

Farmer Infrastructure and Equipment Subgrant Program

Overview:

With funding from the [California Department of Food and Agriculture Office of Farm to Fork](#), through their Urban Agriculture Block Grant Program, the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) is launching a subaward program for farmers and urban agriculture stakeholders in our District to support project infrastructure, equipment purchases, workforce development, and community engagement. [These Urban Agriculture Grants](#) aim to enhance the viability of urban agriculture in urban areas across California.

The Farmer Infrastructure and Equipment Subgrant funding pool is specific to farmers within the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District's service area to support urban farmers with equipment and infrastructure purchases that support their farming operations and increase the regional supply chain for fresh and local produce.

Applications will be accepted October 10th - December 6th. The deadline to submit is **Friday, December 6th by 5:00pm PST**.

*Se permiten respuestas en Español

Tentative Award Timeline:

Award Announcements - January 10th, 2025

Subaward Agreements Executed - February 13th, 2025

Project Implementation - February 13th, 2025 - June 30th, 2026.

Project Contacts:

Please reach out to the following staff with questions on the program or for technical assistance in developing your application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to reach out to IERCD staff for support with their application.

Lucy Ceja - Sustainable Agriculture Specialist lsolorzano@iercd.org (909) 285-4754

Madison Santiago - Sustainable Agriculture Lead msantiago@iercd.org
(909) 921-4054

* Indicates required question

Eligibility Requirements:

- The farm must be located within [IERCD's District Boundary](#).
- The farm size must be a minimum of 1 acre. If the farm plot is under 1 acre, multiple farmers/incubators on the same property may apply together to meet the acreage minimum.
- The farmer must sell produce for a profit with a minimum of \$1,000 in produce sales annually
- The farmer must either own the land or have an active lease for 1 year or more
- Nonprofit farms are not eligible for this program track, but will be eligible for the Community Programs Track.

Eligible Project Types:

Through this funding pool, eligible producers may request between **\$5,000 - \$30,000** in funding for equipment and/or infrastructure purchases. Examples of infrastructure and equipment are included below, but this list is not comprehensive and other types of projects may be proposed.

Infrastructure:

- Site development, plans and drawings, permits, legal fees, consultant fees
- Season extension such as hoop houses, high tunnels, shade houses, green houses
- Irrigation systems including water connection, installation, improvements, meters, hardware
- Tool storage sheds or containers
- Wash and pack areas including shade structures, drainage pits or other needs
- Community gathering spaces including picnic tables, DG pathways, seating for workshops or other engagement activities, shade structures, outdoor kitchens, demonstration sites
- Aggregation and distribution preparation areas
- Land improvements including soil testing, amendments, remediations, weed management
- Innovations in production equipment such as hydroponic or aquaponic systems

Equipment:

- Tools - including hand tools, mechanized tools, harvesting tools, weed management tools, etc.
- Post-harvest wash stations, bins, boxes, labels, packaging etc.
- Delivery vehicles

- Farm Stand, Community Supported Agriculture, or other marketing supplies
- Refrigeration units
- Solar Panels
- Technology and software for sales, marketing, and communications
- Technology, and software for field management

Ranking Criteria:

When scoring, the review committee will prioritize applications using the following criteria:

1. The extent to which the project increases the capacity of the farm to support the regional food system
2. The populations that the farm serves. Priority will be given to farms that serve and distribute produce to priority populations within the Inland Empire: [Priority Populations Map](#)
3. Reasonableness of the financial request for the items requested in the application
4. The demonstrated financial need of the farm

FAQ:

- Can I use these funds for lease-to-own equipment?
 - No, recipients may not use grant funds to lease-to-own a piece of equipment.
- Can I use these funds to pay for the partial cost of equipment?
 - If a Recipient is using grant funds to cover the partial cost of a piece of equipment, then they may not finance or take out a loan for the remaining cost of that equipment. However, it is allowable for a Recipient to cover the remaining cost of the equipment out of pocket.
- Can funds be used to reimburse for a previous equipment purchase?
 - No, the equipment or infrastructure must be purchased after the project is approved and agreement signed. This funding opportunity may not be used to reimburse previous expenses.
- What is the definition of urban agriculture for the purposes of this program?
 - Urban Agriculture refers to the cultivation, processing, and distribution of agricultural products in urban settings, including things like in-ground small plot cultivation, raised beds, vertical production, warehouse farms, mushroom growing, urban forestry and tree care, community gardens, rooftop farms, hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic facilities, and other innovations. Urban farmers and gardeners work among diverse populations to expand access to nutritious foods, foster community engagement, offer workforce development opportunities, educate communities about food and farming, and expand green spaces

Section 1: General Contact Information

1. Farm Name:

2. Farm Contact Name:

3. Email Address:

4. Phone Number:

5. Project Site Address (street, city, county, & state):

6. Mailing address if different than above (street, city, county, & state):

7. Best way to reach you:

Mark only one oval.

Email

Phone

Section 2: Farm Information

8. What size is your farm in acres?

9. What is the term of permitted access and use of the farm site (i.e., 1-yr lease, 5-year lease, permanent access, etc.)

10. What number of years has the farm been in operation?

11. What crops are grown in your production area?

12. In what markets do you sell your produce? (i.e., farm stand, farmers markets, grocery stores, restaurants, schools, etc.)

13. What populations do you serve? List all communities where you distribute produce:

Section 3: Financial Need

14. What portion of your income is derived from your farm operation?

15. What is your total annual gross revenue from your farm operation?

Mark only one oval.

- Less than \$999
- \$1,000 - \$10,000
- \$10,000 - \$19,999
- \$20,000 - \$29,999
- \$30,000 - \$39,999
- \$40,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$99,000
- \$100,000 - \$149,999
- \$150,000 - \$199,999
- \$200,000 - \$399,999
- Greater than \$400,000

16. Have you received other funding sources from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)? (this will not affect your eligibility for this program)

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

17. If yes, list the programs you have engaged with:

Section 4: Capacity

18. What will this purchase help you achieve at your farm? How will this funding award help increase your ability to serve priority populations in the Inland Empire? (75-200 words)

Section 5: Project Proposal

19. Identify the project type you are requesting funding for - you may select both:

Check all that apply.

- Infrastructure
- Equipment

20. Describe your proposed project and what the equipment and infrastructure would be used for and achieve for the farm and regional food supply. (100-300 words)

Section 6: Budget

21. Fill out and upload the following chart with information regarding the equipment/infrastructure items you are requesting to purchase with grant funds, and what they will be used for. [Budget Chart](#)

Files submitted:

Section 7: Timeline

22. When do you anticipate completing your purchase? (This date must be before June 30th, 2026)
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Section 8: Applicant Certification

23. I affirm I meet the eligibility requirements and can attest that everything in this application is truthfully represented. *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

24. If I am selected to receive this grant, I will allow CDFA and IERCD to use my farm's name and image to tell my story (optional). *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

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