



AGM OUTREACH RESOURCE INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES (08/06/2023)

Outreach@agriculture.ny.gov is your direct link to New York's Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) for independent communication, questions, concerns, and more. It's purpose is to inform the historically underrepresented and underserved within New York's agriculture community regarding current events and opportunities in agriculture.

If you received this message via email forward, sign up at this link to receive future communications directly: [AGM Outreach's Information & Opportunities.](#)



INFORMATION

1) **AGM EXECUTIVE OPEN OFFICE HOURS**

AGM will host Virtual Executive Open Office Hours August 16th and 17th! This is a time for New York's individual stakeholders in agriculture to collectively learn more about industry activities, as well as to directly communicate with decision-makers. Attendees will hear the background behind *AGM Information & Opportunities* items, learn updated details on activities, and directly connect with AGM.

Register to attend August's Virtual Open Office Hours:

- [Wednesday, August 16, 6:00-7:00 pm EDT](#)
- [Thursday, August 17, 9:00-10:00 am EDT](#)

Should the registration link fail, please directly copy and paste the link into your browser.

2) **DIVERSITY IN AGRICULTURE WEBPAGE**

AGM's renewed Diversity in Agriculture webpage provides an improved primary destination of information for those in all stages of their agriculture careers. The page now links users to a range of diverse and content-specific resources. Feedback is welcomed to help prioritize future updates to content. Send comments to outreach@agriculture.ny.gov.

3) **ENVIRONMENTAL BOND ACT**

State agencies, local governments, and partners can access funding of up to \$4.2 billion for environmental and community projects to protect water quality, help communities adapt to climate change, improve resiliency, and create green jobs. Bond Act funding will support new and expanded projects across New York to safeguard drinking water sources, reduce pollution, and protect communities and natural resources from climate change. [Register for the Environmental Bond Act Educational Listening Tour to learn more about projects – multiple future dates and locations.](#)

4) **NEW YORK STATE (NYS) GOVERNOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(All announcements are also available in Spanish via the same links.)

- [Council on Community Justice](#): a new advisory group of state and local stakeholders that will recommend measures to further improve the effectiveness and fairness of New York's criminal justice system.
- [Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes](#): \$51 million in grants will strengthen safety and security measures at not-for-profit, community-based organizations at risk of hate crimes or attacks because of their ideology, beliefs, or mission.
- [NYS Civil Service Exam Fees Waived](#): fees are being removed for all NYS exams

to lower barriers so New York's civil servants reflect the diversity of the state and modernize the public workforce.

- [Hiring Critical Health and Human Services Titles](#): hiring through the Emergency Limited Placement Program (HELP) temporarily waives the civil service exam requirement for select health and human services fields across ten state agencies.
- [Asian Village at the Great New York State Fair](#): the Asian Village joins Indian Village, Pan African Village, and Latino Village in providing opportunities for fairgoers to experience the many backgrounds and cultures that make New Yorkers diverse and unique.
- [Pressroom](#): Read more news directly from the Office of the Governor.

5) [NYC METRO LOCAL NRCS MEETING](#)

The USDA's National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will hold a local working group meeting for Suffolk, Nassau, Kings, Queens, Richmond, Manhattan, and Bronx Counties on August 14 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. This meeting is open to the public: [Virtual link to MS Team Meeting](#).

NRCS Local Working Groups are subcommittees of the NRCS State Technical Committee and provide recommendations on local natural resource priorities and Farm Bill program conservation activities. For information about the State Technical Committee, contact Angela VanDyke via email at angela.vandyke@usda.gov. To participate in your local working group, please contact Liz Camps, your local district conservationist, via email at liz.camps@usda.gov.

To locate your local USDA Service Center, visit: <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>.

OPPORTUNITIES



1) [FUNDING: NEW YORK FORWARD LOAN FUND 2](#)

Empire State Development's (ESD) New York Forward 2 program aims to disburse an initial \$150 million with plans to recycle and lend additional funds over the life of the program. Working through Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), the funds will assist in accomplishing the program's broader goal of investing in underfunded businesses, specifically those owned by people of color, women, veterans and the LGBTQ+ community.

With the program in place for the next eight years, qualified recipients with fewer than 100 employees and less than \$5 million in gross annual revenue can apply for loans up to \$150,000 with affordable, fixed-rate interest rates. The fund will focus on helping small businesses and nonprofits, particularly those in low-income and historically underbanked communities and rural areas, access flexible working capital to cover a wide range of expenses. [Learn more about the program and process](#).

2) [CAREER: NYS INTERNSHIPS](#)

New York State's Student Intern Program webpage is a centralized location that helps undergraduate and graduate students view job descriptions and submit applications for all New York State government internships. Interns work within a New York State executive branch agency or department and gain valuable experience with government leaders and policymakers. [Applications for fall 2023 internships are open through September 14](#).

3) [CAREER: HUNDREDS of POSITIONS OPEN AT THE STATE FAIR](#)

[The Great New York State Fair](#) is hiring for hundreds of positions to help staff its 13 days – Wednesday, August 23 through Monday, September 4 (Labor Day). Positions to fill include the Superintendent of the Pan African Village, as well as the same for the Talent Showcase. [View job descriptions](#). [Apply for a position](#).

4) [FUNDING: RESOURCE CONCERNS AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS](#)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers. Applications for EQIP financial assistance are accepted throughout the year. The best way to learn if EQIP

can help is by contacting your local National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. Your local NRCS conservationist will guide you through applying for the program. Historically underserved farmers and ranchers may be eligible for advance payments. Find your local [NRCS office](#) and [apply for the EQIP](#).

5) **FUNDING: IMMIGRANT RESOURCE COORDINATORS**

The NYS Department of State's (DOS) Office for New Americans (ONA) seeks grant applications for its Immigrant Resource Program. The program's purpose is to fund Immigrant Resource Coordinators based in not-for-profit organizations across NYS to lead community engagement efforts for targeted regions. The coordinator will support a network of immigrant volunteers to conduct community outreach and provide vital information to the immigrant population that is language accessible and culturally appropriate.

With \$3,150,000 available to fund this program for the initial year of funding, DOS ONA will award up to 21 grants each not exceeding \$150,000 annually to not-for-profit organizations that demonstrate the ability to provide the required services under this grant. Applications are due August 23. For more information, please visit [the Request for Applications \(RFA\) webpage](#).

APPLICATION DEADLINES (click each link for details on additional items that are not listed above)

- **Ongoing:** [FSA Conservation Reserve Program](#)
- **Ongoing:** [NYS Historic Business Preservation Registry](#)
- **Ongoing:** [County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning Grants](#)
- **Aug.18:** [USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#)
- **Aug.23:** [Grant for Immigrant Resource Coordinators](#)
- **Oct.3:** [GROW-NY Youth Business Competition](#)
- **Nov.1:** [FreshConnect CSA for SNAP Program](#)
- **Dec.7:** [Proposals for Education and Workforce Development](#)

DIRECT SIGN-UP

(Receive details and future information directly from the source)

[AGRI-PULSE](#)

Agri-Pulse is a comprehensive source of the latest in agricultural information. This news source takes a holistic approach to covering current ag, food, and energy policy news to provide the most up-to-date information on agricultural and food policy decisions being made from Washington, D.C. to the west coast. Diverse news content topics, blogs, and podcasts all connect ag news to examine how decisions will affect all stakeholders - the farmer, the lobbyist, the government employee, the educator, the consultant, and the concerned citizen.



If you have information of value to share with others in the diverse New York agricultural community, please feel free to send it to Outreach@agriculture.ny.gov to be considered for inclusion in future messages.



Sign up to receive New York's Department of Agriculture and Markets' *Monthly Harvest* for the latest agriculture news from across the state:

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