

Question & Answer Document for RFA0381

Question	Answer
Is this opportunity only for farmers?	<p>No, the opportunity is open to all eligible applicants.</p> <p>Per RFA0381 Section 4B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Eligible Applicants Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Not-For-Profit Organizations • Local or Municipal Governments • Business Improvement Districts • Public Benefit Corporations • Indian Tribal Organizations • Public Educational Institutions • All applicants must operate -OR- directly support the operation of at least one New York State farmers’ market in an administrative capacity -OR- demonstrate a history of work to support farmers’ market locations via resource sharing and development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Eligible farmers’ markets must have been operated/supported by the applicant for at least (1) market season in 2024 or 2025 prior to application”
Is a 501c(6) organization eligible to apply for this grant opportunity?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Per RFA0381 Section 4B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Eligible Applicants Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Not-For-Profit Organizations • Local or Municipal Governments • Business Improvement Districts • Public Benefit Corporations • Indian Tribal Organizations • Public Educational Institutions
Could this funding be used to provide mileage for the procurement of unsold produce at farmers markets, with the explicit intent of both providing the food to food-insecure individuals while reducing market waste and promoting markets as a whole?	<p>This is a potentially eligible grant activity/cost.</p> <p>Per RFA0381 Section 4C: “Grant funds may be used for any of the following purposes directly related to the completion of an eligible project. Eligible costs include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salaries and wages tied to grant projects, excluding fringe benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Budgets must include no more than 50% of grant funds dedicated to Salary • Contractor Services • Supplies, materials, and non-electronic equipment directly related to project • Electronic equipment purchases for grant project (with 50% cost-share component) • Permanent physical/structural improvements • Insurance and permits (excluding the insurance or permit costs to operate a farmers’ market) • Marketing and Outreach • Transportation costs (including the leasing of a vehicle for a two-year period) • Internet platform development for online ordering, sale, and pickup

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic or information technology infrastructure • Storage costs necessary for product transportation to farmers’ markets, including rental of cold storage to be used by one or more farmers’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Budgets must include no more than 50% of grant funds dedicated to Space/Utilities • Subawards to producers to pay for expenses promoting long-term market attendance. Producers eligible for subawards must be attending the applicant’s listed Farmers’ Market(s). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Examples include: equipment used to ensure proper handling and safety of farmers’ market food and/or non-food products, storage costs, marketing materials and promotions, and more. ii. Subawards are not eligible to be used on salary, rent, regular market attendance stipends, or other non-tangible supports.” <p>Per RFA0381 Section 4D: “Non-Eligible Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of vendor merchandise • Purchase of a vehicle or vehicle parts • Rent or lease associated with market(s) location • Insurance or permit costs to operate a farmers’ market • Salaries and wages unrelated to the proposal • Costs associated with preparing an application • Costs incurred before the term of the contract • Indirect expenses not directly associated with grant activities • Costs supported in whole, or in part, by other State funding (ex. SNAP EBT equipment and fees)”
Can we apply for this opportunity (FMRG26b – Part 2) if we did not apply for Part 1?	Yes.
Can our local government partner with a non-profit to submit a joint application?	<p>Applications can be submitted by a <i>single</i> organization in SFS. Applicants must be registered and pre-qualified in SFS to submit an application.</p> <p>It is possible to sub-contract with additional organizations in order to perform grant work.</p> <p>Per RFA0381 Section 4C: “Grant funds may be used for any of the following purposes directly related to the completion of an eligible project. Eligible costs include but are not limited to:...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor Services...”
Can our organization apply for both 2026 Farmers’ Market Resiliency Grant opportunities, RFP0396 and RFA0381?	No, each organization should choose one opportunity to apply for.

<p>We are a cooperative corporation that exclusively runs a farmers' market. Can we apply?</p>	<p>Per RFA0381 Section 4B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Eligible Applicants Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Not-For-Profit Organizations • Local or Municipal Governments • Business Improvement Districts • Public Benefit Corporations • Indian Tribal Organizations • Public Educational Institutions • All applicants must operate -OR- directly support the operation of at least one New York State farmers' market in an administrative capacity -OR- demonstrate a history of work to support farmers' market locations via resource sharing and development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Eligible farmers' markets must have been operated/supported by the applicant for at least (1) market season in 2024 or 2025 prior to application” • “Ineligible Applicants include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For-Profit Organizations • Private Individuals • Entities or organizations not situated in New York State • Entities that have an open FMRG contract from a previous round of funding. • Those seeking funding to start a new farmers' market and/or with no existing market prior to this application • Proposals less than \$20,000 or more than \$50,000 • Projects primarily supporting farm stores, farm stands, mobile markets, and/or CSA/Food Box models.”
<p>There is a requirement to have Workers Comp and disability Insurance. We do not have any employees, so we don't have either insurance. Does this disqualify us from the grant?</p>	<p>No, this does not disqualify you.</p> <p>Organizations can present Form CE-200, Certificate of Attestation for New York Entities with no employees and certain out-of-state entities, that New York State Workers' Compensation and/or Disability Benefits Insurance Coverage is not required. This form can be requested online at the Workers' Compensation Board's website: http://www.wcb.ny.gov/content/ebiz/wc_db_exemptions/requestExemptionOverview.jsp</p>
<p>If our project can only move forward with full funding, can we decline a partial award if it is offered?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

<p>If this grant opportunity does not apply to us are there any grant opportunities that would?</p>	<p>For information on additional opportunities, you may want to check out Empire State Development or NYS AGM Funding Opportunities</p>
<p>Can our organization register in SFS and apply for this program if we haven't received our IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter yet?</p>	<p>The IRS 510(c) determination letter needs to be uploaded to SFS prior to application.</p>
<p>Can funds be used to provide farmers' market coupons to "purchase" produce at no cost? If so, what tracking and reporting will be required for funds expended to fund the coupons?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per RFP0396 section 4D: "Non-Eligible Costs" include the "Purchase of vendor merchandise." <p>It is possible to create and implement a farmers' market development coupon/voucher program in service of the goals of this grant program. Grant funds can be used to fund market coupons or voucher programs but cannot be used to directly purchase merchandise from your farmers' market vendors.</p> <p>Proof of payment would be required for participating vendors who are reimbursed by the applicant for the market coupons, including record of the payment reimbursing the coupon value and an invoice from the farmer to the market for the coupon value.</p>
<p>I own a retail farm market on my farm. Can I apply for this grant?</p>	<p>The budget language authorizing the funding for this program requires that the funding be directed to Farmers' Markets, which are defined in the Agriculture and Markets Law—N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. L § 260. This definition is included in RFA0381.</p> <p>Per RFA0381 Section 3A: "For the purposes of this grant, a Farmers' Market is defined as any building, structure, or place, the property of a municipal corporation or under lease to or in the possession of a private or public agency, individual or business used or intended to be used by two or more producers for the direct sale of a diversity of farm and food products from producers to consumers and food buyers."</p> <p>Per RFA0381 Section 4B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Eligible Applicants Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Not-For-Profit Organizations • Local or Municipal Governments • Business Improvement Districts • Public Benefit Corporations • Indian Tribal Organizations • Public Educational Institutions • All applicants must operate -OR- directly support the operation of at least one New York State farmers' market in an administrative capacity -OR- demonstrate a history of work to support farmers' market locations via resource sharing and development.

	<p>b. Eligible farmers' markets must have been operated/supported by the applicant for at least (1) market season in 2024 or 2025 prior to application"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Ineligible Applicants include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For-Profit Organizations • Private Individuals • Entities or organizations not situated in New York State • Entities that have an open FMRG contract from a previous round of funding. • Those seeking funding to start a new farmers' market and/or with no existing market prior to this application • Proposals less than \$20,000 or more than \$50,000 • Projects primarily supporting farm stores, farm stands, mobile markets, and/or CSA/Food Box models."
<p>Can our organization contract with other farmers' markets as a part of project development?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Per RFA0381 Section 4C: "Grant funds may be used for any of the following purposes directly related to the completion of an eligible project. Eligible costs include but are not limited to:...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor Services..." <p>It is possible to sub-contract with additional organizations in order to perform grant work.</p>
<p>Does a market need to be operated weekly for a prior season to be eligible, or can it operate every other week?</p>	<p>There is no language in the RFA requiring that a market occur weekly.</p> <p>Per RFA0381 Section 3A: "For the purposes of this grant, a Farmers' Market is defined as any building, structure, or place, the property of a municipal corporation or under lease to or in the possession of a private or public agency, individual or business used or intended to be used by two or more producers for the direct sale of a diversity of farm and food products from producers to consumers and food buyers."</p> <p>Per RFA0381 Section 4B: "All applicants must operate -OR- directly support the operation of at least one New York State farmers' market in an administrative capacity -OR- demonstrate a history of work to support farmers' market locations via resource sharing and development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Eligible farmers' markets must have been operated/supported by the applicant for at least (1) market season in 2024 or 2025 prior to application"