



URBAN AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OVERVIEW AND Q&A

- **Wednesday, October 7th**
- **1:00PM – 2:00PM**

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A project qualifies as “urban” if it meets this USDA definition:

- population density equal to or greater than 291 persons per square mile **and** a total population equal to or greater than 2,500, or
- a municipality in which more than 50% of the population lives in an urbanized area, as defined by the United States Census Bureau.

A listing of PA’s urban municipalities can be found in the Center for Rural Pennsylvania's List of Municipalities:

rural.pa.gov/download.cfm?file=Resources/PDFs/data/List%20of%20Municipalities%20web%202022.xlsx





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Volume 56 Issue 35 56 Pa.B. 5738 ▶ Program Requirements for the Urban Agricultural Infrastructure Grant Program

[56 Pa.B. 5738]
[Saturday, August 29, 2026]

The Department of Agriculture (Department) provides notice of the standards and requirements for the Urban Agricultural Infrastructure Grant Program (Program).

The Program is established under authority of 3 Pa.C.S. §§ 10701—10705 (relating to Urban Agricultural Infrastructure Grant Program), referred to as the Urban Agricultural Infrastructure Grant Program Act (act). The Program allows the Department to award reimbursement grants for certain eligible projects to improve urban agricultural infrastructure in an urban area, improve or facilitate the aggregation of agricultural products in an urban area, entail the sharing of resources among urban agricultural entities or community organizations and support community development in the project area.

This notice establishes the procedures by which grant applications will be solicited, reviewed and by which grants will be awarded, drawing on funding available in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027. The Department intends to make no less than \$500,000 available for grants under the Program. Funding is contingent upon 2026-2027 budget appropriations.

1. *Program Objective.* The Program's objective is to provide grants to reimburse some portion of the costs of implementing projects that improve agriculture infrastructure in urban areas and that focus on aggregation of agricultural products, sharing of resources and support for community development resources.



Does your proposed Urban Ag project do one or more of the following?

- a. Improve the infrastructure for producing fresh and/or shelf stable food, **sustainably?**
- b. Facilitate aggregation of agricultural products to increase urban farmer **sales?**
- c. Share resources with other agriculture supporting organizations and **producers?**
- d. Improve how agriculture contributes to local economic stability and **growth?**



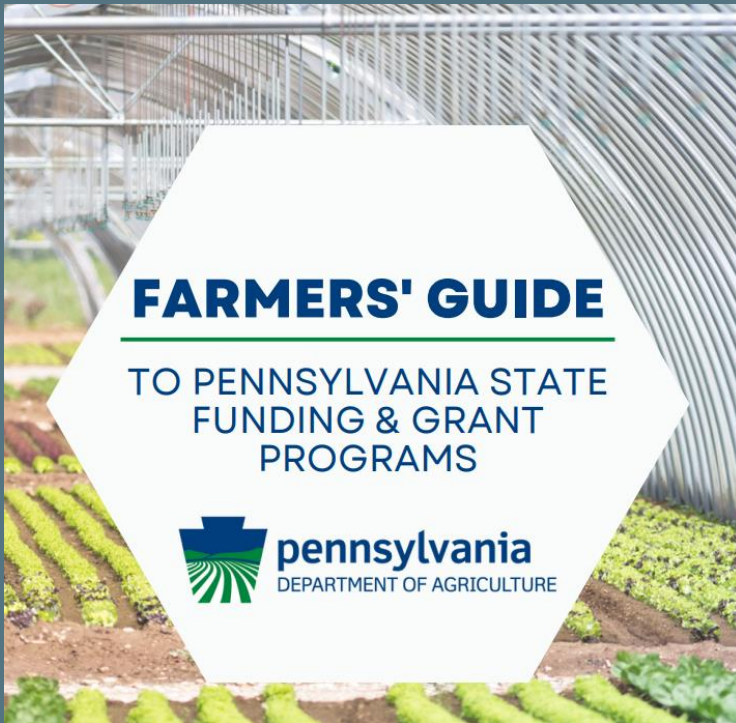
PROGRAM OBJECTIVES



ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Urban Farmers
- Food Processors, Manufacturers or Distributors
- Nonprofit Organizations
- For-Profit Entities (must meet the eligibility of the SBA small business size standards.)
- Local Government Entities
- Tribal Groups



WHAT TYPES OF GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE?

Micro grants are submitted for a small project by an individual producer, or a small group for a specific project.

Collaboration grants are submitted by a several entities, normally with a lead applicant. They are broader in scope and are expected to have wider impact.



MICRO GRANTS

The maximum award is \$2,500
and there's a 15% match required.

Example:

Grant = 85% of total project

Your match = 15% of total project

Total project = \$2,875

Maximum grant = \$2,500

Required match = \$ 375

**WHAT TYPES OF GRANTS ARE
AVAILABLE?**



WHAT TYPES OF GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE?

COLLABORATION GRANTS

The maximum award is \$50,000 and there's a 15% match required.

Example:

Grant = 85% of total project

Your match = 15% of total project

Total project = \$57,500

Maximum grant = \$50,000

Required match = \$ 7,500



\$500,000 is available in 2026 for the UAIG Program



Eligible Costs

- Gardening/growing equipment
- Green houses/hoop houses
- Utility connections/off-grid energy or water systems
- Contracted labor/installations
- Harvesting equipment
- Cold storage/temperature control equipment
- Soil remediation
- Soil amendments
- Lighting (for growing only)
- Soil testing
- Site design or planning (contracted)

Ineligible Costs

- Any purchases made outside the contract period
- Land rental or purchase
- Wages/stipends
- Vehicles
- Computers, tablets, phones
- Rent
- Utility bills
- Software
- Political contributions
- Livestock
- Animal feed
- Advertising (not located on site)
- Administrative costs
- Ineligible Matching Funds
- In kind services



Application Requirements:

- [Single Application for Assistance \(state.pa.us\)](https://state.pa.us)
- Infrastructure Grant Template in the addenda section
- Letter(s) of Support recommended for collaboration grant applications



Login

What's New?

For an overview of the changes in the new Single Application, please read [Help](#).

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LOGIN



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NOTE: If registering for the first time with Keystone Login, please include an email address with your account. It will be needed to successfully complete grant applications and grant processing.

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Begin a New Application

To begin a new Single Application For Assistance, enter a brief name for the project (up to sixty characters) and answer whether you need help selecting your program. If you already know the name of the program you want to apply for, answer "No".

Project Name

Title of Your Project Gets Listed Here

Are you applying on behalf of your organization or another entity?

If you are applying for a sponsored program on behalf of another organization, please select "Another Entity."

My Organization

Do you need help selecting your program?

No

CREATE A NEW APPLICATION



Allowable Match

- Professional Services (Engineering, Construction)
- Value of rental/lease of building
- Value of equipment or equipment rental
- Anything used as match must be an allowable cost



Valuing Your Match

- Anything used as match must be an allowable expense
- Keep record of the item(s)' market cost
- Don't use direct or "in-kind" wages or benefits
- Contract will be held if the OMB flags the match



WHAT IS A PROJECT?

COMPETITIVE APPLICATIONS:

- Uses research or accessible community information to **validate the need** AND benefit of the project to urban agriculture
- Proposes an **organized and interconnected set of activities** to achieve a measurable change in urban agriculture outcomes
- Takes place within the specified UAIG grant period with **specific activity timeline, costs, roles and responsibilities**
- Is ideally connected to an existing plan for increasing **food access**



WHAT IS A PROJECT?

COMPETITIVE APPLICATIONS:

- The reviewer is crystal clear about how your activities and tasks contribute to meeting the goal.
- **PRO TIPS:** If you're requesting a **micro-grant**, **make a clear connection to the land** you're on. Will the infrastructure there be improved?
- If you're writing a **collaborative grant**, show how your project is **part of an existing or emerging food access eco-system** in your urban area.



BUDGET NARRATIVE

The Budget Narrative:

- Funds requested
- Match Amount
- Justification

Not Eligible!!!

BUDGET SUMMARY

Expense Category	Funds Requested	Match Value	Match Type
Personnel	\$0.00	\$0.00	v
Fringe Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00	v
Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	v
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	v
Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	v
Construction	\$0.00	\$0.00	v
Contractual	\$0.00	\$0.00	v
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	v
Direct Costs Sub-Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Indirect Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	v
Total Budget	\$0.00	\$0.00	



BUDGET NARRATIVE – CATEGORIES (CONTINUED)

Expense Categories:

Equipment/Supplies: Materials, supplies and fabricated parts
(less than \$5,000 per unit)

Construction: administrative and legal expenses, structures, architectural and engineering fees, site inspections, site work (demo, removal, construction/expansion of facilities)

Contractual: contractual/consultant services

Other: any expense that does not fall into one of the previously mentioned budget categories, conferences, rental expenses.



REVIEWERS LOOK AT BUDGETS FIRST!!

- Each budget category has a justification narrative that explains:
 - What the expense is for
 - How it is critical to the project objective(s) and outcome(s)
 - How the cost/price was determined
- A well written budget narrative will allow reviewers to easily understand why you need the funds
- For items, services, and contracted labor over \$5K attach estimates or quotes from three vendors



**BUDGET NARRATIVE
JUSTIFICATION**



BUDGET NARRATIVE – INDIRECT

- Indirect costs are typically administrative, clerical, and facility maintenance costs that are related to the project.
- If you don't have a federally negotiated indirect cost rate (most small businesses and nonprofits don't), you can use 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) for your in-kind expense
- Indirect costs may count towards match as long as they are **not related to staff or personnel salaries, wages, benefits** or overhead costs



SCORING CRITERIA

Evaluation Criteria Scoring			
			Possible Points
1	Improves agricultural infrastructure		10
2	Improves or facilitates the aggregation of agricultural products		5
3	Shares resources among agricultural producers and community orgs		5
4	Supports community development in the project area		10
5	Increases food production		10
6	Strengthens existing partnerships		2
7	Creates new partnerships		2
8	Improves aggregation of products to existing market through enhanced partnership with markets, other parts of value chain		6
9	Creates new initiatives, programs or services for the community		10
10	Identifies and supports needs, culture, and/or values of community		5
11	Itemized budget of costs related to the project		5
12	Strategic plan for project implementation		5
		Total Score	75
13	Did this application have letters of support? Yes or no		
14	Are there any major concerns with this project?		
15	If the budget needed to be cut, what items should be cut that would still allow this to be a viable project?		
	Additional Comments: <i>Always appreciated</i>		



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

- Is there a maximum number of UA grants?
 - Yes, up to \$100,000 per entity within a five-year period.
- Can funds be used to pay salary or a stipend?
 - No, by law the funds support infrastructure only
- Can we ask for an advance to start our program?
 - No. Costs are reimbursed *after* you provide proof of payment.
- Are there ways to bridge the cost of starting up or operating until funds come in?
 - We encourage applicants to check with Small Business Development Centers or the USDA Regional Offices for possible low interest loans.



URBAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM TIMELINE



Grant Released	August 31, 2026
RFA Closes	October 16, 2026
Competitive Review	November-December 2026
Final Award Announcements*	TBD
* Denotes an anticipated timeframe	



QUESTIONS

Thank you!

Contact: Dr. Jamie Green

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