



Agriculture  
and Markets

# Bidders Conference

RFP0287 –Beginning Farmer

RFP0288 – Socially and Economically  
Disadvantaged Farmer

February 10, 2023

Kathy Hochul  
Governor

Richard A. Ball  
Commissioner

Division of Agricultural  
Development

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## Agenda

- Background & Purpose
- Eligibility Criteria – Program Administrator
- Scope of Services
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- Definitions
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## Background & Purpose

- The New York State Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Enacted Aid to Localities Budget (Chapter 53 of the Laws of 2022) established two separate programs for grants to farmers.
- The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (Department) seeks proposals from eligible entities to administer these programs.



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## Eligibility Criteria – Program Administrator

- The following entities are eligible to submit a proposal:
  - a. Municipalities
  - b. Public benefit corporations
  - c. Local development corporations
  - d. Not-for-profit organizations
- Proposals will also be accepted from eligible entities proposing to partner with other organizations to provide financial assistance, including capital assistance to ensure the effective distribution of grant funds. The lead partner must be an eligible entity under this Request for Proposals (RFP) and will be considered the lead Program Administrator.



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## Scope of Services\*

- The Program Administrator will work in consultation with the Department to develop the final Request for Proposal (RFP) for farmer grants.
  - The approved RFP must include a system for awarding grants using multiple funding tracks where one track will be reserved for smaller, less complex projects.
  - Match requirements shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the grant amount.
  - Not-for-profit organizations will not be eligible recipients of grant funds.
- The Program Administrator shall use its best efforts to provide statewide distribution of available program funds.
- The Program Administrator shall monitor the performance of awardees and the awardees' program fund expenditures.

\* See the Request for Proposals (RFP) for complete scope of services.



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## Available Funding

### Beginning Farmer Competitive Grant Program

- A total of \$1,000,000 is available for this grant program.
  - Not more than \$150,000 (15%) is available for services and expenses directly related to administration of the program.
  - A minimum of \$850,000 must be made available for grants to farmers.



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## Available Funding

### Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Farmer Competitive Grant Program

- A total of \$4,000,000 is available for this grant program.
  - Not more than \$600,000 (15%) is available for services and the expenses directly related to administration of the program.
  - A minimum of \$3,400,000 (85%) must be made available for grants to farmers.



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## Eligible Projects – Farmer 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.
- Min \$5,000 – Max \$250,000 per beneficiary
- Match shall not exceed 5% of the *grant amount*
- Not-for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply



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## Eligibility Criteria – Farmer

### Beginning Farmer Competitive Grant Program

- **Beginning Farmer** grants shall be awarded on a competitive basis to farmers who have not operated a farm for more than ten years, and who will materially and substantially participate in operating a farm within a region of the state and may include urban farmers.
- Not-for-profit organizations will not be eligible recipients of grant funds.



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## Eligibility Criteria – Farmer

### Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Farmer Competitive Grant Program

- **Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Farmer** grants shall be awarded on a competitive basis to such socially and economically disadvantaged farmers who will materially and substantially participate in operating a farm within a region of the state and may include urban farmers.
- Not-for-profit organizations will not be eligible recipients of grant funds.



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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.



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## How to Apply

- **Proposal Due Date:** February 28, 2023, by 3:00pm
- Mail or hand-deliver your proposal, in one sealed envelope or package. See the Request for Proposals (RFP) for complete instructions.
  - [RFP0287](#) Program Administrator for Beginning Farmer Competitive Grant Program
  - [RFP0288](#) Program Administrator for Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Farmer Competitive Grant Program



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## Contact Info

- Questions must be received by 3:00 p.m. on February 14, 2023.
- Questions must be submitted in writing via email to Amanda Shults or Ryan von Linden at [procurement.info@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:procurement.info@agriculture.ny.gov).
  - Please list “RFP0287 – PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE BEGINNING FARMERS COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM” in the subject line.
  - Please list “RFP0288 – PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM” in the subject line.

