



Agriculture
and Markets

Upcoming Grants: Beginning Farmers and Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Farmers Stakeholder Outreach Call

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Governor

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Division of Agricultural
Development

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Agenda

- Purpose
- Available Funding Overview
- Definitions
- Eligibility Criteria - Administrator
- Eligibility Criteria - Farmer
- Eligible Projects
- Request for Feedback



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Purpose

- The New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets (Department) is developing two Request for Proposals (RFPs) for administrators, who will administer two competitive grant programs:
 1. **Beginning Farmer** Competitive Grant Program
 2. **Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Farmer** Competitive Grant Program
- The Department shall consult with:
 - organizations working with or representing beginning farmers and/or socially and economically disadvantaged farmers, and
 - a Farm Credit bureau or member of the farm credit system or a banking institution with a demonstrated ability to provide financial assistance and service to agricultural producers and to establish criteria governing the award of such grants.



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Available Funding

Beginning Farmer Grant Program

- A total of \$1,000,000 is available for this grant program.
 - \$150,000 (15%) is available for services and expenses of administrator directly related to administration of the program.
 - \$850,000 is available for grants to farmers.
 - Min \$5,000 – Max \$250,000 per beneficiary
 - Matching funds required up to 20% of the *grant amount*
 - Awarded on a competitive basis



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Available Funding

Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Farmer Grant Program

- A total of \$4,000,000 is available for this grant program.
 - \$600,000 (15%) is available for services and expenses of administrator directly related to administration of the program.
 - \$3,400,000 is available for grants to farmers.
 - Min \$5,000 – Max \$250,000 per beneficiary
 - Matching funds required up to 20% of the *grant amount*
 - Awarded on a competitive basis



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Definitions

- **"Socially disadvantaged"** shall mean individuals who have been subject to discrimination by virtue of their membership of a particular group, which may include, but are not be limited to Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Hispanic or Latino, and Asian or Pacific Islander.
- **"Economically disadvantaged"** shall mean socially disadvantaged individuals whose ability to enter into farming or whose farm enterprise has been impaired due to diminished capital, credit opportunities or access to land, among other things, as compared to other similarly situated individuals who are not socially disadvantaged.
- **"Beginning farmers"** shall mean farmers who have not operated a farm for more than ten years.

*Definitions from NYS Budget.



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Eligibility Criteria - Administrator

- Eligible administrators:
 - municipalities,
 - public benefit corporations,
 - local development corporations, or
 - not-for-profit organizations

- Eligible organization must have a history of providing financial assistance that could be in the form of capital assistance loans or grants.

*Criteria from NYS Budget



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Eligibility Criteria - Farmer

- Eligibility criteria for the **Beginning Farmer** grant includes, but is not be limited to:
 - farmers who have not operated a farm for more than ten years, and
 - farmers who will materially and substantially participate in operating a farm within the state and may include urban farmers.

- Eligibility criteria for the **Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Farmer** grant includes, but is not be limited to:
 - farmers who will materially and substantially participate in operating a farm within the state and may include urban farmers.

*Criteria from NYS Budget.



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Eligible Projects

- Eligible projects:
 - start up, improvement or expansion of a farm operation;
 - worker or apprenticeship training;
 - marketing activities;
 - purchase of agricultural land and physical structures;
 - purchase of machinery, equipment or livestock; and
 - construction or improvement of physical structures, including semi-permanent structures.
- Projects can be conducted on leased land.

*Criteria from NYS Budget.



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Feedback on... Administrator RFP

1.) What other qualities in an administrator should we be seeking?



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Feedback on... Beginning Farmer Grant Program

- 1) What kinds of funding are most needed?
 - a. Planning grants?
 - b. Capital projects, such as improvements to farm infrastructure?
 - c. Support services?
 - d. Start-up funds?
 - e. Mini-grants?
- 2) What is not a priority or need and/or what is currently overfunded?
- 3) Should there be more than one track of funding to prevent projects of different funding levels from competing?



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Feedback on... Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Grant Program

- 1) What kinds of funding are most needed?
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- 2) What is not a priority or need and/or what is currently overfunded?
- 3) Should there be more than one track of funding to prevent projects of different funding levels from competing?



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Questions and Comments

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