DRAFT

2026 Urban Agriculture Grant Program (UAGP)

Request for Applications (RFA)

Public Comments are due by 5pm PST on December 18, 2026. Late submissions will not be accepted.

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Inspection Services Division
Office of Farm to Fork
Urban Agriculture Grant Program
Website: https://cafarmtofork.cdfa.ca.gov/urbanag.html

Email: CAUrbanAg@cdfa.ca.gov

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Stakeholder Input:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) welcomes public comment on the DRAFT Urban Agriculture Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA) from November 4, 2026, through December 18, 2026. The CDFA will review all comments received before finalizing the Urban Agriculture Grant Program RFA.

Stakeholders may submit public comments by completing this online form, or emailing a comment letter to CAUrbanAg@cdfa.ca.gov by 5 p.m. PT December 18, 2026. Please include "Stakeholder Comment for Draft UA RFA – Track #" in the email subject line.

CDFA will host four live information sessions during the public comment period.

- Dates: Wednesday, November 4, 6:00pm – 7:30am Thursday, November 19, 4:00pm – 5:30pm; Monday, November 30, 1:00pm – 2:30pm; Wednesday, December 16, 10:00am – 11:30am
- Registration links for each informational session can be found on the Urban Agriculture Grant Program website.
- Recordings of the live information sessions will be available on the Urban Agriculture Grant Program website following each session.

Upon completion of the public comment period, visit the Urban Agriculture Grant Program website for a summary of anonymized public comments from stakeholders and responses from the CDFA.

1. Purpose of Grant

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is pleased to announce the competitive application process for the 2026 Urban Agriculture Grant Program (UAGP). Funding for this program was established through Section 93540 of Senate Bill 867, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 ("Climate Bond"), approved by voters as Proposition 4 in November 2024. The 2024 California Climate Resilience Bond (Prop 4) investments focus on climate smart, sustainable, and resilient farms, ranches, and working lands.

The 2026 UAGP funds urban agriculture projects that create or expand city or suburban community farms or gardens, including those led by community food producers as defined in Section 113752 of the Health and Safety Code, through in-ground small plot cultivation,

raised beds, mushroom growing, rooftop farms, and cultivation of vacant lots and in parks. This grant program funds only agriculture projects located within Urban Areas, as defined.

In accordance with Section 93540 of the Climate Bond, these projects must enhance the sustainability of agricultural infrastructure and facilities that support food systems and increase market access, and benefit small-and medium-sized farms, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers (SDFRs), beginning farmers or ranchers, and veteran farmers or ranchers. The Climate Bond has a strong focus on funding projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), and Vulnerable Populations (VPs), which include SDFRs and Tribes.

While each grant recipient does not have to individually meet the targets below, the most competitive applications will demonstrate readiness to support the following targets set in the Climate Bond:

- Target 1: 40% of Climate Bond funds must provide "meaningful and direct benefits" to DACs, SDACs and vulnerable populations (which include SDFRs and Tribes).
- Target 2: 10% of Climate Bond funds must provide meaningful and direct benefits to SDACs.

There are two funding tracks:

Track 1: Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant:

The Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant provides funding to regional or statewide Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) with grassroots involvement in urban agriculture and regional food systems planning. This funding is intended to increase staff capacity and provide pass-through funding to local urban agriculture projects through subawards.

Eligible CBOs may apply for awards between $700,000 and $1,800,000 to develop and administer subawards to urban agriculture projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to DACs, SDACs, and vulnerable populations which include SDFRs and Tribes. Subawards will range from $10,000 to $150,000 and must create or expand city or suburban community farms or gardens. Community-Based Organizations may allocate between $5,000 and $60,000 of the award toward eligible capacity-building activities that enhance their ability to support urban agriculture projects in their region.

CDFA aims to distribute CBO awards geographically throughout California's urban areas to the extent possible. CDFA will try to award at least one CBO that is a statewide entity.

Track 2: Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant:

The Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant directly funds urban agriculture projects to strengthen or expand city or suburban community farms or gardens, including those led by community food producers, and provide meaningful and direct benefits to DACs, SDACs, and vulnerable populations which include SDFRs and Tribes.

Awards will range from $150,000 to $400,000 and prioritize projects that benefit small- and medium-sized farms, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, beginning farmers or ranchers, and veteran farmers or ranchers.

2. Funding and Duration

Funding for the Urban Agriculture Grant Program is one-time funding provided by the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, also known as the "Climate Bond".

CDFA will award up to $18,450,000 for proposals through this solicitation. Grant amounts for Track 1 cannot exceed $1,800,000 per applicant. Grant amounts for Track 2 cannot exceed $400,000 per applicant. The maximum grant duration is 24 months with all funding expended by September 30, 2029. CDFA reserves the right to offer an award amount less than the amount requested.

Grant Duration: CDFA will consider one year and multi-year grants, with a target start in summer 2027 and that ends by September 2029.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible for Track 1 or Track 2 funding, applicants must:

- Serve communities located in urban areas as defined.
- Demonstrate how proposed urban agriculture project provides meaningful and direct benefits to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), Severely Disadvantaged

Communities (SDACs), and Vulnerable Populations (VPs), which include Tribes and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFRs).

- Tools for identifying DACs, SDAC, and VPs, and guidance on meaningful and direct benefits can be found in Section 4. Funding Priorities and Climate Bond Resources.

Please note:

- Due to the limited funding available, applicants may submit no more than one proposal, selecting only one track.
- Recipients of Track 2 Funding are prohibited from applying for subawards through Track 1 Community-Based Organizations.
- The CDFA reserves the right to offer an award amount less than the amount requested.
- Tribes are eligible for both funding tracks.

Track 1: Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant Eligibility:

Eligible:

- Nonprofit organizations
- Resource Conservation Districts
- Public or private colleges and universities
- Local government agencies
- California Native American Tribes (federally and non-federally recognized)
- Tribal-based nonprofit organizations (California-based nonprofit organizations with at least 50% of the Board of Directors and/or Leadership Team identifying as American Indian, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian and whose organizational mission or strategic plan expresses a commitment to serving and/or empowering California Native American Tribes or people.)

Not Eligible:

- Individuals
- For-profit organizations
- State and federal government agencies

Additional notes to help determine eligibility:

- Track 1 grant funds will not be awarded to Community Based Organizations that directly benefit or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual.
- Organizations must distribute and administer no less than four subawards. There is no maximum number of subawards.

Track 2: Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant Eligibility:

Eligible:

- Nonprofit organizations
- For-profit organizations
- Resource Conservation Districts
- Local government agencies
- California Native American Tribes (federally and non-federally recognized)
- Tribal-based nonprofit organizations (California-based nonprofit organizations with at least 50% of the Board of Directors and/or Leadership Team identifying as American Indian, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian and whose organizational mission or strategic plan expresses a commitment to serving and/or empowering California Native American Tribes or people.)

Not Eligible:

- Individuals
- State and federal government agencies
- Public or private colleges and universities

Additional notes to help determine eligibility:

- Track 2 applicants must already be operating an existing urban agriculture project. Track 2 funding cannot be used to establish a new urban agriculture site.
- Possible examples of eligible urban agriculture production methods:
  - Soil-based production (in-ground, raised beds, shared gardens)
  - Vertical farming systems
  - Indoor/warehouse/greenhouse production (including mushroom cultivation)

- Rooftop farms
- Hydroponic, aeroponic, or aquaponic systems (indoor or outdoor)
- Urban forestry or agroforestry projects (food-producing trees only)
- Micro-farms (microgreens, specialty crops)

Limited Waivers of Sovereign Immunity

In limited circumstances assessed for each grant program, CDFA will require federally-recognized tribes to provide limited waivers of sovereign immunity as a condition of accepting the Climate Bond grant funds.

CDFA recognizes the serious nature of requesting a limited waiver of sovereign immunity and public access. CDFA is committed to working collaboratively with California Native American tribes on tailoring limited waiver of sovereign immunity terms, deed restrictions, and public access requirements to support tribal priorities while also meeting the state's legal obligations in administering bond funds and funds derived from public tax dollars.

Disqualifications

The following may result in the disqualification of a project proposal:

- Applicant is not an eligible entity.
- Project that does not meet the definition of urban.
- Incomplete proposals: proposals with one or more unanswered, required questions.
- Proposals that include activities outside the grant duration.
- Proposals for less than the minimum award amount or more than the maximum award amount.
- Proposals with unallowable costs or activities necessary to complete the project objectives, including indirect costs that exceed proposed indirect rate.
- Proposals submitted after the application deadline.
- Organization lacks the internal capacity or infrastructure to carry out the work.

APPEAL RIGHTS: Any discretionary action taken by the Office of Farm to Fork may be appealed to the CDFA's Office of Hearings and Appeals within ten (10) calendar days of receiving a notice of disqualification from CDFA. Email notification shall serve as the date of service. The appeal must be in writing and signed by the responsible party named on the

grant application or their authorized agent. It must state the grounds for the appeal and include any supporting documents and a copy of the Office of Farm to Fork decision being challenged. The submission must be sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 or emailed to **CDFA.LegalOffice@cdfa.ca.gov**. If submissions are not received within the time frame provided above, the appeal will be disqualified from consideration.

Executive Order N-6-22 – Russia Sanctions. On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-6-22 regarding Economic Sanctions against Russia and Russian entities and individuals. "Economic Sanctions" refers to sanctions imposed by the U.S. government in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine, as well as any sanctions imposed under state law. By submitting a bid, proposal, or application, Bidder/Applicant represents that it is not a target of Economic Sanctions. Should the State determine Bidder/Applicant is a target of Economic Sanctions or is conducting prohibited transactions with sanctioned individuals or entities, that shall be grounds for rejection of the Bidder's/Applicant's bid/proposal/application any time prior to contract/agreement execution, or, if determined after contract/agreement execution, shall be grounds for termination by the State.

4. Funding Priorities and Climate Bond Resources

To be eligible for Track 1 or Track 2 funding, applicants must demonstrate how proposed project provides meaningful and direct benefits to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), and Vulnerable Populations (VPs) which include Tribes and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFRs).

Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate meaningful and direct benefits to the following priority urban agriculture stakeholder groups:

- small-and medium-sized farms
- socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers
- beginning farmers or ranchers
- veteran farmers or ranchers

Additional funding priorities are as follows:

- 10% of the total funds available must be allocated for projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to SDACs as required by the Climate Bond.

- An additional 10% of the total funds available will be set-aside for federally recognized and non-federally recognized Native American Tribes, and Tribal-based nonprofit organizations.

Tools for Identifying DACs, SDACs, and Vulnerable Populations

Applicants may use the following tools to determine whether their projects serve DACs, SDACs, or vulnerable populations.

- **Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Communities Map** – identifies DACs and SDACs statewide.
- **Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP)** – identifies communities most vulnerable to climate change impacts statewide.
- **Climate Change & Health Vulnerability Indicators for California (CCHVIz)** – identifies areas more susceptible to health risks associated with climate change

Meaningful and Direct Benefits

For a project to provide a meaningful and direct benefit it must meet all four of the following criteria:

1. Ensures the creation of direct, tangible, and substantial benefits to individuals of the (S)DAC or vulnerable population that would not have materialized without its implementation. The benefits are not incidental, indirect, or speculative, and can be articulated.
    a. Direct: A causal link between project activities and realized benefits to residents of a (S)DAC or vulnerable population is demonstrated.
    b. Tangible: A specific project clearly affects a discrete (S)DAC or vulnerable population.
    c. Substantial: The benefits are reasonably proportional to the scale of the project being undertaken. A project where most of the claimed benefits accrue to other parties would be incidental, not substantial, or disproportionately small. In the context of determining whether benefits are reasonably proportional to the scale
2. Protects or enhances a (S)DAC or vulnerable population's resources and quality of life by building climate resilience, such as reducing risks to the community or

population from climate hazards, protecting resources threatened by climate change (e.g., drinking water supply/quality, urban tree canopy, critical infrastructure, etc.), or creating/enhancing community or population assets (e.g., wetlands, resilience centers, etc.)

3. Directly responds to the (S)DAC's or vulnerable population's expressed need or desired benefit, either through direct project input or as part of a larger planning or engagement effort. The project is inherently designed to meet needs that have been identified by the (S)DAC or vulnerable population and that project scoping, development, and implementation integrated (S)DAC or vulnerable population input to the maximum extent feasible.
4. Does not result in a long-term degradation or reduction of any (S)DACs' or vulnerable populations' resources identified in (2). Benefits should not be provided to one community or population at the expense of or burdening another – harms should be avoided and minimized. If the project has the potential to reduce or degrade community resources, then predefined mechanisms or commitments for remediation are in place to avoid these harms.

Examples of meaningful and direct benefits:

Urban agriculture projects can demonstrate meaningful and direct benefits to DACs, SDACs, and VPs through activities such as:

1. **Improving Climate Resiliency of Urban Agriculture Lands**
   Keeping urban agriculture land healthy and productive for the long term by:
   - Improving air and water quality
   - Improving soil health
   - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing natural carbon storage
   - Supporting tribal stewardship
   - Reducing water and energy use and lowering utility costs

2. **Strengthening Local Food Systems Through Infrastructure**
   Supporting or building better agricultural infrastructure and facilities that improve local food systems and increase market access.

3. **Supporting Tribal Food Sovereignty**

Advancing tribal-led food production by supporting access to lands, natural resources, and culturally important places.

4. **Improving Local Economic Resilience**
   Supporting the creation of good local jobs with fair wages, benefits, and opportunities for job training.

5. **Strengthening Community Partnerships**
   Strengthening partnerships with community-based organizations, schools, nonprofits, tribal governments, and tribal organizations to provide education, cultural programming, and food literacy.
   - Encouraging collaboration between tribes and other entities for shared management of resources.

6. **Promoting Leadership Among Priority Populations**
   Encouraging meaningful leadership roles for members of DACs, SDACs, and VPs.

7. **Expanding Access to Healthy and Affordable Food in Priority Populations**
   Improving access to healthy, nutritious and affordable food in DACs, SDACs, and VPs.

8. **Supporting Equitable Access to Urban Agriculture Land and Community-Controlled Spaces**
   Supporting fair access to urban agriculture lands for underrepresented farmers and priority populations and expanding access to community-controlled growing spaces.

5. Solicitation Process and Timeline

Schedule for Urban Agriculture Grant Program

Activity	Date (tentative) PT Pacific Time
Public Comment Period on Urban Agriculture Grant Program	November 4 – December 18, 2026

Request for Proposal Application Period	February - March 2027
Application Information Webinar Sessions (Recording will be made available on website)	Wednesday, February 3, 2027, 5:30-7:00pm Monday, February 22, 2027, 1:00pm-2:30pm Friday, March 19, 2027, 4:00pm-6:30pm
Request for Proposal Review Period	April - June 2027
Award Notification Period	June 2027
Contract and Grant Agreement Period	June - August 2027
Projects Begin (Estimated)	September 2027

Workshops:

Public Information Q&A Webinars.

Interested applicants may attend informational webinars describing the funding goals, process, and requirements for both the Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant and Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant, at scheduled virtual public information sessions. Recordings will be made available.

Information Session Webinars (Tentative):

Wednesday, February 3, 2027, 5:30-7:00pm

Monday, February 22, 2027, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Friday, March 19, 2027, 4:00pm-6:30pm

In addition, office hours will be held every Thursday in February from 12pm-1pm and every Tuesday in March from 4pm-5pm during the application period. Click on the Zoom Link available on the Urban Agriculture Grant Program website https://cafarmtofork.cdfa.ca.gov/urbanag.html during this scheduled time to meet directly with the Urban Agriculture Program staff in an open forum. This is an opportunity for you to ask questions, hear questions and answers from others and provide input directly to program staff. There is no formal agenda for these office hours. We aim to make Program Staff accessible to the public to provide support and answer questions.

6. Program Requirements

Track 1: Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant Program Requirements:

Track 1 project applicants must serve one of the urban areas of California listed below:

- Sacramento: Sacramento, Stockton
- Bay Area: North Bay, East Bay, and South Bay
- Fresno: Fresno, Bakersfield
- LA: Los Angeles, Long Beach
- San Diego: San Diego
- Inland Empire: San Bernardino, Riverside
- Statewide.

Track 1: Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant Project Requirements:

Each CBO awarded a Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant will be required to:

- ✓ Design the subaward application. 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.
- ✓ Engage in community outreach to announce the subaward funding opportunity to urban agriculture stakeholders in their region.

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Provide ongoing Technical Assistance and communication throughout the subaward period to urban agriculture stakeholder applicants.
- ✓ Administer subawards to urban agriculture projects that provide meaningful and direct community benefits to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), and Vulnerable Populations (VPs).
- ✓ Prioritize subaward projects that demonstrate meaningful and direct benefits to priority urban agriculture stakeholders.
- ✓ Complete the subaward written agreement for each subaward made. See Subaward Guidelines for details.
- ✓ Meet Quarterly with CDFA Program Lead for verbal progress report and troubleshooting.
- ✓ Participate in virtual quarterly meetings with CDFA and all other regional CBOs to share lessons learned, provide peer to peer support and discuss priorities and strategies that CDFA can contribute to ensure the success of their community-based work.
- ✓ More information regarding sub awarding practices can be found at Subaward Guidelines.

Additional Track 1 program notes:

- Community Based Organizations must distribute and administer no less than four subawards. There is no maximum number of subawards.
- Community-Based Organizations may allocate between $5,000 and $60,000 of the award toward eligible capacity-building activities that enhance their ability to support urban agriculture projects in their region.

Track 2: Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant Project Requirements:

Successful Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant Projects will:

- ✓ Meet all eligibility requirements outlined in Section 3

- ✓ Understand and align project goals with funding priorities outlined in Section 4
- ✓ Meet all reporting and invoicing requirements outlined in Section 12

7. Allowable Costs

There are no cost sharing requirements.

This grant program does NOT require Matching Funds. The CDFA will fund up to 100% of the total project cost. No additional points will be given to projects that demonstrate cost sharing.

Track 1: Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant Allowable Costs:

Indirect Costs

As defined in Section 303(a)(40) of the CDFA Grant Administration Regulations, indirect costs are costs incurred for common or joint objectives that cannot be identified specifically with a particular project, program, or organizational activity. Typical indirect costs include but are not limited to rent, utilities and internet service, cellular and land-line telephone service, general office supplies, and insurance.

The Climate Bond does not establish a maximum indirect cost rate; however, your proposed indirect rate must be supported with proper documentation and/or methodology.

- Applicants may request the following indirect cost rates, as allowable in the PRC § 90133 Climate Bond Legislation:
  a) The grantee's **negotiated indirect cost rate**, pursuant to its negotiated indirect cost rate agreement.
  b) The **de minimis indirect cost rate** specified in Part 200 of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
  c) A **rate negotiated by the grantee** with another state agency within the last five years.
  d) A **rate proposed by the grantee** in the grantee's program application with the administering state agency if the grantee does not have an existing state rate.
- **Additional Details:**
  - Applicants from the University of California or California State University must follow their established policy.

- Please note that for projects with a nonprofit fiscal sponsor, fiscal sponsorship fees may be allowable as an indirect cost, if charged consistent with the sponsored organization's established policies. Fiscal sponsorship fees are not allowable as a direct cost.
- Any indirect rate must be supported by the actual indirect costs of the organization and an allocation method selected using generally accepted accounting principles.

Direct Costs

At least 70% of grant funds is recommended to be used for work directly supporting outreach and technical assistance to applicants of subawards and subaward funds.

Staff time spent on required reporting, invoicing, and other grant-related administrative duties is allowable as a direct cost. Track 1 applicants should budget for pre- and post-award technical assistance proportional to their planned number of subawards.

Subawards to eligible stakeholders will fund infrastructure, equipment, workforce development, community engagement or technical assistance needs of projects.

Please note that funding may also be used to hire an accounting consultant to ensure that subawardees are not negatively impacted by funding received. Questions regarding proper filing of taxes when reporting awards or the effects of awards on a subawardee's public benefits should be considered on a case-by-case basis and discussed with a licensed accountant prior to award distribution.

Community-Based Organizations may allocate between $5,000 and $60,000 of the award toward eligible capacity-building activities that enhance their ability to support urban agriculture projects in their region.

EXAMPLES of eligible CBO capacity-building activities:

- Developing resources or training materials to improve or support other community organization's ability to administer subawards.
- Staff training and professional development, including conferences and workshops, that enhances the organization's ability to administer or support urban agriculture projects.
- Purchasing equipment or software that strengthens the organization's ability to manage, monitor, or provide technical assistance for urban agriculture work.

- Creating or improving outreach, communication, or partnership-building tools that support and expand regional urban agriculture efforts.

Track 2: Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant Allowable Costs

Indirect Costs

As defined in Section 303(a)(40) of the CDFA Grant Administration Regulations, indirect costs are costs incurred for common or joint objectives that cannot be identified specifically with a particular project, program, or organizational activity. Typical indirect costs include but are not limited to rent, utilities and internet service, cellular and land-line telephone service, general office supplies, and insurance.

The Climate Bond does not establish a maximum indirect cost rate; however, your proposed indirect rate must be supported with proper documentation and/or methodology.

- Applicants may request the following indirect cost rates, as allowable in the PRC § 90133 Climate Bond Legislation:
  a) The grantee's **negotiated indirect cost rate**, pursuant to its negotiated indirect cost rate agreement.
  b) The **de minimis indirect cost rate** specified in Part 200 of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
  c) A **rate negotiated by the grantee** with another state agency within the last five years.
  d) A **rate proposed by the grantee** in the grantee's program application with the administering state agency if the grantee does not have an existing state rate.
- **Additional Details:**
  - Please note that for projects with a nonprofit fiscal sponsor, fiscal sponsorship fees may be allowable as an indirect cost, if charged consistent with the sponsored organization's established policies. Fiscal sponsorship fees are not allowable as a direct cost.
  - Any indirect rate must be supported by the actual indirect costs of the organization and an allocation method selected using generally accepted accounting principles.

Direct Costs

At least 70% of grant funds is recommended to be used for direct project implementation including infrastructure, equipment, technical assistance, workforce development or community engagement. Staff time spent on required reporting, invoicing, and other grant-related administrative duties is allowable as a direct cost. Examples of allowable direct costs include but are not limited to the following:

EXAMPLES of fundable expenses for Track 2 and Track 1 subawards:

Infrastructure:

- Site development, plans and drawings, permits, legal fees, consultant fees
- Season extension such as hoop houses, high tunnels, shade houses, green houses
- Irrigation systems including water connection, installation, improvements, meters, hardware
- Tool storage sheds or containers
- Wash and pack areas including shade structures, drainage pits or other needs
- Community gathering spaces including picnic tables, DG pathways, seating for workshops or other engagement activities, shade structures, outdoor kitchens, demonstration sites
- Aggregation and distribution preparation areas
- Land improvements including soil testing, amendments, remediations, weed management, native plant installations
- Renewable energy infrastructure such as solar arrays, battery storage, or renewable-powered pumps
- Electrical upgrades or connections needed for operations such as lighting, cold storage, climate control, timers, monitoring, or security upgrades.
- Climate-smart equipment installations or upgrades that reduce environmental impacts, such as reducing greenhouse gas emission, improving water, air or soil quality, or increasing water-use efficiency.

Equipment and Supplies:

- Tools including hand tools, mechanized tools, harvesting tools, weed management tools etc.
- Post-harvest wash stations, bins, boxes, labels, packaging etc.

- Delivery vehicles or mobile market trucks
- Tractors and other equipment used for tilling and soil preparation
- Soil mixers, woodchippers, shredders, and threshers
- Farm stand, community supported agriculture (CSA), or other marketing supplies
- Technology and software for sales, marketing, and communications
- Technology, and software for field management
- Refrigeration and cold storage units

Technical Assistance:

- Recognized experience TA providers to mentor, train, and support urban farmers, community members, and community-based organizations
- Business planning
- Forming cooperatives
- Marketing and communications
- Insurance costs
- Food safety certifications
- Climate smart agriculture certifications, like transition to organic
- Evaluation, data collection, quantitative and qualitative reports on impact of project
- Training on use of all equipment purchased under the grant and associated new processes
- Design, Planning and Implementation consultants and contractors for:
    - Weed Management
    - Irrigation
    - Soils
    - Site Development
    - Navigation of Permits and Legal processes
    - Website development
    - Energy-efficiency assessments

Workforce Development:

- Staff capacity to operate programming
- Internship stipends or hourly pay
- Professional development opportunities
- Ensuring youth from all backgrounds have access to paid positions developing urban food systems

Community Engagement and Education:

- Community workshop development and materials
- Staff capacity to operate Community Engagement activities
- Translation services for community engagement at an urban farm
- Open house tours and field trips for residents, students, elderly, or other underserved community members.
- Engage community members and youth in planning, capacity building, or monitoring activities that can reduce impacts of climate change or lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- Festivals or celebrations highlighting urban agriculture
- Agritourism

Reasonable Costs:

For an eligible cost to be considered reasonable, the cost, in its nature and amount, must not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the cost.

8. Unallowable Costs

Land acquisitions are not an allowable cost in this grant. Projects must have access to all land and property resources necessary for the project at the time of application, through either ownership or current lease. If leasing, applicants must have the permission of the property owner to undertake the proposed project.

9. Application Process

The application process for each funding track consists of one application phase. There is a separate set of application questions and review criteria for each track.

How to Apply:

The CDFA will not accept late applications. Grant applicants must be completed and submitted via CDFA's online Grant Opportunity and Administration and Tracking System or GOATS. Creation of a new GOATS account is required here

(https://applications.cdfa.ca.gov/grants/s/login/). Grant applicants must find corresponding Funding Opportunity by searching for the Urban Agriculture Grant Program and applying to the appropriate Track. Questions regarding technical issues can be directed toward CAUrbanAg@cdfa.ca.gov with the subject line "GOATS Technical Assistance - Urban Agriculture Grant Application".

Computer System Recommendations

To ensure concept proposals and attachments are submitted successfully, CDFA strongly encourages all applicants to comply with the computer system recommendations provided by GOATs. CDFA cannot guarantee that the GOATs system will be compatible with other browsers or operating systems. Use of other browsers or operating systems may limit the ability of CDFA staff to provide applicants with technical assistance, should any issues arise. GOATs recommends that applicants:

- Use Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari.
- Avoid using an iPad, iPhone, or similar mobile device.
- Save work often, the system will time out after a period of time and any unsaved work will be lost.

Technical Assistance

CDFA provides general technical assistance to applicants throughout the application period. To maintain the integrity of the competitive grant process, Urban Agriculture Program staff cannot assist with project-specific or application-specific questions and will only respond to inquiries of a general nature during Q&A webinar sessions or scheduled office hours. Applicants awarded a Track 1 or Track 2 grant may continue to access CDFA technical assistance throughout project implementation, reporting, and other administrative requirements.

10. Application Supplements

Project budget templates will be built into the GOATS system. The following documents must be completed for a full application package. You may review the project forms using the links below for reference.

Track 1 Applicants:

- Track 1 Community Collaboration Matrix
- Track 1 Project Work Plan
- Track 1 Project Budget

Track 2 Applicants:

- Track 2 Organizational Capacity Template
- Track 2 Project Work Plan
- Track 2 Project Budget
- Track 2 Letter of Support Template
- 5-10 photos
  Attach 5-10 photos of the site, project, or infrastructure you plan to improve with grant funding. If your proposal focuses on workforce development, please include photos of the training/teaching area, or areas of focus for the training. For example, if you will host composting workshops, please include photos of the proposed composting instructional area.

  Please note that you will be asked to take photos at the end of the grant period demonstrating the changes implemented. If your proposal is workforce development based, include photographs of training sessions, training materials or areas of focus.

  Photos may be used by CDFA to share with the public to assist in the evaluation of the UAGP outcomes.

11. Review Process

CDFA will conduct an initial administrative review of proposals to determine whether all proposal requirements have been met. Misrepresentations and incomplete answers in the proposal are grounds for rejection. Proposals that have met all proposal requirements will receive a technical review to evaluate the merits of the grant request based on the published scoring criteria.

12. Reporting and Evaluation Requirements

Climate Bond Reporting Requirements

- The CDFA is responsible for reporting on the status and use of Climate Bond funds. The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), which administers the Bond, will require the CDFA to report data collected from the program.
- The CDFA will post summary information about the applications submitted, the projects awarded, and outcome information, including project final reports.
- Data associated with these grant programs are subject to public disclosure through the California Public Records Act (CPRA). The CPRA states that every citizen has the right to inspect and obtain a copy of any public record. Certain records are exempt from disclosure under the CPRA. The CDFA Legal Office shall determine if a record is exempt from disclosure.
    - CDFA recognizes that Tribal Governments and Tribal-based organizations retain full ownership, control and authority over their data. Because of the historic misuse of Tribal data and Traditional knowledge, Tribal applicants may limit or restrict the disclosure of sensitive information such as cultural resources, sacred sites, Traditional knowledge, ecological observations, or other data that could be exploited if released to the public.
    - CDFA will work directly with Tribal grantees and legal counsel to determine appropriate confidentiality protections, including redaction, alternative reporting methods, or confidentiality agreements. Tribal grantees may notify CDFA at any time if requested materials contain culturally sensitive information, and CDFA will meet and confer with the Tribe to prevent unnecessary disclosure and ensure reporting obligations are met without compromising Tribal data sovereignty.

Track 1 and Track 2 grantees will be required to complete the following:

- **Beginning Interview**: Core team members listed on application will participate in an interview with CDFA staff. The interview will occur sometime between when the project is selected for funding and when the project begins. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project plan, confirm roles, and provide early technical support to awarded projects.

- **Invoices:** Submit monthly or quarterly invoices to CDFA (utilizing a template that CDFA will provide) along with documentation to demonstrate proof of payment, detailing spending to be reimbursed for actual allowable costs incurred. If eligible and approved for an Advance Payment, submit regular invoicing in accordance with Advance Payment regulations.

- **Quarterly Check-in Surveys**: Submit quarterly check-in surveys to CDFA throughout the entire 24-month grant term. Surveys will summarize project progress, successes, and challenges. For Track 2, this includes updates to climate, revenue and community-reach metrics.

- **Annual Report**: Grantees will use a template CDFA provides to submit an annual report covering progress made during the first 12 months of the project. The grant term is 24 months, so only one Annual Report is required unless an extension beyond 24 months is granted.
    a. Annual reports are due within 30 days of the end of the 12-month reporting period.
    b. Annual reports should summarize accomplishments, challenges, and progress toward expected outcomes. For Track 2, this may include updates to the climate, revenue and community-reach metrics.

- **Final Report:** Grantees will use a template CDFA provides to submit a final report covering progress made during the entirety of the project. It is due within 30 days of the termination of the grant agreement.
    a. Final reports must include final annual metrics, overall outcomes, lessons learned. For Track 2, this includes an update and summary of the project's community, economic, and climate impacts and metrics.

- **Final Interview and Site Visit:** At minimum, the main point of contact listed on the application will participate in a final interview and optional site visit with CDFA after the grant term concludes to discuss project successes, challenges, and other relevant information. CDFA highly encourages all listed team members to attend, if possible.

- **Program Evaluation:** Grantees are required to participate in program evaluation activities, which may include submitting additional documentation such as sales data, water usage records, harvest logs, or other materials relevant to evaluating program outcomes. Program evaluation activities help demonstrate the impact of the grant program and support efforts to develop future Urban Agriculture Grant Programs.

Additional Requirements for Track 1 Recipients

- **Quarterly Check-in Meetings:** Attend quarterly meetings with the Urban Agriculture Program Lead and other CBOs to discuss progress, troubleshoot challenges and participate in collaborate discussions for peer learning.
- **Subaward Documentation:** Submit completed Written Agreement Documents (Table 1.0, Subaward Budget, Subaward Invoice) for each subaward distributed as Reimbursement Requests on a monthly or quarterly basis depending on their desired invoicing cycle. If the CBO is using Advanced Payments to distribute their subaward funds, the CBO would be required to submit their Written Agreements as part of their Advanced Payment Liquidation Request. More information can be found in the Subaward Guidelines.

Additional Requirements for Track 2 Recipients

- **Baseline Survey:** After the grant agreement has been fully executed, submit a pre-survey to CDFA at the beginning of the grant term to summarize and quantify pre-project activities. Baseline climate, economic, and community-reach metrics will be collected.
- **Quarterly and Annual Photo Uploads:** Submit 5–10 photos of the proposed project space with each Quarterly Survey and Annual Report. Include a 1–3 sentence caption explaining the significance of each photo.
- **Final Photo Uploads:** Submit additional photos at the end of the grant period that document project outcomes. Include a 1-3 sentence caption explaining the significance of each photo.
- For workforce development projects, include photos of training spaces, materials, or areas where participants gather.

13. Payment Type

Grant recipients are eligible to receive Advance Payments for project expenditures. Find all requirements for Advance Payment in Section 316.1 of CDFA's Grant Administration Regulations. Please note, federally recognized tribes will have to provide limited waivers of sovereign immunity to utilize advance payments.

Advance payments shall not exceed 25% of the total project cost, or the amount necessary for project expenses for a three-month period, whichever is less, and cannot reduce the project balance below 10% of the award amount. If eligible and approved for advance payment, recipients must follow the Advance Payment Grant Regulations.

If no advance payment request is made the awardee will be reimbursed via submission of invoices to CDFA no more frequently than monthly and no less than quarterly.

Invoices are due no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the invoice period. Final invoices are due no later than 30 calendar days following the expiration date of the Grant Agreement term or after the project is complete, whichever comes first.

Invoices submitted before the completion of annual, or final reports will not be paid until the reports have been received, reviewed, and accepted by UAGP staff. CDFA cannot reimburse the project leader for work performed before the start date of the grant or for work performed after the expiration date on the grant or grant extension. CDFA withholds 10% of total funds, which are released after UAGP staff review and approve the final report and confirm fulfilment of project deliverables.

Advance payment guidelines

(a) Recipients may be eligible to receive an advance payment for project expenditures.

(b) An advance payment shall not exceed the amount necessary for project expenses for a three-month period.

(c) Funds received as an advance payment shall be deposited into a federally-insured, interest-bearing account that provides the ability to track interest earned and withdrawals.

(d) The period of time between receipt of the advance payment funds and disbursement of the advance payment funds shall be minimized to the extent

possible. Failure to liquidate advance payments within the three-month period may result in denial of future advance payment requests.

(e) Interest earned during a six-month period shall be remitted to the Department.

(f) Advance payment is not allowable under the following circumstances:

(1) An existing advance is not completely liquidated.

(2) The advance will reduce the project balance below ten percent of the award amount.

(3) An unresolved invoice dispute exists.

(4) Resolution of an audit or agreed-upon-procedure finding of overpayment, unallowable costs, inadequately supported costs, or unsupported costs is pending.

(5) The project is not current in invoicing or reporting.

(6) The project is in the final three months of the project duration.

(7) Additional conditions imposed prohibit an advance payment.

(8) Advance payment is otherwise prohibited by law or grant program requirements.

14. Definitions

Urban: 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.

Urban Area: CDFA defines Urban Areas (UAs) as a continuously built-up area with a population of 50,000 or more comprised of one or more places—central place(s)—and the adjacent densely settled surrounding area—urban fringe. Smaller cities with populations under 50,000 must be no more than 25 miles from an Urban Area of 50,000 or more residents.

Urban Agriculture: Urban Agriculture refers to the cultivation, processing, and distribution of agricultural products in urban settings, including things like in-ground 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.

Community: refers to a unified body of individuals such as people with common interests living in a particular area, a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society, a body of persons of common interests scattered through a larger society, a body of persons having a common history or common social, economic, and political interests or a group linked by a common policy.

Small Plot Cultivation: refers to in-ground agricultural production by community food producers on limited land areas within an urban environment, typically emphasizing productivity and resilience through practices such as crop diversification, season extension, soil building, composting, and other methods.

Community Based Organization, Community Organization or Community Based Organization (CBO): refers to organizations aimed at making desired improvements to a community's social health, well-being, and overall functioning. The main objective of a Community-Based Organization is improving the quality of life for residents.

Community Based Organizations generally focus on community work, community projects, community development, community empowerment, community building, and community mobilization. It is a commonly used model for organizing community within community projects, neighborhoods, organizations, voluntary associations, localities, and social networks, which may operate as ways to mobilize around geography, shared space, shared experience, interest, need, and/or concern.

Community Food Producer: means a producer of agricultural products on land that is not zoned for agricultural use but is otherwise in compliance with applicable local land use and zoning restrictions, including, but not limited to, restrictions governing personal gardens, community gardens, school gardens, and culinary gardens.

California Native American Tribe: a Federally recognized or a non-Federally recognized Native American tribe listed by the Native American Heritage Commission.

Disadvantaged Community (DAC): refers to 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): refers to 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 (VP): refers to a subgroup of 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. Tribes and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFRs) are considered vulnerable populations under the Climate Bond.

Priority Urban Agriculture Stakeholders: refers to the specific groups identified in Section 93540 of the Climate Bond as receiving priority for funding. These include small- and medium- sized farms, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, beginning farmers or ranchers, and veteran farmers or ranchers.

Small- and Medium- Sized Farms: Small-sized farms have annual gross cash farm income (GCFI) less than $350,000, measured before deducting expenses. Medium-sized farms have GCFI between $350,000 and $999,999.

Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher: as defined in the Climate Bond, a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. (Section 512 of the Food and Agricultural Code).

Per California's Farmer Equity Act of 2017 (Assembly Bill (AB) 1348, Chapter 620, Statutes of 2017), a "socially disadvantaged group" is a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. In accordance with AB 1348, these groups include all the following: African Americans, Native American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. The CDFA recognizes that using the language "socially disadvantaged groups" does not fully reflect and honor the many other characteristics of groups included in this category; the CDFA chose to utilize this language in this Request for Applications to ensure that these groups are included in the funding priority.

Beginning farmer or rancher: as defined in the Climate Bond, a farmer or rancher who has not actively operated and managed a farm or ranch with a bona fide insurable interest in a crop or livestock as an owner-operator, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper for more than five crop years, as determined by the United States Secretary of Agriculture and as defined in Section 1502 of Title 7 of the United States Code.

Veteran Farmer or Rancher: as defined in the Climate Bond, a farmer or rancher who is all of the following:

1) Has served in the United States Armed Forces, as defined in Section 101 of Title 38 of the United States Code.

2) Meets either of the following: a) Has not operated a farm or ranch. b) Has operated a farm or ranch for not more than five years.

3) Is a veteran, as defined in Section 101 of Title 38 of the United States Code, who first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent five-year period.

4) Is a beginning veteran farmer or rancher, as that term is used in Section 1502 of Title 7 of the United States Code.

15. Appendix Items

Contractor Guidelines

Equipment Inventory Template

Ranked Cities by Population Size

Subaward Documents

Subaward Guidelines

Subaward Table 1.0 Written Agreement

Subaward Budget Template