

## Grow Your Urban Agriculture Dreams with the CDFA Urban Agriculture Grant Program - Applications Open Until October 23, 2023!

Written By Amrita Mukherjee, on September 5, 2023



The California Department of Food and Agriculture's ( CDFA) [Urban Agriculture Grant Program, 2023](#) is an exclusive and competitive funding opportunity designed to support and elevate agriculture in urban areas across California. This one-time grant program will fund to support programs and projects that enhance the sustainability and success of urban agriculture throughout the state of California.

Urban agriculture encompasses a variety of practices aimed at cultivating, processing, and distributing agricultural products within urban environments. These practices can include small plot cultivation on the ground, raised beds, vertical farming, warehouse farms, mushroom cultivation, urban forestry, community gardens, rooftop farms, as well as innovative methods such as hydroponics, aeroponics, and aquaponics. The goal is to explore and implement diverse approaches to sustainably grow food within city settings. Urban farmers and gardeners collaborate with a wide range of people to enhance the availability of nourishing food, promote community involvement, offer vocational training, educate communities about agriculture, and expand green areas in urban settings.

CDFA defines "urban" as a geographic area within 25 miles of an Urbanized Area with a population of 50,000 or more. This definition guides the CDFA in determining the boundaries of urban areas for their programs and initiatives.

There are two funding tracks The Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant will provide funding ranging from \$75,000 to \$400,000 for community-based organizations involved in urban and regional food systems planning. This funding aims to increase staff capacity and support organizations with grassroots involvement in this field. The Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant will offer direct funding to the urban agriculture projects, providing grants ranging from \$75,000 to \$250,000. The CDFA has allocated up to \$5,870,000 for proposals received through this solicitation.

**Application deadline: October 23, 2023**

**Eligibility:**

Track 1: Systems Builder Community-Based Block Grant

- Nonprofit organizations and Tribal governments and Tribal-based nonprofit organizations with knowledge and experience in regional food systems are eligible to apply.
- Individuals; for-profit organizations; local, state, and federal government entities; and public or private colleges and universities are not eligible to apply.

Track 2: Urban Agriculture Practitioner Grant

- Nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, Tribal governments and Tribal-based nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply.
- Individuals; local, state, and federal government entities; and public or private colleges and universities are not eligible to apply.

For more information:

Please review the [FAQs](#) sheet

Please connect to CDFA's Urban Ag Program Lead at [caurbanag@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:caurbanag@cdfa.ca.gov) with questions.