



United States Department of Agriculture



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# Urban Agriculture Opportunities

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# What is Urban Agriculture?

Urban Agriculture generally refers to the cultivation, processing and distribution of agricultural products in urban and suburban settings.

Production methods and scale of urban agriculture can vary in the following ways:

- Subsistence growing and recreational community gardening
- Small urban / suburban farm businesses.
- Large-scale commercial enterprises

**Involvement in urban agriculture includes health, nutrition, supporting entrepreneurship, developing local food chains, creating green spaces in cities within other strategies that can be implemented.**



# Where do I do Urban Agriculture?

Urban Agriculture can take place in a variety of locations and is often found in smaller spaces: you can find it in backyard gardens, vacant lots, next to highways on top of and nestled between city buildings and often right in the middle of suburban housing developments.

Urban farming also includes innovations such as vertical farms, rooftops and indoor controlled systems such as hydroponics and aeroponics.

USDA seeks to grow a healthy future for urban agriculture across the nation.



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# Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

New to USDA and was created under the 2018 Farm Bill. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is leading the USDA-wide office, which includes representatives from several other USDA offices and agencies.

The Office's mission is to encourage and promote urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural practices, including -

- (A) community gardens and farms located in urban areas, suburbs, and urban clusters;
- (B) rooftop farms, outdoor vertical production, and green walls; to increase yields in smaller spaces

Innovations in production will also expand opportunities for local and regional supply chains, lets make that urban to rural connection.

- (C) indoor farms, greenhouses, and high-tech vertical technology farms;
- (D) hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic farm facilities
- (E) other innovations in agricultural production.

The authorizing statutes and regulations for this opportunity are in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 also referred to as the 2018 Farm Bill.



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# Cooperative Agreements – Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Pilot (CCFWR)

Competitive process for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans.

Eligibility limited to entity types:

- City or township governments
- County governments
- Native American Tribal governments
- Special district governments
- State governments



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# For Fiscal Year 2020



USDA invested approximately \$1.09 million in 13 pilot projects in 13 states that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction.

Priority was given to projects that anticipate or demonstrate economic benefits, incorporate plans to make compost easily accessible to farmers, including community gardeners, integrate other food waste strategies, including food recovery efforts, and collaborate with multiple partners.



# Example Deliverables for CCFWR

Develop feasibility plan to scale up the project to all 46 schools in X within the coming years. Include information on how to make these programs financially sustainable by working with both public and/or Write and distribute Best Practice Guide. This best practice guide will have practical use on best practices for small- to mid-sized cities on how to work with their large food waste producers to reduce food waste. X will help distribute the guide to additional cities across the country.

To increase professional education and training of school food service and facilities staff (evaluation survey results)

A final evaluation report compiling all the different audits and evaluations mentioned above will be compiled by the City's Office of Innovation and X, and then prepared for distribution to all stakeholders, including the X and the City, as well as promulgated to the Innovation Team's X and Initiative partners, as appropriate.



# Competitive Grants – Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP)

- Competitive Grants to support urban agriculture and innovative production activities to fund planning and implementation projects.
- Focus on urban and suburban areas where access to fresh foods is limited or unavailable.
- Eligible applicants:
  - nonprofit organizations
  - units of local government
  - tribal governments
  - schools that serve grades K-12

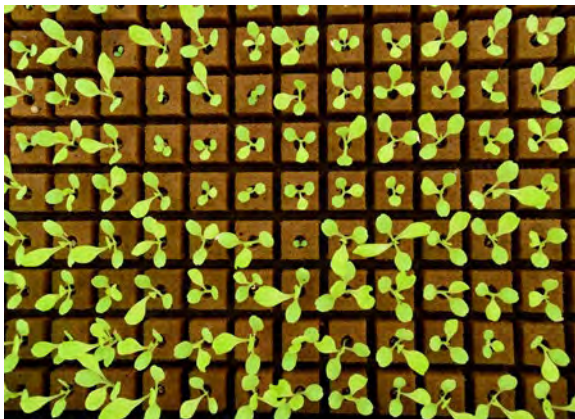




# Program Priorities

The UAIP Competitive Grants Program supports a wide range of activities through two grant types: Planning Projects and Implementation Projects.

Activities include operating community gardens and nonprofit farms, increasing food production and access in economically distressed communities, providing job training and education, and developing business plans and zoning.



# Example Deliverables for UAIP

Outcome 1: Increased aptitude among College of Public Health students.

Indicator 1: Number of College of Public Health students per year equipped with shared knowledge and skills to assist the established Network of Growers

Outcome 2: Increased understanding of value of energy conservation

Indicator 1: Number of Community Garden Days held for planting, garden maintenance, harvesting, shared knowledge sessions, and distribution of energy efficiency items: 12

Indicator 2: Number of events held at schools where educators, students, garden clubs, environmental clubs, or Scout troops learn about local food production and energy efficiency





**To enter into a relationship with the principal purpose of transferring anything of value from the Federal agency to the non-Federal entity.**

### **Cooperative Agreement**

Is distinguished from a grant agreement in that it provides for SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT in carrying out the activity contemplated by the award.

### **Grant Agreement**

Does NOT provides for SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT in carrying out the activity contemplated by the award.



# Substantial Involvement in action

- 1) **Connect the CCFWR pilot project team(s) with other USDA agencies such as, and not limited to, the Economic Research Service (ERS), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the Office of the Chief Economist (OCE), and Federal partners like the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to collaborate on project activities and outcomes that contribute to the U.S. Food Loss and Waste 2030 goal.**
- 2) **Coordinate and convene the CCFWR pilot project team(s) and other Federal government, regional, institution, state, and local experts to share information and strategies related to CCFWR with the goal of enhancing the locally driven process to better address nationally and regionally important composting and food waste reduction goals that transcend localities.**
- 3) **Gather the methods, results, and benefits derived from the project to evaluate and disseminate different solutions for increasing access to compost and reducing municipal food waste across the United States.**
- 4) **Provide advisory and administrative support during the project and maintain constant communication with partner, review progress and financial report and provide feedback to ensure the product follows USDA standards.**



# Substantial Involvement by NRCS

## Considered:

- 1) Authority to suspend work if specifications or work statements are not met
- 2) Review and approval of one stage of work before another may begin
- 3) Review and approval of substantive provisions of proposed subgrants
- 4) NRCS and recipient collaboration or joint participation
- 5) Project monitoring

## Not considered:

- 1) Approval of recipient's plans or applications prior to award
- 2) Normal management activities during the project
- 3) General statutory requirements included in the award
- 4) Review of performance after completion
- 5) Unanticipated NRCS involvement to correct deficiencies





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# USDA PROGRAMS IN THE LOCAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

USDA is committed to supporting robust regional food economies across the food chain through the programs noted below.



## LAND CONSERVATION

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (NRCS)
- Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Project Cooperative Agreements (NRCS)
- Conservation Reserve Program (FSA)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (NRCS)
- Conservation Innovation Grants (NRCS)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS)
- Solid Waste Management Grants (RD)



## PRODUCTION

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS)
- Farm Microloans (FSA)
- Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSA)
- Grass Fed Small and Very Small Producer Program (AMS)
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and Other Disaster Assistance Programs (FSA)
- Organic Cost Share (FSA)
- Rural Energy for America Program (RD)
- Urban Agriculture and Innovation Grants (NRCS)
- Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (RMA)



## PROCESSING

- Agricultural Innovation Center (RD)
- Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans (RD)
- Community Facilities Loans and Grants (RD)
- Local Food Promotion Program (AMS)
- Regional Food Systems Partnership Grants (AMS)
- Rural Business Development Grants (RD)
- Urban Agriculture and Innovation Grants (NRCS)
- Value Added Producer Grants (RD)



## AGGREGATION/DISTRIBUTION

- Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans (RD)
- Community Facilities Loans and Grants (RD)
- Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSA)
- Local Food Promotion Program (AMS)
- Regional Food Systems Partnership Grants (AMS)
- Rural Business Development Grants (RD)
- Specialty Crop Block Grants (AMS)



## MARKETS/CONSUMERS

- Community Food Projects Competitive Grants (NIFA)
- Farm to School Grant Program (FNS)
- Farmers Market Promotion Program (AMS)
- Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (formerly FINI) (NIFA)
- Regional Food Systems Partnership Grants (AMS)
- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FNS)
- Specialty Crop Block Grants (AMS)
- Urban Agriculture and Innovation Grants (NRCS)
- WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FNS)

# How to participate?

Read the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO).

Download at [www.Farmers.gov/urban](http://www.Farmers.gov/urban) and at [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov).

Make sure you are eligible to apply.

Follow the application instructions and submission requirements in the NFO.

The screenshot shows the Grants.gov interface for a specific grant opportunity. The main heading is 'VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY'. Below this, the grant details are listed: 'USDA-NRCS-NHIQ-UIAP-20-NOFO0001013', 'Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production (UIAP) Competitive Grants Program', 'Department of Agriculture', and 'Natural Resources Conservation Service'. There are 'Apply' and 'Subscribe' buttons. Below the grant details, there are tabs for 'SYNOPSIS', 'VERSION HISTORY', 'RELATED DOCUMENTS', and 'PACKAGE'. The 'RELATED DOCUMENTS' tab is active, showing a table of related documents.

File Description	File Name	Last Updated Date/Time	File Size
Folder: Full Announcement - Full Announcement	USDA-NRCS-NHIQ-UIAP-20-NOFO0001013-Full Announcement - Full Announcement.zip	May 14, 2020 10:12:25 AM EDT	100.4 KB
Full Announcement	Full Announcement_USDA-NRCS-NHIQ-UIAP-20-NOFO0001013_05-14-20.pdf	May 14, 2020 10:12:24 AM EDT	189.1 KB
Folder: Other Supporting Documents - Other	USDA-NRCS-NHIQ-UIAP-20-NOFO0001013-Other Supporting Documents - Other.zip	May 14, 2020 10:13:12 AM EDT	1.1 MB
Frequently Asked Questions	UIAP-Competitive-Grants-Program-FY2020-FAQ.pdf	May 14, 2020 10:13:11 AM EDT	312.6 KB
General Terms and Conditions	General Terms and Conditions - January 2020.pdf	May 06, 2020 12:10:29 PM EDT	312.7 KB
Instructions, Budget Narrative	Instructions_Budget Narrative.pdf	May 06, 2020 12:06:34 PM EDT	81.7 KB
Instructions_SF424	Instructions_SF424.pdf	May 06, 2020 12:03:46 PM EDT	473.3 KB
Instructions_SF424A	Instructions_SF424A.pdf	May 06, 2020 12:05:39 PM EDT	194.6 KB

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# Don't wait until the last minute!



1. Obtain a TIN/EIN from the IRS can take up to 35 days
2. Obtain a DUNS number can take up to 1-2 business days
3. Register with SAM.gov 7-10 business days
4. Register with Grants.gov, add a profile and authorize an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) up to 14 days
5. Submit Application in Grants.gov 11:59 p.m. EDT date listed in NFO





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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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