Farm	San Diego	\$ 131,119.84
18	Hidden Springs Family Ranch	Butte	\$ 300,000.00
19	The Jesus Center	Butte	\$ 299,305.18
20	Root 64	Sacramento	\$ 170,000.00
21	Soil Born Farms Urban Agriculture and Education Project	Sacramento	\$ 284,267.00
22	Table Farm	Sacramento	\$ 296,000.00
23	Color the Block	Sacramento	\$ 299,305.18
24	Brown Sugar Farm	Sacramento	\$ 299,305.18
25	California Indian Museum and Cultural Center	Sonoma	\$ 195,134.00
26	Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians	Sonoma	\$ 246,689.00
27	Friendship House Association of American Indians	San Francisco	\$ 246,689.00

**California Department of Food and Agriculture
CA Urban Agriculture Grant Program
Track 2: Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant
Project Summaries**

Fresh Approach

Contra Costa

Fresh Approach will enhance food access and climate resilience in East Palo Alto by supporting urban gardeners and installing green infrastructure. Fresh Approach plans to expand and fortify existing gardening programs and extend support to other community gardens. The Community Ambassador program will provide leadership and workforce opportunities. Fresh Approach will explore the feasibility of an Urban Farmer Incubator Program to stimulate economic growth while advocating for food, land access, and climate priorities. The ultimate goal is to create a community-driven network of urban agriculture initiatives.

Ceres Community Project

Sonoma

Ceres Community Project will implement the Farm-to-Community Youth Urban Agriculture and Local Food Educator Internship Program to benefit youth and families in Roseland and other low-



income/disadvantaged Southwest Santa Rosa neighborhoods. The program will: 1) provide a paid workforce development urban ag training opportunity for youth, including transportation; 2) increase access to knowledge/literacy about locally grown food for families with nutrition related health issues; and 3) expand fall season production and crop storage capacity at their 1.5-acre garden through infrastructure investments.

Center for Food Faith and Justice

Alameda

The Center for Food, Faith & Justice (CFFJ) will launch the Beyond the Table Project, uniting urban agriculture, community empowerment, and workforce development. This initiative will provide hands-on agricultural training and facilitate healing through community-building activities, targeting youth and young adults, veterans, the formerly incarcerated, and the unhoused in Berkeley, CA. CFFJ aims to sow seeds of hope, sustainability, and resilience in urban communities.

John Muir Land Trust

Contra Costa

Family Harvest Farm will increase leadership and life skills and provide paid supported employment for transition age foster youth by offering employment and training on natural resources within a local food system that encourages healthy living, feeds underserved communities in need, and nurtures the land. Family Harvest Farm is a thriving 3.5-acre regenerative, biodiverse, climate-friendly urban farming program of John Muir Land Trust located in a USDA-defined food desert neighborhood in Pittsburg, CA.

West Fresno Family Resource Center

Fresno

The West Fresno Family Resource Center's Sweet Potato Project cultivates agricultural literacy and skills development for the youth of West Fresno by providing educational opportunities related to growing and consuming locally grown seasonal produce. Students create new market opportunities and entrepreneurial activity with the foods they grow and harvest. The Sweet Potato Project provides food sovereignty: creating spaces for community members to provide themselves with healthy, cultural foods; promoting self-reliance, ecological sustainability, and control over their own food sources.

Zenjay

San Bernardino

Zenjay's Tip and Jerry School of Urban Farming project empowers underserved California youth in San Bernardino County with hands-on farming experience, fostering future leaders in sustainable practices. Zenjay aims to create an equitable food system by equipping youth with farming skills and driving industry-wide sustainability through community partnerships. This initiative supports urban food accessibility, offers education through workshops, and showcases sustainable urban farming in disadvantaged communities.



Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District

Riverside

Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District will help growers thrive by hiring an Agricultural Advisor for the highly urbanized, mostly disadvantaged community in western Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The Advisor will: conduct an agricultural needs assessment of local farmers; update the “Fresh and Local” guide; provide free training in areas such as healthy soils management, irrigation efficiency, cover crops, native plant hedgerows, and agricultural easements; and create carbon farm plans. Despite growing interest in local foods, area farmers need more access to these resources.

Food Exploration and Discovery

Los Angeles

Food Exploration and Discovery (Food ED) will build a community garden in Duarte Park, a hub for Duarte that includes a playground and teen center and is close to high-density housing and a public library. Community members of all experience levels will have access to 16-20 plots, increasing their food sovereignty and gathering community. In addition to building the community garden, Food ED will also plant a demonstration native garden and offer workshops on growing vegetables, composting, and ecosystems, which will cultivate agricultural literacy as well as provide ecosystem services.

Black Thumb Farm

Los Angeles

Black Thumb Farm (BTF) is a black farmer-founded 501(c)(3) non-profit farm that provides a safe, green space for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) youth farmers in Los Angeles County to explore their connection to the land and learn about sustainable farming approaches to improve food equity in the Los Angeles community. The Farm Hands program fills a critical gap in our locality by providing an enriching after-school experience for BIPOC youth to learn through mentorship, leadership training, and hands-on skills training workshops from professionals as well as their peers.

Feed and Be Fed

Los Angeles

Feed and Be Fed will develop and implement a youth employment program and double production and distribution of fresh produce. Through the increased income from the sale of the produce, Feed and Be Fed will be able to enlarge the scope, quality, and reach of educational services including Garden Lab outdoor classroom for elementary students, after-school Garden Club for Boys and Girls Club members, and weekend open garden time and classes for working adults to share plots and experience.

Avenue 33 Farm

Los Angeles

Avenue 33 Farm will create a paid internship program for high-school and college-age youth to expand their existing food access programming and hold weekly community farm days with free workshops to help connect people to urban agriculture. This program will include collaborating with their local K-12



charter school, Los Angeles Leadership Academy, and community college Pasadena City College, as well as with organizations like SEE-LA and LA Food Policy Council to connect youth to urban agriculture and the impact it can have on their community, as well as develop professional skills.

Malaia's Microgreens

Los Angeles

Malaia's Microgreens will expand farm operations by approximately double its current size to increase production capabilities and create opportunities for the local community. Increasing farm capacity would allow Malaia's Microgreens to adequately work with a large distributor while dedicating 10% of the new farm space to the Second Harvest food bank. Expansion would also allow a dedicated space for farm workshops and classes. Lastly, expansion would support the further development of the Roundtable Farmhouse Association, an association of local urban farmers focused on sustainable farming methods.

Build Hope

Los Angeles

Build Hope Inc will work with two public housing developments, Nickerson Gardens and Gonzaque Village, as well as an additional community space in Watts - IHeart Watts garden - to revitalize community garden space and develop relevant programming for residents. Creating this urban food forest will protect, enhance, and expand equitable food access in this underserved community. Through the urban food forest, Build Hope seeks to promote sustainable agriculture practices, provide fresh produce, and offer educational opportunities for residents to learn about food production and healthy eating.

First Congregational Church

Los Angeles

Integral to its commitment to environmental, social, and food justice, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Community Garden & Farm grows organic, regenerative food for participatory community cultivation and distribution, and organizes classes in urban gardening including practices such as composting, seed saving, nutrition, food preservation, and more. This program provides fresh, nutritious foods to its neighbors in the Westlake and Koreatown communities and is also a model for how religious institutions can integrate ecological, equitable practices with spiritual wellbeing of all faith traditions.

Project New Village

San Diego

Project New Village (PNV) a 501(c)(3) Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-led, community-rooted nonprofit, will engage and train 20 Southeastern San Diego resident leaders and support them to transform two neglected parcels of land into vibrant urban growing spaces. The project will build social



capital and demonstrate how resident-led urban agriculture projects can create more equitable access to healthy food in low-income neighborhoods of color.

MAKE Project

San Diego

MAKE Community will shape MAKE Projects' new urban farm in the heart of urban San Diego with the strategic focus to become: a high-impact workforce development program for refugee and immigrant women and youth; a viable business that is 75% self-sustaining within two years; and an intercultural global community that gathers over a common love of food and farming. This Project will not only enable the organization to scale its farm business into a viable business model but also showcase how urban agriculture can be a vital anchor to "make community" in challenging social times.

Fred's Urban Farm

San Diego

Fred's Urban Farm will build an on-farm education center and increase access to affordable produce by improving their existing farm stand. Fred's will create an outdoor education center on farm designed to host classes for youth and adults within its community. Fred's also plans to educate its community about how food is grown, growing their own food, nutrition, wellness, and apiculture. Classes improve agricultural literacy. Fred's will improve the farm stand that resides on the farm property, increase crop production, and provide affordable produce.

Hidden Springs Family Ranch

Butte

Farm Teach will cultivate agricultural literacy for PK-12th-grade students by teaching the intricate ecological web that sustains life on a regenerative agriculture farm; engage high school and college students in farm production to develop job skills for a workforce in a disadvantaged population; and connect food produced by youth programs to disadvantaged communities to increase food sovereignty. Students will become youth entrepreneurs to launch a mobile farm stand, supplementing access to local, sustainably grown protein and produce for their urban community.

The Jesus Center

Butte

The Jesus Center will serve low-income, disadvantaged, priority populations by 1) Expanding urban agricultural production at the Jesus Center farm and the non-profit's new Renewal Center site, 2) Expanding experiential vocational training in urban agricultural production, serving 60 underserved individuals who are unhoused and represent priority populations, and 3) Expanding infrastructure and launching new educational marketing to increase sales of produce grown at the Jesus Center farm and the Renewal Center's urban agriculture settings to priority populations.



Root 64

Sacramento

Root 64 Sacramento will hire one full-time or two part-time employees to work on the farm for the duration of the grant period as well as invest in several pieces of equipment and permanent infrastructure that will allow the farm to increase year-round production and overall sales of both produce and starts, improve cash flow, increase reliability as a source of produce for the community, and ultimately empower the farm to maintain a full-time, year-round employee through the resulting increased sales of products and services.

Soil Born Farms Urban Agriculture and Education Project

Sacramento

Soil Born Farms will cultivate a movement of urban agriculture in Sacramento County by serving as the premier hub for education and production in the nation's farm-to-fork capital. The nonprofit urban farm and education center will provide growers with essential supplies and hands-on learning about regenerative food production. Strategic investments in equipment will allow Soil Born Farms to model climate-resilient growing strategies at every scale, and produce more healthy food year-round for underserved schools, emergency food assistance, and community markets.

Table Farm

Sacramento

Table Farm will draw upon their experience over the last three years operating an urban farm as they were forced to relocate from their existing farm site. Partnering with Southgate Park District, Table Farm will establish a new urban farm on an undeveloped parcel. The new site will build social capital by gathering community members for staff-led volunteer shifts, help address food insecurity through the growing and distribution of pesticide-free produce, and provide educational and skill development opportunities through a paid youth fellowship program aimed at developing climate resilient leaders.

Color the Block

Sacramento

Color the Block will establish a community garden by partnering with local organizations to build social capital that will increase engagement in South and Central Sacramento communities. The goal of the program is to provide fresh and nutritious food, increase food sovereignty, and increase agricultural literacy among families and youth with limited access to resources in South and Central Sacramento.

Brown Sugar Farm

Sacramento

Brown Sugar Farm, and the Ujamaa Farmer Collective members, will focus on enhancing urban food system production and distribution, and expanding capacity for farmer training through tours, workshops, and professional development opportunities at multiple locations in the Sacramento region. This initiative aims to foster sustainable, equitable urban agriculture expansion and empower Black



urban farmers and underserved communities, creating a more inclusive and resilient food and farming ecosystem.

California Indian Museum and Cultural Center

Sonoma

The California Indian Museum and Cultural Center will conduct intergenerational Native traditional food ways educational workshops in public parks, open spaces, and preserves in the Santa Rosa area and in the classroom. The 12 workshops will be led by Tribal Culture Bearers and serve Native community members, with a focus on raising up Native youth to be traditional food stewards. The project aims to engage Native peoples in their at-risk traditional food ways to increase their gathering, processing, and consumption of traditional plants and medicines for better health and wellness.

Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians

Sonoma

Bi'Du Khaale Food Sovereignty Project will Build Social Capitol and Gather Communities; Supplement Access to Fresh Food; Cultivate Agricultural Literacy; Perform Ecosystem Services through planting of native gardens and food forest. Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians will increase Indigenous food sovereignty through the creation of cultural demonstration areas; hosting gatherings to educate on traditional food production/harvesting methods; provide access to fresh fruits and vegetables, highlight traditional food pathways; restore landscapes to include edible native vegetation and create a food forest.

Friendship House Association of American Indians

San Francisco

Friendship House, The Association of Ramaytush Ohlone and The Cultural Conservancy will engage community members in a process to remediate, plan, and install a 3.25-acre Indigenous Farm in Golden Gate Park. Working to Indigenize the city, the Garden will be transformed by regenerating the land's biodiversity, bringing healing to the 18,000+ American Indians and Alaska Natives living in San Francisco, and working in partnership with the original stewards of this land, the Ramaytush Ohlone. The Farm will have workforce training, crop production, and ceremonial spaces for all to enjoy.