

2023 California Urban Agriculture Grant Program INFO SESSION

June 6, 1:00pm-2:30pm June 12, 9:00am-10:30am

These info sessions are part of the public comment period for this program



What to expect in this info session...

Grant Program Overview:

- ❖ Definitions, Timelines, Eligibility
- ❖ Funding details: grant term, award amounts, allowable costs, reporting
- ❖ Application/Scoring

Public Comment Period Information:

- ❖ Email notes to caurbanag@cdfa.ca.gov
- ❖ Comments due by June 15th



How we can help during the application

Application Virtual Office Hours

- ❖ Each Tuesday from 12-1
- ❖ 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.



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 **underserved communities** as defined by the CalEnviroScreen Tool
- ❖ Projects whose benefits expand beyond the individual benefit of the applicant
- ❖ Projects that clearly display 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.

Underserved Communities Definition

Refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in all aspects of economic, social, and civic life, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons; Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; persons with disabilities; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

Benefits of Urban Agriculture Include

- 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



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 funding



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



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 staff 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/non-profit will be funded per region.
A minimum of one CBO/non-profit will be funded with statewide reach.

REGIONS

- ❖ Sacramento Valley: Sacramento, Stockton
- ❖ Bay Area: San Jose, Oakland, SF
- ❖ Fresno: Fresno, Bakersfield
- ❖ LA: Los Angeles
- ❖ San Diego: San Diego
- ❖ Statewide



Track 1: Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant Eligibility

**501(c)3
Non-
Profits**

OR

**CA Native
American
Tribes**

... with grassroots involvement in urban and regional food systems planning. Priority given to organizations that have led or participated in creating a 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 regional assets and needs.



Track 1: Systems Builder Community Based Block Grant Details

Grant Term: April 2024 through September 2026 (29 months)

Funding Range: \$75,000 minimum - \$400,000 maximum

Allowable Costs: Staffing needed to create, advertise and administer subawards to underserved urban agriculture stakeholders in your region. No less than 2 subawards.

❖ **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	--
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

Outreach and Communication Plan includes points for:

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



Track 1: Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant Public Comment

Track 1 Seeking Public Comment Specifically on how to score the following sections

- Community Collaboration
- Outreach and Communication Plan

❖ **Community Collaboration**

- ❖ To earn Maximum Points CBO's would need to collect Letters of Support from 16+ Community Partners
- ❖ How many Letters of Support show authentic grassroots community based trust?

❖ **Outreach and Communication Plan**

- ❖ To earn Maximum Points CBO's would need to demonstrate **6+** Strategies with **proven** success
- ❖ Should points be given for strategies that have been used in the past that have been successful OR to orgs who commit to a wide range of outreach strategies for announcing this subaward moving forward? Strategies described in this section are a commitment to act out said strategies.



Track 1: Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant Public Comment

How To Submit Your Public Comment Send Your Public Comment via Email

caurbanag@cdfa.ca.gov

Due no later than 5pm PT

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Include “**Urban Agriculture Stakeholder Comments**” in the subject line of your email. Please specify which funding track each comment is regarding in the body of your email.



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 CalEnviroScreen Tool will be used to identify underserved areas.
- ❖ 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 Eligibility

**For Profit
Business**

OR

**Non-Profit
Orgs**

OR

**CA Native
American
Tribes**

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



Track 2: Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant Details

Grant Term: April 2023 through September 2026

Award Amounts: \$75k to \$250k

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 an **underserved community**.

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

Track 2: Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant

Public Comment

Track 2 Seeking Public Comment Specifically on how to score the following sections

- Community Need - Example
- Building Resources

❖ Community Need

- ❖ A community need may be **access** to fresh healthy food or more **workforce development** opportunities.
- ❖ Purchasing **Equipment** for example may increase your operations efficiency thus allowing for more production at a reduced cost of labor or time. This increase in production will allow for **higher yields** thus meeting the need of a community identified as a food desert.
- ❖ **Equipment** may also provide more **training opportunities** for interns and add to a more robust **workforce development** pathway thus aiding community members employability at a green job.

❖ Building Resources

- ❖ To earn Maximum Points applicants would need to submit **5 Letters of Support**. Letters should describe the nature of your relationship and how the proposed project will help your farm reach its goal.

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Timeline

- ❖ **June 2023:** public comment period
- ❖ **August 1 – September 28, 2023:** applications open (online portal)
- ❖ **October – December 2023:** review and scoring applications
- ❖ **December 2023:** notification to awardees
- ❖ **January 2024:** contracts and grant agreements created
- ❖ **April 2024:** funding released, and projects start
- ❖ **September 2026:** projects completed



Matching and Payments

- ❖ **There are NO Matching Requirements**

- ❖ No additional points will be given

- ❖ **Upfront Payments are Allowable**

- ❖ 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.



Questions or Comments?

Please keep your question or comment to under 2 minutes

Visit the program webpage to learn more:

<https://cafarmtofork.cdfa.ca.gov/urbanag.html>

Send written comments to:

caurbanag@cdfa.ca.gov. by 5pm PT on
June 15, 2023

Thank you!

