



Agriculture and Markets

Farmers' Market Resiliency Grant Program Round 2 – Questions and Answers October 17, 2023

These questions and answers have been edited for clarity, brevity, and anonymity. Only questions specific to this grant program have been included. Questions about accessing and interfacing with the New York State Grants Gateway system should be directed to:

grantsgateway@its.ny.gov

1. **Question: Is a Chamber of Commerce 501 (c) (6) non-profit entity eligible to apply for this grant opportunity?**

Answer: Yes.

2. **Question: Is a farmers' cooperative that runs a farmers' market considered an eligible entity to apply for this grant opportunity?**

Answer: A cooperative organization is typically structured as a for-profit business entity and is therefore not considered an eligible applicant for this grant. Please refer to section 4-C, "Ineligible Applicants," of the RFP document for this program.

3. **Question: Can grant funds be used to cover the rental costs for a space to host the market?**

Answer: No. Please refer to section 4-G, "Ineligible Costs," of the RFP document, which states: "Grant funds may not be used for the following: Rent or lease associated with market(s) location."

4. **Question: Can grant funds be used to cover insurance and permitting costs to operate a farmers' market?**

Answer: No. Please refer to section 4-G, "Ineligible Costs," of the RFP document, which states: "Grant funds may not be used for the following: Insurance or permit costs to operate a farmers' market."

5. **Question: Are indirect costs eligible for funding through this grant?**

Answer: No. Per section 4-E of the RFP document, grant funds must be used for: "... purposes directly related to the completion of an eligible project..."

6. **Question: Can a municipality apply on behalf of a farmers' market?**

Answer: Yes - a municipality can apply in coordination with a farmers' market manager if it has been involved in the administration, operation, or support of that market prior to applying.

7. **Question: Can a fiscal sponsor apply on behalf of a farmers' market?**

Answer: A fiscal sponsor can apply in coordination with a farmers' market manager if it has been involved in the administration, operation, or support of that market prior to applying.

8. **Question: Is there a specific definition for what the "operator" of a farmers' market means?**

Answer: An "operator" of a farmers' market is an entity that directly administers, coordinates, conducts, manages, organizes, or directs the essential functions of a farmers' market as defined in section 3-A of the RFP document for this grant opportunity.

9. **Question: Are farm stands eligible for this grant opportunity?**

Answer: Single-vendor farm stands are not considered eligible to apply for this grant opportunity. An eligible applicant must be operating what is considered a "farmers' market" as defined in section 3-A of the RFP document, which must feature "two or more producers for the direct sale of a diversity of farm and food products." Please refer to section 3-A of the RFP document for the full definition of the terms "farmers' market" and "farm and food products."

10. **Question: Will this grant cover the cost of SNAP EBT operations at farmers' markets?**

Answer: SNAP EBT wireless equipment and fees are reimbursed by the state through the Farmers Market Federation of NY. Since the state provides the wireless equipment and fees related to SNAP EBT for farmers markets, it is considered an ineligible item under the grant.

11. **Question: Would installation of solar power for use by our vendors be considered electronic equipment and therefore be subject to the 50% cost-share provision that is noted in the "eligible costs" section?**

Answer: The installation of solar-power generation equipment for use by vendors would fall under infrastructure costs. The 50% cost-share for electronic equipment applies to smartphones, tablets, laptop and desktop computers, and similar types of personal electronic devices. If such devices are part of the auxiliary equipment required to interface with or operate the solar power equipment, then those devices may be subject to the 50% cost share outlined in the RFP document.

12. **Question: Will there be future rounds of funding for this grant program?**

Answer: Future rounds of FMRG are contingent on state budget approvals and are not guaranteed.

13. Question: Where can I view the recording of the Public Information webinar about this grant opportunity?

Answer: You can view the recording of our live Public Information webinar about the Farmers' Market Resiliency Grant program on our website, on the following web page: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/farmersmarkets>

14. Question: Will a funding request of less than \$10,000 be considered?

Answer: No. Funding requests through this grant program must be between \$10,000 and \$100,000, and should specify the correct funding component they are applying for.

15. Question: Can you expand on your definition of "food resiliency" as it relates to this grant opportunity?

Answer: The relevant language you are looking for describing the term "resiliency" is found under section 4.A of the RFP document, Project Scope: "The objective of the Farmers' Market Resiliency Grant is to provide the opportunity to build long-term food system resiliency through New York State's Farmers' Markets. In order to enhance current food system resiliency through farmers' markets, projects should include attempts to modernize the delivery of products; repair, replace or enhance market infrastructure; and/or develop or scale up outreach efforts. Applicants should justify how their project enhances or maintains systems that quickly recover food access, provide availability of edible farm products, or rebound when disruptions in normal food supply chains occur."

16. Question: Does a County government fall under the category of an eligible applicant entity?

Answer: Yes, a county government agency would be considered an eligible applicant for this grant opportunity provided that it has been directly involved in the administration, operation, or support of a farmers' market prior to applying.

17. Question: Would a Food Access Program featuring unique market tokens and a market-specific SNAP-matching coupon program be an eligible project?

Answer: Eligible project must demonstrate how the project will build long-term food system resiliency through New York State's Farmers' Markets. and include attempts to modernize the delivery of products; repair, replace or enhance market infrastructure; and/or develop or scale up outreach efforts. Applicants should justify how their project enhances or maintains systems that quickly recover food access, provide availability of edible farm products, or rebound when disruptions in normal food supply chains occur." Market tokens for use with SNAP EBT are offered for purchase through the Farmers' Market Federation and reimbursed by the state. **The state provides a SNAP based incentive program for farmers markets. Costs supported in whole, or in part, by other State funding are not eligible under this grant.**

18. Question: Would an outreach plan centered on data-collection be an eligible project for funding through this grant opportunity?

Answer: Yes, a data-collection project could potentially be considered eligible for funding through this grant opportunity if the project can be justified using the evaluation criteria

outlined in the RFP document. Specific language from the RFP to consider: “Eligible project must demonstrate how the project will build long-term food system resiliency through New York State’s Farmers’ Markets. and include attempts to modernize the delivery of products; repair, replace or enhance market infrastructure; and/or develop or scale up outreach efforts. Applicants should justify how their project enhances or maintains systems that quickly recover food access, provide availability of edible farm products, or rebound when disruptions in normal food supply chains occur.”

19. Question: Are we able to see the list of Program Specific Questions and required documents needed to submit for the grant application?

Answer: The program specific questions and required documents are only able to be viewed in the New York State Grants Gateway portal for this grant opportunity. If you would like guidance on how to plan your proposal before you have secured access to Grants Gateway login credentials, please refer to section G-6 (Plan of Work and Budget) and section G-7 (Evaluation Factors) as guidelines for the preparation of a grant proposal. The Evaluation Factors section in the RFP are written to reflect the Program Specific Questions featured in the Grants Gateway portal.

20. Question: Would an online farmers’ market be eligible for this grant funding?

Answer: No. A farmers’ market for the purposes of this grant is defined as a “building, structure, or place” used by farmers and producers for the “direct sale” of their products.