2023 Urban Agriculture Grant Program:

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

The CDFA is holding weekly informational webinars from
September 5th through October 19th during the application period for this program.
The application period is August 21st – October 23rd, 2023.

What to expect in this informational webinar…

For each funding track:

❖ Overview of the track

❖ Eligibility

❖ Funding track details: grant term, award amounts, allowable costs, reporting

❖ Application/Scoring

Overall grant timeline

Purpose and Priorities

The 2023 Urban Agriculture Grant Program will award competitive grants to support projects that enhance the viability of urban agriculture in urban areas across California.

Funding Priorities:

❖ Priority will be given to urban agriculture projects led by or serving **priority populations** as defined by the California Air Resources Board's California Climate Investments Priority Populations map

❖ Projects whose benefits expand beyond the individual benefit of the applicant

❖ Projects that clearly display one or more of the benefits of **urban agriculture**

Urban Agriculture Definition

Urban Agriculture refers to the cultivation, processing, and distribution of agricultural products in urban settings, including things like inground small plot cultivation, raised beds, vertical production, warehouse farms, mushroom growing, urban forestry and tree care, community gardens, rooftop farms, hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic facilities, and other innovations. Urban farmers and gardeners work among diverse populations to expand access to nutritious foods, foster community engagement, offer workforce development opportunities, educate communities about food and farming, and expand green spaces.

CDFA defines "urban" as a geographic area no more than 25 miles adjacent to or outside of one Urbanized Area containing a population of 50,000 or more people.

Benefits of Urban Agriculture Include

- Builds Social Capitol and Gathers Communities
- Provides Education and Skills Development
- Supplements Access to Fresh Food
- Cultivates Agricultural Literacy
- Performs Ecosystem Services
- Supports Economic Development
- Increases **Food Sovereignty**
- Pilots an Innovation in Production

What is Food Sovereignty?

The right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.

Key Note: Produce grown does NOT need to be for sale to qualify as Urban Agriculture

Example Projects:

- ❖ Building a Community Garden
- ❖ Supporting Home Production by:
  - ❖ Hosting Community Workshops
  - ❖ Seed/Starts Distribution to your community
  - ❖ Providing Technical Assistance to Home Gardeners

Two Funding Tracks

❖ **Track 1:** Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant

❖ **Track 2:** Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant

✖ **No,** you may not apply to both funding tracks

✖ If you receive a Track 2 award, you **cannot** also receive Track 1 subaward funding

✔ **YES** you may apply if you have an existing grant with CDFA

✔ If you apply for Track 2 but **DO NOT** receive an award, you can still apply for a subaward from the Track 1 funded organization in your region.

cdfa

CDFA-F2F

Track 1: Systems Builder Community- Based Block Grant (purpose)

The purpose of the Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant is to increase staff capacity and provide pass through funding for Community-Based Organizations (CBO's) with grassroots involvement in urban and regional food systems planning. Eligible CBO's may apply for awards from $200,000 - $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-$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.

Track 1: Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant Overview

Track 1 will fund Community-Based Organizations (CBO's) with grassroots involvement in urban and regional food systems planning to increase their capacity in order to create and administer subawards to urban agriculture stakeholders in their region.

- ❖ **Design** the **subaward application**. KEEP IT SIMPLE. This could be an interview, a site visit, a written application, or any other method that the CBO sees fit for equitably determining which projects meet the criteria of urban agriculture as defined by CDFA.
- ❖ **Develop** an effective **communication strategy** to promote the subaward opportunities including strategies such as language translation as necessary, radio, press, or web-based media, hosting town halls, community gatherings, newsletters, listservs, and more.
- ❖ if desired, **employ** Systems Builder Block Grant staff and/or pay existing staff.
- ❖ **Distribute subawards** to no less than two urban agriculture stakeholders in your region there is no maximum number.

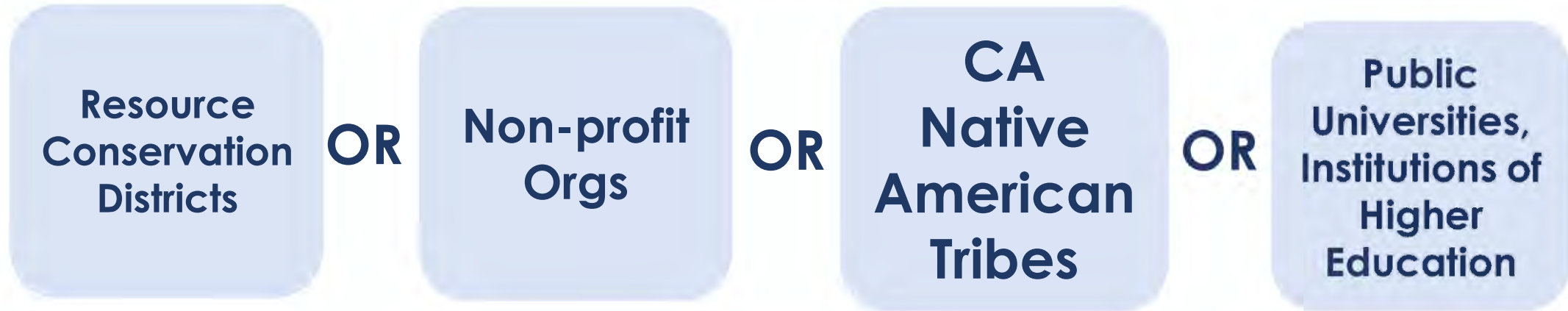# Track 1: Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant Regions

A minimum of one CBO will be funded per region.
A minimum of one CBO will be funded with statewide reach.

REGIONS

❖ Sacramento Valley: Sacramento, Stockton

❖ Bay Area: East Bay, South Bay, North Bay

❖ Fresno: Fresno, Bakersfield

❖ LA: Los Angeles

❖ Inland Empire: San Bernardino, Riverside

❖ San Diego: San Diego

❖ Statewide

Track 1: Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant Eligibility

Resource Conservation Districts

OR

Non-profit Orgs

OR

CA Native American Tribes

OR

Public Universities, Institutions of Higher Education

… with grassroots involvement in urban and regional food systems planning. Priority given to organizations that have led or participated in creating a <u>Food System Assessment, Greening Plan, Climate Action Plan, Urban Agriculture Assessment, Food Policy Development Plan/Strategie and or other related community fed research assessing their reginal assets and needs.</u>

Track 1: Systems Builder Community Based Block Grant Details

Grant Term: May 2024 through September 2026 (28 months)

Funding Range: $200,000 minimum - $800,000 maximum

Allowable Costs: Staffing needed to create, advertise and administer subawards to underserved urban agriculture stakeholders in your region. No less than 2 subawards. $5-$60k for applicant urban agriculture project.

❖ **Subawards Range from $5,000-$60,000 for:**
  - ❖ Infrastructure
  - ❖ Equipment/Supplies
  - ❖ Workforce Development
  - ❖ Technical Assistance
  - ❖ Community Engagement
  - ❖ Operations

Reporting:

- ❖ Annual reports cover progress made during the first twelve months of a project and successive annual periods thereafter.

- ❖ Final report covering progress made during the entirety of the project include data, results, and discussion from all years of the project to form a comprehensive and stand-alone document.

- ❖ Quarterly check-ins (what's working, how can we help)

- ❖ Evaluation including survey collection, data collection as agreed upon and interviews with subawardees.

Track 1: Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant Application Sections and Scoring

Application Overview	Points
Eligibility	--
Project Title and Summary	--
Project Team	--
Total Dollar Amount Requested	--
Urban Agriculture in the Local Food System	15
Participation in Food Systems Evaluation Work	10
Ability to Manage Subawards	25
Community Collaborations	30
Outreach and Communication Plan	20
Project Work Plan	--
Reporting and Evaluation	--
Budget	--
Total	**100**

UA in Local Food System includes points for:

❖ Demonstrating how the benefits of UA help meet existing needs of the community

Food System Evaluation Work section includes points for:

❖ Having led or participated in systems evaluation

Managing Subawards section includes points for

❖ Experience working with grant funding and contracts

Community Collaboration section includes points for

❖ Letters of Support demonstrating strong community-based collaboration
❖ 15+ LOS award you maximum points

Outreach and Communication Plan includes points for:

❖ Number of different outreach strategies employed to announce the subaward program

cdfa

CDFA-F2F

Track 2: Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant Overview

Track 2 will fund urban agriculture projects that are led by or serve priority populations in urban areas throughout California.

❖ The California Climate Investments Priority Populations Map will be used to identify priority populations that are disadvantaged and/or low-income.

❖ Projects that clearly execute one or more of the **benefits** of urban agriculture.
  - ❖ Builds Social Capitol and Gathers Communities
  - ❖ Provides Education and Skills Development
  - ❖ Supplements Access to Fresh Food
  - ❖ Cultivates Agricultural Literacy
  - ❖ Performs Ecosystem Services
  - ❖ Supports Economic Development
  - ❖ Increases Food Sovereignty
  - ❖ Pilots an Innovation in Production

Track 2: Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant Eligibility

For Profit Business	OR	Non-Profit Orgs	OR	Resource Conservation Districts	OR	CA Native American Tribes

I.e.. Tribal Based non-profits, Tribal Governments

All applicants must meet the definition of a Qualified Small Business:
Is one of the following: (exception for Tribal Applicants)

❖ A sole proprietor, independent contractor, 1099 employee, C-corporation, S-corporation, cooperative, limited liability company, partnership, or limited partnership, with an annual gross revenue of less than five million dollars ($5,000,000), but greater than one thousand dollars ($1,000) , in the 2022 taxable yea .

❖ A registered nonprofit that had an annual gross revenue of less than five million dollars ($5,000,000), but greater than one thousand dollars ($1,000), , in the 2022 taxable year.

❖ An organization that is fiscally sponsored by a nonprofit corporation.

cdfa

CDFA-F2F

Track 2: Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant Details

Grant Term: May 2024 through September 2026 (28 months)

Award Amounts: $75k to $300k

Allowable Costs: We aim to provide flexible funding to meet the needs of your urban agriculture project in accomplishing one or more Benefits of Urban Agriculture

- ❖ Infrastructure
- ❖ Equipment
- ❖ Supplies
- ❖ Community Engagement
- ❖ Technical Assistance
- ❖ Operations
- ❖ Workforce Development

Reporting:

- ❖ 5-10 photos of the site, project, or infrastructure you plan to improve with grant funding at the start and end of the project.

- ❖ Annual reports cover progress made during the first twelve months of a project and successive annual periods thereafter.

- ❖ Final report covering progress made during the entirety of the project include data, results, and discussion from all years of the project to form a comprehensive and stand-alone document.

- ❖ Evaluation including survey collection, data collection as agreed upon during the final agreement.

Track 2: Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant Application and Scoring

Application Overview	Points
Eligibility	--
Project Title and Summary	--
Project Address	--
Amount Requested	--
Project Team	20
Community Need	25
Project Description	25
Building Resources	20
Project Evaluation	10
Budget	--
Total	100

Project Team includes points for

❖ For providing clear description of team member roles and for team members being a part of a **priority population.**

Community Need section includes points for

❖ Clearly describing your community served and how your project meets an existing need.

Project Description section includes points for

❖ Identify projects Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Building Resources section includes points for

❖ Providing Letters of Support from Collaborators (5 LOS get maximum points)

Project Evaluation section includes points for

❖ Describe who will collect metrics that demonstrate success of the project

Timeline

- ❖ **June 2023:** public comment period

- ❖ **August 21 – October 23, 2023:** applications open (online portal)

- ❖ **November – January 2024:** review and scoring applications

- ❖ **February 2024:** notification to awardees

- ❖ **February - May 2024:** contracts and grant agreements created

- ❖ **May 2024:** funding released, and projects start

- ❖ **September 2026:** projects completed

Matching and Payments

❖ **There are NO Matching Requirements**

  ❖ No additional points will be given

❖ **Applicants May Apply for Advanced Payments**

  ❖ Advance payments shall not exceed the amount necessary for project expenses for a three-month period and cannot reduce the project balance below 10% of the award amount.

❖ **Indirect Costs Allowance**

  ❖ Up to 30% of total award may be used for Indirect Costs, including grant administration, accounting, printing, or utilities associated with the program.

After Awardees Are Notified

- ❖ **Track 1 and Track 2 Awardees will be Notified of their Grant Awards at the Same Time**
  - ❖ If your application succeeds in receiving funding, a public announcement will be made to share who the awardees are.
- ❖ **If you applied to Track 2 but <u>DID NOT</u> receive funding, you can still apply for Subaward Funding to a Track 1 CBO serving your region.**
- ❖ Applying for a subaward after being notified that your application was not awarded funding IS ALLOWABLE. There is no guarantee that you will be selected by the CBO for a subaward.
- ❖ **Track 1 Regional Leads will need several months to develop their subawards program**
  - ❖ If interested in applying for a subaward you must communicate with the Track 1 awardee in your region directly not with CDFA.

How we can help during the application

Application Virtual Office Hours

❖ Each Tuesday in September from 12-1 – Starting September 5th
❖ Each Thursday in October from 4-5 – Through October 19th
❖ Opportunity to get your questions answered via a live Q+A with CDFA staff

Office Hours Available in English and Spanish
There are no such thing as bad questions!
Stop in anytime you can within the hour. There will be a 15-20 min presentation covering the basics of the program at the top of the hour.

CDFA Assistance During the App Period

How we CAN help: ✅

- ❖ Can answer informational questions about the grant via email & webinars
- ❖ Will provide pre-recorded technical support videos for the online application portal provided by Amplifund

How we CANNOT help: ❌

- ❖ Cannot provide specific feedback on grant project ideas
- ❖ Cannot assist with writing the grant application

Amplifund Web Portal Webinars

Technical Assistance Webinars guiding applicants through every step of completing a grant application in AmpliFund will be held on Zoom at the following times:

Track 1 Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant

❖ Tuesday September 5th
❖ 11am – NOON PT
❖ (60 minute session)

Track 2 Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant

❖ Thursday September 7th
❖ 4pm – 5pm PT
❖ (90 minute session)

* Webinars will be recorded and posted to our website within 24hours.

Things to know about Amplifund

❖ Amplifund will Automatically open a window notifying you that your Session is about to expire EVEN WHEN YOU ARE ACTIVLEY WRITING.
❖ This window opens based on the last time you hit a SAVE button.

There are Three Ways to Save Your work
  ❖ The "Save and Continue" Button
  ❖ The "Save" Button
  ❖ The "Mark as Complete" Button

❖ **Note*** In order for your work to be saved, you must use one of these save options on every page you work on or edit.
❖ **Remember,** you can always click save, log off, and then log back into AmpliFund to resume you application at any time.

Questions?

CDFA staff may be unable to answer questions specific to your application. CDFA staff cannot give advice on how to frame or write your application. Please keep your question to under 2 minutes

Visit the program webpage to learn more:
https://cafarmtofork.cdfa.ca.gov/urbanag.html

Send written questions to:
sara.bernal@cdfa.ca.gov

Thank you!