

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**



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.



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 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 Details

Grant Term: April 2024 through September 2026 (29 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
- ❖ Workforce Development
- ❖ Community Engagement
- ❖ Equipment/Supplies
- ❖ Technical Assistance
- ❖ 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	--
	--
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

Outreach and Communication Plan includes points for:

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



Track 2: Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant Overview

Track 2 will fund urban agriculture projects that are led by or serve underserved communities 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 Capital 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 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
	--
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

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



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



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!

