

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>
Is Item Included in Current Budget?			Yes _____	No <u> X </u>	
Does this item include the use of federal funds?			Yes _____	No <u> X </u>	
Budget Account No.:					
Fund	Department	Unit	Object	Program	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

C. Department Fiscal Review: None 03/07/23

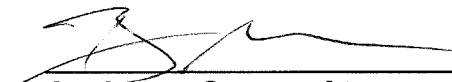
III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and /or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

Jayavardhan
 Jackson
 3/28/23

Lisa M. ... 3/28/2023
 OFMB 4A 318 LM
 3/28

Contract Development and Control
 fmb 3/28/23

B. Legal Sufficiency:


 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

 Department Director

Background and Justification:

The UAIP grant program initiates and expands efforts of farmers, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. UAIP grants support projects designed to improve access to local foods in areas where access to fresh, healthy food is limited or unavailable through urban and/or innovative agricultural practices, including, but not limited to, community gardens, urban farms, rooftop farms, urban agroforest, food forests, orchards, outdoor vertical production, green walls, indoor farms, greenhouses, high-tech vertical technology farms, and hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic farm facilities. UAIP grants fund Planning Projects and Implementation Projects.

PBC is one of the most agriculturally productive counties east of the Mississippi River, yet many PBC residents still struggle with access and affordability of fresh and health food. In PBC, more than 158,000 people are projected to be food insecure, 48,000 of whom are children.



Office of Resilience
2300 North Jog Road, 4th Floor
West Palm Beach, FL 33411-2743
(561) 233-2400
FAX: (561) 233-2414
www.pbcgov.com/resilience

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

- Gregg K. Weiss, Mayor
Maria Sachs, Vice Mayor
Maria G. Marino
Michael A. Barnett
Marcy Woodward
Sara Baxter
Mack Bernard

County Administrator
Verdenia C. Baker

"An Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer"
Official Electronic Letterhead

DATE: March 15, 2023
TO: Gregg K. Weiss, Mayor, Board of County Commissioners
THRU: Patrick Rutter, Assistant County Administrator
FROM: Megan S. Houston, Director, Office of Resilience

SUBJECT: Approval to Delegate Authority to Sign 2023 U.S. Department of Agriculture Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Competitive Grants Program Application

Pursuant to Section 309 of the Administrative Code, Office of Resilience staff request your approval to delegate authority to the County Administrator or designee to act as an Authorized Organization Representative on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for the online submittal of, and electronic signature on, a grant application for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants Program which will begin in September 2023 and end three (3) years after execution.

UAIP grants focus on initiating or expanding efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access; education; business and start-up costs for new farmers; and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production. There is no match requirement. The Office of Resilience and the Cooperative Extension Office want to apply for a \$250,000 Planning Project grant to identify, promote, and develop sustainable, urban agriculture practices and market potential in Palm Beach County.

The grant application must be submitted through Grants.gov no later than March 27, 2023. The emergency signature process is being used due to insufficient time to submit this item through the BCC agenda process. Staff will submit this item at the next available BCC meeting.

Please contact me at (561) 681-6812 with any questions.

DocuSigned by:
Megan Houston, Director, Office of Resilience

- Attachment:
1. 2023 USDA UAIP Notice of Funding Opportunity

Reviewed By:

DocuSigned by:
Lauren Magierowski
County Administration

DocuSigned by:
Ryan Maher
Assistant County Attorney

DocuSigned by:
Gregg K. Weiss
Gregg K. Weiss, Mayor



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Official Electronic Letterhead

DATE: March 23, 2023
TO: Verdenia Baker, County Administrator
THROUGH: Patrick Rutter, Assistant County Administrator
FROM: Megan S. Houston, Director, Office of Resilience
SUBJECT: Designee Authority for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants Program Application

Through the emergency memo process the County Administrator or designee was given authority to submit the application due to time constraint. The County Administrator is assigning the designee as the Director of Office of Resilience to submit the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants Program application.

Approved By:

Verdenia Baker, County Administrator

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424		
* 1. Type of Submission: <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application	* 2. Type of Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): <input type="text"/> * Other (Specify): <input type="text"/>
* 3. Date Received: Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.	4. Applicant Identifier: <input type="text"/>	
5a. Federal Entity Identifier: <input type="text"/>	5b. Federal Award Identifier: <input type="text"/>	
State Use Only:		
6. Date Received by State: <input type="text"/>	7. State Application Identifier: <input type="text"/>	
8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:		
* a. Legal Name: <input type="text" value="County of Palm Beach"/>		
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): <input type="text" value="59-6000785"/>	* c. UEI: <input type="text" value="XL2DNFMPCR44"/>	
d. Address:		
* Street1: <input type="text" value="301 N Olive AVE"/>	Street2: <input type="text"/>	
* City: <input type="text" value="West Palm Beach"/>	County/Parish: <input type="text" value="Palm Beach"/>	
* State: <input type="text" value="FL: Florida"/>	Province: <input type="text"/>	
* Country: <input type="text" value="USA: UNITED STATES"/>	* Zip / Postal Code: <input type="text" value="33401-4700"/>	
e. Organizational Unit:		
Department Name: <input type="text" value="Office of Resilience"/>	Division Name: <input type="text"/>	
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:		
Prefix: <input type="text"/>	* First Name: <input type="text" value="Megan"/>	
Middle Name: <input type="text" value="S."/>	* Last Name: <input type="text" value="Houston"/>	
Suffix: <input type="text"/>	Title: <input type="text" value="Director, Office of Resilience"/>	
Organizational Affiliation: <input type="text" value="Department Director"/>		
* Telephone Number: <input type="text" value="(561) 681-3812"/>	Fax Number: <input type="text"/>	
* Email: <input type="text" value="mshouston@pbcgov.org"/>		

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

B: County Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

Natural Resources Conservation Service

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

10.935

CFDA Title:

Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

USDA-NRCS-NHQ-UAIP-23-NOFO0001230

* Title:

Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants Program

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

Increasing Access to Food in Palm Beach County through Sustainable Urban Agriculture (Planning Project)
Statement of Need

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant

* b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

* b. End Date:

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="250,000.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="250,000.00"/>

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on
- b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**

- Yes
- No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)**

** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:
Middle Name:
* Last Name:
Suffix:

* Title:

* Telephone Number: Fax Number:

* Email:

* Signature of Authorized Representative: * Date Signed:

ADDITIONAL CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF PROJECT:

FL-021

FL-023

Project Narrative File(s)

* **Mandatory Project Narrative File Filename:**

To add more Project Narrative File attachments, please use the attachment buttons below.

Project Narrative - Increasing Access to Food in Palm Beach County through Sustainable Urban Agriculture

1. Project Overview

Palm Beach County (PBC) is a large, diverse jurisdiction comprised of ~2,500 square miles, 39 municipalities, ~1.5 million year-round residents, and 47 miles of beaches. PBC's major industries are tourism, construction, and agriculture, with 1/3 of the PBC land area dedicated to agriculture. PBC is one of the most vulnerable communities to climate change hazards in the U.S., while poverty, affordable housing, and food insecurity challenges persist. Sustainable urban agriculture (SUA) includes community gardens, urban farms, and urban orchards, and these operations can deliver healthy, fresh food to PBC residents, mitigate climate change impacts, increase food resiliency, increase sustainability, and promote economic development in areas with high poverty rates. PBC's Office of Resilience (PBC OOR) and the University of Florida/IFAS PBC Extension Department (PBC Extension) will collaborate to increase food resiliency through SUA practices that will generate long-term economic, environmental, and social benefits for PBC.

Food Insecurity and Housing Affordability Issues

In PBC, 10.8% of residents lack consistent access to nutritious food¹, which exceeds the 10.2% national average². Every day, 20% of PBC children go hungry³. In 2020, nearly 200,000 PBC residents received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.⁴ PBC's overall poverty rate is 12.8% but some municipalities exceed this including Belle Glade (42.1%), Pahokee (37.9%), South Bay (31.8%), Mangonia Park (32.5%), Lake Worth Beach, (24.7%) and Riviera Beach (22.8%).⁵ These areas also overlap with neighborhoods facing high food insecurity rates. Regarding housing, 56.6% of renter households are cost-burdened and over 80% of PBC's population is unable to afford the \$418,000 median housing price in PBC.⁶ When residents struggle to pay for housing, this reduces their ability to pay for food.

Climate Change Impact on Food Resilience and Equity

PBC climate change hazards include sea level rise, extreme heat, extreme precipitation, nuisance flooding, and saltwater intrusion. As a coastal community with a mean elevation of ~ 15 feet above sea level, and a gravity-fed canal drainage system, sea level rise exacerbates drainage and flooding issues. Climate impacts on the agriculture sector present unique considerations. Southeast Florida's subtropical and tropical climates create a unique set of growing conditions that allow for the production of 200 to 300 different crops, including temperate crops in the winter, as well as tropical and subtropical crops year-round. The agriculture sector emits

¹ <https://feedingsouthflorida.org/>

² <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/ag-and-food-statistics-charting-the-essentials/food-security-and-nutrition-assistance/>

³ <https://www.pbcfoodbank.org/>

⁴ US Census

⁵ <https://www.hlcpbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Palm-Beach-County-Affordable-Housing-Needs-Assessment-02.26.2021-Final.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.hlcpbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Palm-Beach-County-Affordable-Housing-Needs-Assessment-02.26.2021-Final.pdf>

greenhouse gases but also is at risk from climate variability that can include increased pests and diseases, drought, flooding, frequent and increasingly intense natural disasters, and extreme heat labor concerns. Changes in rainfall patterns and average temperatures may also adversely affect crop productivity.⁷

“Frontline communities” experience the most immediate and worst impacts of climate change. They are often communities of low-income households, people of color, immigrants, the homeless, the elderly, the youth, differently-abled people, outside workers, and/or those with chronic health conditions. Frontline communities disadvantaged by a legacy of racial segregation and environmental injustice struggle with disparate health outcomes, are highly exposed and vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and lack sufficient resources to cope with climate impacts. PBC’s frontline communities overlap with food insecure communities.

Sustainable Urban Agriculture Opportunities

“Sustainable urban agriculture”(SUA) is used in this grant application as a conceptual definition that applies to small-scale agriculture practices in urban environments that help PBC meet its climate resiliency and sustainability goals. SUA helps improve food security, particularly for residents in areas with few to no convenient options for securing affordable and healthy foods, especially fresh fruits and vegetables. SUA can offer many resiliency benefits beyond food production including sequestering carbon, reducing the urban heat island effect, providing wildlife habitat, ensuring environmental justice for frontline communities, preserving local jobs and preventing urban sprawl. Small-scale growers using regenerative and permaculture practices can grow diverse crops and focus on varieties that thrive in PBC’s microclimates. Urban gardens encourage social cohesion by providing places for neighbors to come together, build community bonds and connect people with each other, the environment, and the source of their food.

PBC is a nationally recognized agricultural community. With crop sales of roughly \$1.4 billion for the 2019-2020 growing season⁸, PBC leads the State of Florida and all counties east of the Mississippi River in total agricultural sales and is one of the ten largest agricultural counties nationally. PBC leads the nation in the production of sugarcane, fresh sweet corn, and sweet bell peppers and is the top Florida producer for rice, lettuce, radishes, Chinese vegetables, specialty leaf, and celery. PBC leads the state in agricultural wages and salaries at over \$316 million.⁹ However, the majority of agriculture revenues come from large, commercial farming operations. SUA farmers are typically small operators by comparison and often struggle to become and/or remain profitable. Small-scale and urban agriculture businesses often contact the PBC Extension for assistance with interpreting land use regulations and incentives, developing business plans, researching best practices, and identifying appropriate markets.

Dr. Catherine Campbell’s surveys of Florida urban farmers identified top barriers to farm operations and business expansion for commercial urban agriculture as labor, capital, profitability, and laws/regulations.¹⁰ Moreover, SUAs are burdened by inconsistent definitions, where policymakers, financing institutions, and community members do not fully understand

⁷ Regional Climate Action Plan 3.0, Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact

⁸ <https://discover.pbcgov.org/coextension/agriculture/Pages/default.aspx>

⁹ <https://discover.pbcgov.org/coextension/agriculture/Pages/default.aspx>

¹⁰ Catherine G. Campbell et al., Commercial Urban Agriculture in Florida: Needs, Opportunities, and Barriers (2022)

what an SUA might be or could be, and these ambiguities can compromise support. PBC stakeholders need a consistent SUA definition and need to understand better the economic and environmental value and potential for SUAs in PBC. Finally, SUAs need more support in local representation. Existing, new, or aspiring SUAs need more peer-group learning and educational support opportunities.

Target Areas and Impacted Communities

The SUA Project will target communities that lack healthy food access, a primary cause of food insecurity. PBC's Hunger Relief Plan found that communities most susceptible to food access challenges are communities of color, low-income families, unemployed people, and people lacking adequate transportation.¹¹ Vulnerable populations include children, seniors, immigrants, and the Glades community. The Glades community has long struggled with poverty and poor health outcomes, exacerbated by limited public transportation, inadequate access to food retail, and higher levels of under-employment due to seasonal work. Factors that contribute to food insecurity overlap with "frontline communities" who are experiencing climate change impacts most acutely and have limited resources to adapt. Our SUA Project will focus on communities identified by the USDA Food Access Research Atlas as having limited food access within 1/2 mile in urban areas and 10 miles in rural areas. See Appendix Figure 1. These Zip Codes include 33404, 33415, 33417, 33430, 33435, 33461, and 33476.

The SUA Project will identify ways to increase SUAs, which will expand access to fresh, healthy food for PBC communities in need. The SUA Project will create economic development opportunities in areas experiencing low incomes and high unemployment rates. The SUA Project will prioritize participation by historically underserved groups and supporting organizations. The Project Team will provide food and stipends, childcare, and translation services at public meetings to ensure equitable participation opportunities. The Project Team will work with local partners to conduct outreach and ensure that community member input from underserved groups are equitably represented. Increasing SUA operations will help PBC reduce greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration and increase food resiliency to climate change impacts.

SUA Integration into Existing Work and Programs

To identify solutions to end hunger, PBC collaborates with the United Way of Palm Beach County (UWPBC). Together the County and United Way created the PBC Hunger Relief Plan, with input from over 60 community agencies. During COVID-19, UWPBC created the PBC Food Finder to connect individuals seeking food resources to sites near them in a quick and accessible way. The SUA Project will help PBC achieve its Hunger Relief goals to reduce hunger while increasing access to healthy, affordable food.¹²

PBC Extension is an off-campus branch of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) supported by the PBC Board of County Commissioners, UF, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. PBC Extension provides research-based education to citizens, organizations, and businesses engaged in agriculture, horticulture, human sciences, and youth development. Programs include Agricultural Economic Development and Family &

¹¹ <https://unitedwaypbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Palm-Beach-County-Hunger-Relief-Strategic-Plan1.pdf>

¹² 2020-Hunger-Semi-Annual-Report_FINAL_web.pdf (unitedwaypbc.org)

Consumer Sciences focused on food and nutrition education. The SUA Project will help PBC Extension develop its programs to meet the identified needs of the SUA community.

The SUA Project will help PBC and the City of West Palm Beach (WPB) tailor their agricultural priorities with respect to their climate change initiatives. PBC is a founding member of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (SFLRCCC), a South Florida 4-County partnership that collaborates on climate change planning. WPB is PBC's municipal representative in the SFLRCCC. One of the SFLRCCC's key projects is producing a Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP), which PBC adopted in 2022. SUA Project Team members Natalie Frenberg and Ron Rice led the RCAP 3.0 updates to the Agriculture Chapter. Relevant goals include: 1) ensure the continued viability, sustainability, and equity of agriculture in Southeast Florida while facing climate change; 2) promote locally produced foods and goods; and 3) increase urban agriculture. Using the results of the SUA Project, OOR will include climate-resilient agriculture and SUA priorities in the PBC's forthcoming Resilience Action Plan.

Finally, Dr. Catherine Campbell researches human motivation and behavior, particularly as they relate to how individuals and communities interact with their food environment, issues that may arise at the intersection of food systems and public health, and social conditions where community food environments affect food security and health outcomes. Her research helps us understand how policies, systems and environmental factors affect food purchasing and consumption behavior in order to foster a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient food system from producer to consumer. Her current projects address urban agriculture and institutional procurement of local foods. The SUA Project will help support Dr. Campbell's work in overcoming barriers to SUAs.

2. Project Goals and Intended Outcomes

Project Goal - Promote sustainable food resilience in PBC by creating a comprehensive SUA plan, developed with meaningful community input that defines and builds the case for SUAs and recommends land use, education, business development, workforce development, and partnership strategies.

Goals & Outcomes

- *Develop the Business Case for SUA in PBC:* Within 18 months after grant execution, develop the business case for SUAs to demonstrate their current and potential environmental, economic, and resiliency value in PBC, including how SUAs increase food access for historically underrepresented communities. The business case will include 1) land use for current and potential urban agriculture capacity; 2) businesses recognized as SUAs in PBC; and 3) food insecure areas lacking SUA markets. This document will benefit current and future SUA farmers and will demonstrate the potential of the industry and support efforts to expand SUA operations in PBC.
- *Increase Awareness of SUA Community Needs:* Within 12 months after grant execution, form a Steering Committee comprised of at least 6 individuals, including local SUA farmers and food access specialists. The Steering Committee will meet quarterly and advise the Project Team on SUA community needs and food access issues. The Project Team will provide stipends for the Steering Committee. This Steering Committee will benefit local SUA farmers and food insecure populations, since the committee will

receive relevant input and feedback from community experts during the course of this project.

- *Increase SUA Community Participation:* By the end of the grant, engage at least 150 individuals from diverse backgrounds who experience food access issues and/or urban agriculture challenges. The Project Team will hold at least 6 community meetings to discuss SUA needs and challenges, the SUA plan, and next actions for implementation. Representatives will include PBC SUA farmers, community leaders, and other stakeholders. These community meetings will benefit local SUA farmers and food insecure populations, whereby people of diverse backgrounds will have the opportunity to include their lived experiences into the planning process of this SUA Project.
- *Create an Urban Agriculture Network:* Create an urban agriculture network that will serve as a platform for local urban and innovative farms to collaborate and share ideas. Within 12 months, have at least 10 local SUA farmers participate and give feedback to pilot how this network could serve SUA farmers. Use the network to assess SUA needs and challenges through the urban agriculture plan, to provide better opportunities for entrepreneurs to start and grow their own enterprises while contributing to local food resilience. Develop a continuity plan for continuing the network after the conclusion of the grant. This network will benefit all SUA farmers in PBC, as it will serve as a forum for them to collaborate, share resources, and find solutions to challenges together.
- *Address Regulatory Concerns and Challenges:* By the end of the grant, identify regulatory challenges and concerns including financial/capital and land-use obstacles, technical challenges, and ambiguity that if addressed, would result in more supportive practices and policies for urban farming and food security. The Steering Committee will work with the community and SUA network to create a local definition for SUAs. These recommendations will support local SUA farmers, as PBC OOR Staff will meet with other relevant PBC Departments to discuss these recommendations and consider bringing them before the Board of County Commissioners for adoption.
- *Address Profit and Capital Issues and Opportunities:* Identify up to 5 new innovative business partnerships including cooperatives and farm market exchanges for small-scale farmers to share resources and improve profitability. Use community engagement, Steering Committee, and SUA Network to assess viability and potential for expansion.
- *Create Educational and Workforce Development Trainings:* By the end of the grant, help build the SUA workforce by identifying at least 5 training topics for UF/IFAS and local partners to host that support workforce development. Within 18 months after grant execution, identify existing educational and workforce development opportunities for SUAs in PBC. Within 6 months after grant execution, identify current and potential partners who could further support SUA education and workforce development.
- *Increased Collaboration:* By the end of the grant, publish the findings and recommendations on the OOR and PBC Extension websites for stakeholder use, and present findings at 4 regional and national agriculture and sustainability conferences
- *Climate Resiliency Action Plan Alignment:* Before the end of the grant, incorporate Project Plan recommendations into the forthcoming PBC Resilience Action Plan.

3. The Organizations and Partners Involved

PBC is a leader in ending hunger and providing agricultural resources to its 1.5 million residents, all while planning for current and future climate change impacts. The PBC Cooperative

Extension Department provides research-based education to citizens, organizations, and businesses engaged in agriculture, horticulture, human sciences, and youth development. Programs include Agricultural Economic Development and Family & Consumer Sciences focused on food and nutrition education. To identify solutions to end hunger, PBC collaborates with United Way of Palm Beach County. United Way and the County created the PBC Hunger Relief plan, with input from over 60 community agencies. During COVID-19, UWPBC created the Palm Beach County Food Finder to connect individuals seeking food resources to sites near them in a quick and accessible way.

PBC's OOR works to ensure a sustainable, thriving community while planning for climate change impacts that include food resiliency. OOR has recently completed a series of resident workshops focused on increasing community capacity for climate resilience planning. OOR prioritized communities where climate change impacts would be felt most acutely and where adaptive capacity is limited due to socioeconomic factors including income, age, ethnicity, and race. OOR is conducting a countywide survey now to test the climate threats and assets identified during the workshops and ensure that resident input is included.

PBC will work with partner organizations including the City of West Palm Beach and UF/IFAS to build upon their existing work supporting urban agriculture and removing barriers to healthy food access. PBC will also work with the United Way of PBC (UWPBC) as they are a PBC partner to help end hunger in PBC. UWPBC and PBC have developed a Hunger Relief Plan, and UWPBC is committed to supporting PBC's work on the SUA Project. UWPBC will help provide research and outreach contacts.

Key Personnel

Ron Rice, UF/IFAS PBC Extension Department Director

In 2015, Ron Rice was hired as the Director of PBC Extension, which includes 13 extension agents and 40 staff. Ron provides leadership to the Mounts Botanical Garden. Degrees include BS/MS (Stanford University) and PhD (University of Florida). Ron's experience includes delivering educational programs that addressed soil fertility and pest management strategies for sugarcane/rice, calibration workshops for pesticide sprayers (planes and ground rigs), compiling annual sugarcane variety census updates for publication, and designing/analyzing annual rice variety trials. Ron is a certified instructor for the state-mandated Green Industries BMP training program. Professional society leadership includes Past-President of the American Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) and the Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents (FACAA), and Vice President (Krome division) of the Florida State Horticultural Society (FSHS). Ron has authored 2 book chapters, 21 peer-reviewed journal articles, and numerous extension articles. Ron has presented internationally (Thailand, China, Australia, Costa Rica), and received 10 State and 5 National awards, including the USDA/ARS Sustained Effort Technology Transfer Team Award, the UF/IFAS Seymour Goldweber Extension Professional Enhancement Award, and the NACAA/FACAA Distinguished Service Award.

TBD, PBC Extension Department Agriculture Economic Development Coordinator

PBC Extension is hiring a new Agriculture Economic Development Coordinator to develop the program and support urban agriculture and small-scale farming. This Project Lead will collaborate extensively with the Project Team. Job duties will include: 1) delivering expertise on business opportunities, business planning, and marketing strategies for new/aspiring urban farmers and entrepreneurs; 2) advising on agriculture rules and policies including land-use classifications/regulations, agritourism, cottage industry and food safety requirements, business registrations, permitting, recommended licenses/certifications, environmental stewardship, taxes, and labor; and 3) developing networks and collaborating to conduct educational events and outreach programs that target the agricultural community's business needs.

Megan Houston, PBC OOR Director

Megan oversees PBC's climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and sustainable development strategies. She has a broad background in environmental law and community development. Megan leads the County's climate change equity work to ensure that equity is integrated into resiliency planning and outcomes. Megan led updates to the SFLRCCC Equity Chapter of RCAP 3.0. Prior, Megan served as the Institute for Market Transformation's Multifamily Program Manager, where she developed programs and strategies to remove market barriers to energy efficiency by working with low-income apartment owners and residents. Megan worked as a legal fellow for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, supporting community engagement with the Superfund projects. Megan holds a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School, a Master of Science degree in Urban Environmental Systems Management from Pratt Institute, and a Bachelor of Design degree from the University of Florida. Megan enjoys reading about and experimenting with urban agriculture, permaculture, and regenerative farming concepts and practices gardening with her children. In 2022, Megan attended the Florida Permaculture Convergence and the UF Master Gardeners Virtual Conference.

Natalie Frendberg, PBC OOR, Resilience & Sustainability Analyst

Natalie has a background in grant management, project management, climate science education, community outreach, and partnership building. She works to build community resilience to climate impacts by managing climate resiliency grants, managing adaptation, resilience, and sustainability projects, providing outreach on climate change initiatives, and participating in climate conferences and events. She holds a M.Ed. in Environmental Education from Florida Atlantic University, with her capstone project focused on climate science education. She also attended Lehigh University, where she earned a B.S. in Earth and Environmental Science and a B.A. in Anthropology. Natalie has organized community workshops and listening sessions. She has led environmental health and climate impact projects that supported youth and adult underserved populations. She led the SFLRCCC RCAP 3.0 Agriculture Chapter updates. In her free time, she grows fruits, vegetables, and herbs in her backyard garden, raises 8 backyard chickens for eggs, and enjoys learning about permaculture and urban farming practices.

Partner Organizations – City of West Palm Beach

The City of West Palm Beach (WPB) allows and supports community gardens and urban market gardens as addressed in Ordinance No. 4397-11 and No. 4467-13. WPB and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) have a partnership through its Cooperative Extension

Program. They opened a community garden at Coleman Park in January 2023, with two more in the planning phases, throughout the historic Northwest neighborhoods. FAMU will assist in disseminating information regarding family consumer science nutrition, financial literacy, senior living & aging, and emergency preparedness & safety for WPB residents. WPB has strong relationships with UF/IFAS and Mounts Botanical Garden. WPB has the Best Farmers Market in America as designated by USA Today 10 Best Readers' Choice Poll in 2021 and 2022. The Green Market has been operating for 28 seasons and runs from early October to late April, providing access to fresh produce and other farm products.

Additionally, WPB's Office of Sustainability (OOS) has a free rain barrel presentation and giveaway program that educates residents on using rain barrels to conserve water, save on utility costs, and reduce storm water runoff. They have given away 979 rain barrels. WPB's OOS targets efforts community-wide and works with nonprofit organizations, neighborhood groups, and other community stakeholders. WPB is a part of the SFLRCCC, which addresses food security, availability, and equity in RCAP 3.0. Additionally, WPB is a member of several sustainability organizations that focus on food security. OOS uses social media, newsletters, and WPB publications to inform residents of upcoming programs and opportunities. For the SUA Project, the WPB OOS will provide subject matter expertise, with staff possessing a degree in Horticulture. WPB has an internal Tree Team that convenes regularly to discuss tree plantings, maintenance, and other relevant issues, and this expertise can help inform the project goals. WPB will participate in advisory committees and help support outreach efforts.

Partner Organizations – UF / IFAS

UF is the largest land-grant university in Florida and is home to IFAS and the Florida Cooperative Extension Service (UF/IFAS). Catherine Campbell, PhD, MPH, is an Assistant Professor and State Extension Specialist in Community Food Systems at UF/IFAS. She is the statewide leader of an Extension program focused on community resource development via community food systems and urban agriculture with the goal of fostering community resilience and increasing community food security. She is a social science researcher with expertise in program evaluation and qualitative and mixed-methods research designs. She has been Principal Investigator on two grants focused on urban agriculture, including one multidisciplinary statewide needs assessment *The Future of Urban Agriculture in Florida*. She has published 6 peer-reviewed publications on urban agriculture and community food systems metrics in the last three years. Dr. Campbell will leverage her Extension program and previous research to identify specific barriers, opportunities, and metrics for the SUA Project.¹³

¹³ Campbell, C. G., DeLong, A. N., & Diaz, J. M. (2023). Commercial urban agriculture in Florida: A qualitative needs assessment. *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*, 38, e4. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1742170522000370>; Campbell, C. G., Ruiz-Menjivar, J., & DeLong, A. (2022). Commercial Urban Agriculture in Florida: Needs, Opportunities, and Barriers. *HortTechnology*, 32(4), 331–341. <https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH05038-22>; Campbell, C., Papanek, A., DeLong, A., Diaz, J., Gusto, C., & Tropp, D. (2022). Community food systems resilience: Values, benefits, and indicators. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 11(4), Article 4. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafsed.2022.114.006>;

Dr. Campbell will help identify urban agriculture needs, barriers, and priorities and provide subject matter expertise on findings and recommendations. Dr. Campbell will be responsible for research protocol development and management, including supervising and directing the work of the postdoctoral fellow (post-doc), providing oversight and technical support for the research implementation, developing surveys, preparing and submitting protocols for Institutional Review Board, organizing relevant trainings, and providing support for project Tasks and objectives.

A post-doc will be hired to serve as the lead because this short-term project requires specific expertise to yield high-quality, actionable information in the short time-frame required for the planning grant. The post-doc will be responsible for conducting interviews and focus groups, supporting the development of surveys for project activities 2 and 6. The post-doc will also support the development of informational resources for activity 4 and 8, and will draft the project report for activity 7. The post-doc will also work with the Steering Committee in activity 3. The post-doc will devote 18 calendar months to this project. The post-doc will be trained in survey development, qualitative data collection (conducting interviews and focus groups), and NVivo qualitative data analysis software.

4. Work Plan and Activities to Achieve the Goals (See the Activity Work Plan and Project Timeline that follow for specific Tasks and partner responsibilities).

1. **Hire Post-Doc through the UF/IFAS Extension Program**

A post-doc will be hired to lead this project because this short-term project requires specific expertise to yield high-quality, actionable information in the time-frame required for the SUA Project. Dr. Campbell will mentor the post-doc, as she is a UF/IFAS Extension professor who specializes in research of urban food systems, urban agriculture, food security, community food systems resilience, and public health.

2. **Assess the Business Case for SUA in PBC**

By assessing and reporting on the business case for SUA farmers in PBC, the project team and community stakeholders will use local statistics as a reference to support the case for expanding SUA practices in PBC. To assess the business case and identify community needs, the team will conduct semi-structured interviews and use those findings to create a countywide survey to distribute to PBC SUA farmers. Upon receiving the survey findings, the team will host focus groups with SUA farmers and other stakeholders to identify key needs, opportunities, and next steps for supporting PBC SUA. This activity will identify new innovative partnerships.

3. **Create SUA Steering Committee**

To gain knowledge of SUA community needs, the Steering Committee will be a team of local experts who will advise the post-doc on SUA in PBC, help connect the project team with other interested stakeholders, and provide insight on opportunities and challenges for local SUA farmers.

4. **Hold Community Meetings**

To increase SUA community participation and engage at least 150 individuals, community meetings will be an excellent opportunity for stakeholder input on all phases and topics involved in this project. These community meetings will be a shorter

Campbell, C., Papanek, A., & Diaz, J. (2023). Urban Agriculture Extension in Florida: Barriers, Needs, and Opportunities. *Journal of Human Sciences and Extension*, In Press.

commitment than serving on the Steering Committee, and they will be bring together a wider, more diverse group of community stakeholders for their valuable input.

5. Create Local SUA Resource Network

A local SUA network can help farmers collaborate and share resources. Studies have shown that a strong local network can help facilitate the growth of SUA activities.

6. Analyze SUA Policies and Regulations

Clarity in and streamlining of local policies and regulations can help local SUA farmers better navigate how they can expand their SUA operations legally. The Team will review policies and regulations that have successfully supported other SUA movements in both Florida and other states. The team will then review PBC regulations to identify opportunities to support SUA, using information learned from Tasks 2-5.

7. Publish PBC SUA Assessment Report

The team will publish a SUA assessment report that will outline local SUA opportunities and challenges. This report will be a resource for all stakeholders. The team will create a summary report of Task 2 findings, supplemented by fact sheets written for target audiences to share findings to lay audiences. PBC will publish the report on its website and UF/IFAS will distribute the report.

8. Share PBC SUA Report and Other Resources to Support Local SUA Farmers

The Team will share SUA Project results throughout PBC to raise awareness of opportunities and challenges, and work with stakeholders on how to implement the report's recommendations. The team will host two webinars to disseminate findings.
Webinar 1: UF/IFAS will host an informational webinar for local farmers to share project results and receive feedback on how farmers would like to implement these findings.
Webinar 2: The Team and UF/IFAS will host a webinar to inform PBC staff, community groups, residents, and decision makers about the opportunities and challenges to PBC SUAs. Using the findings from the above Tasks as well as the feedback received in the webinars, UF/IFAS and the Team will create resources to support SUA.

9. Include SUA Report Recommendations with the PBC Resilience Action Plan

While SUA operations can be negatively impacted by climate change, they can also help mitigate the effects of climate change. The PBC OOR is developing a climate change resilience action plan, and this plan will align the recommendations within the SUA project report into the forthcoming Resilience Action Plan.

Project Milestones* (Highlighted on the Project Timeline in **Green)**

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Post-Doc Hired | 5. PBC SUA Report Published |
| 2. Steering Committee Kick-Off | 6. Finalize Plan for Next Steps |
| 3. Community Meetings Kick-Off | 7. Finalize Climate Action Plan Alignment |
| 4. Local SUA Network Launched | 8. Kick-Off SUA Trainings |

Financial Accountability Policy

PBC complies with all federal, state, and local regulations on procurement, fiscal responsibility, financial accountability, and grant reconciliation. Staff will use a separate account to track all grant expenditures and track all receipts and invoices for purchases and services annually as part of the grant reconciliation process, to ensure that all expenses for the grant account have back-up documentation.

USDA UAIP Grant Proposal Activity Work Plan						
Project Title: Increasing Access to Food in Palm Beach County through Sustainable Urban Agriculture						
Funding Source: USDA UAIP Project Budget: \$250,000.00 Project Timeframe: Sept 2023- Aug 2026						
Tasks to be Completed by Dr. Campbell			Tasks to be Completed by Post-Doc		Tasks to be Completed by PBC	
Start Date	End Date	Activity	Description		Deliverables	Task #
Task No. 1- Hire Post-Doc						
Oct-23	Aug-24	Hire Post-Doc	University of Florida IFAS Extention Program will hire a post-doc to lead this project for 18 months.		CV of Post-docHired	1
Task No. 1- Community Engagem ent						
Sep-24	Dec-25	Create Sustainable Urban Agriculture Steering Committee	The Steering Committee will serve as a team of local experts to advise the post-doc on the state of SUA in PBC, help connect the project team with other interested stakeholders, and provide insight on opportunities and challenges for local SUA farmers.		Agendas & Minutes from Quarterly Meeting	2.1
Jan-25	Dec-25	Hold Community Meetings	Community meetings will serve as an excellent opportunity for stakeholder input on all phases and topics involved in this project. These will be a shorter commitment than serving on the steering committee, and be able to bring together a wider, more diverse group of community stakeholders.		Meeting Outreach Materials, Copies of Presentations, Meeting Attendees Lists, Summary of Meeting Discussions	2.2
Oct-24	Dec-25	Create Local Sustainable Urban Agriculture Resource Network	A local SUA network can help farmers connect to better collaborate and share resources. Studies have shown that a strong local network can help facilitate the growth of SUA activities.		Outline of Newtwok Structure, List of Iniatial Members	2.3
Jan-26	Aug-26	Educational and Workforce Trainings	Identify 5 training topics needed by SUA farmers in PBC and work with local partners to develop and host trainings.		Workshop Lesson Plans, Presentations/ Workshop Materials, Attendee Lists	2.4

Task No. 2- Identify Key Needs, Opportunities, and Barriers to SUA in PBC					
Dec-24	Mar-25	Assess the Business Case for SUA in PBC	By assessing and reporting on the business case for SUA farmers in PBC, the project team and community stakeholders will have local statistics to reference to support the case for expanding SUA practices in PBC.	Summary of Business Case for SUA in PBC	3.1
Apr-25	Jul-25	Analyze Sustainable Urban Agriculture Policies and Regulations	Clarification and streamlining of local policies and regulations can help local SUA farmers better navigate how they can expand their SUA activities legally.	Summary of Local SUA-Related Policies and Regulations	3.2
Task No. 3- Dissemination of Findings & Translation to Practice					
Aug-25	Nov-25	Publish PBC Sustainable Urban Agriculture Assessment Report	Publishing a report on the assessment of SUA in PBC will serve as a resource for all stakeholders but outlining areas of opportunity and challenges for local SUA farmers.	PBC SUA Final Report	4.1
Dec-25	Jan-26	Share PCB SUA Report and Other Resources to Support Local SUA Farmers	In partnership with UF/IFAS Extension, the project team will share the results of this plan within our local community to raise awareness of opportunities and challenges.	Summary of Report Distribution	4.2
Dec-25	Jan-26	Establish Next Steps to Implementation	Establish next steps to implementation and start discussions with stakeholders on how to implement the recommendations of the report.	Summary of Next Steps Planned	4.3
Task No. 4- Align SUA Report Recommendations with Forthcoming Climate Action Plan					
Jan-26	Feb-26	Align SUA Report Recommendations with Forthcoming Climate Action Plan	SUA is both impacted by and can help mitigate the effects of climate change. The Office of Resilience is currently in the process of developing a climate change resilience action plan, and intends to align the recommendations of this project report into the forthcoming Climate Action Plan.	Aligned Report	5.1

PROJECT TIMELINE		2023			2024												2024												2026										
Task #	Activity	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept		
1	Hiring Postdoctorate Fellow												1																										
2.1	SUA Steering Committee																2																						
2.2	Community Meetings																		3																				
2.3	Create Local SUA Network																				4																		
2.4	Educational & Workforce Trainings																														8								
3.1	Business Case for SUA in PBC																																						
3.1	SUA Policies & Regulations																																						
4.1	Publish PBC SUA Report																																						
4.2	Share SUA Report & Resources																																						
4.3	Next Steps to Implementation																																						
5	Climate Action Plan Alignment																																						

PROJECT MILESTONES SHOWN IN GREEN

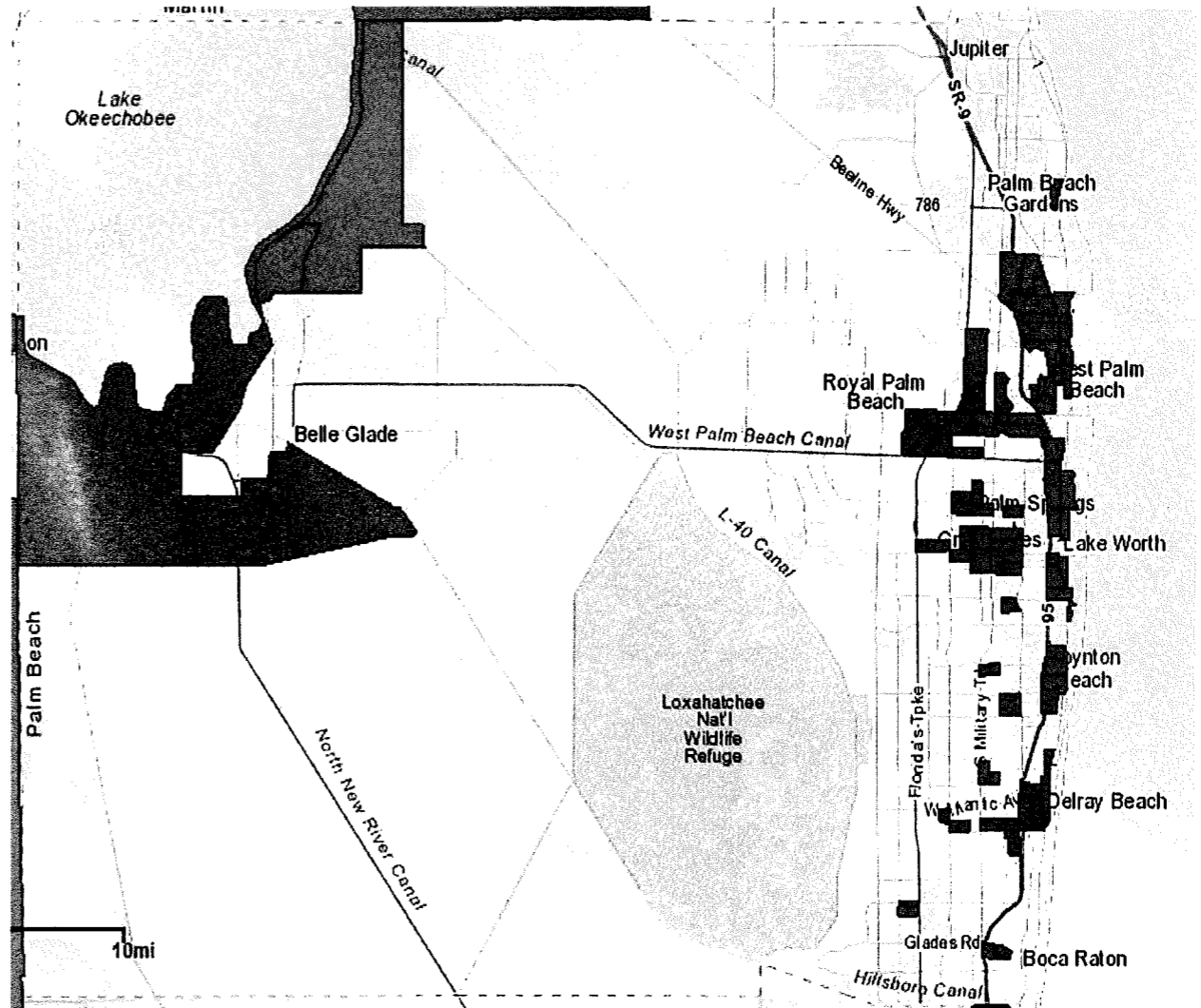


Figure 1: Map courtesy of USDA Atlas highlighting low-income census tracts where a significant number or share of residents is more than 1/4 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket, which are considered low food access areas.

Project Abstract Summary

This Project Abstract Summary form must be submitted or the application will be considered incomplete. Ensure the Project Abstract field succinctly describes the project in plain language that the public can understand and use without the full proposal. Use 4,000 characters or less. Do not include personally identifiable, sensitive or proprietary information. Refer to Agency instructions for any additional Project Abstract field requirements. If the application is funded, your project abstract information (as submitted) will be made available to public websites and/or databases including USA Spending.gov.

Funding Opportunity Number

USDA-NRCS-NHQ-UAIP-23-NOFO0001230

CFDA(s)

10.935

Applicant Name

County of Palm Beach

Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project

Increasing Access to Food in Palm Beach County through Sustainable Urban Agriculture (Planning Project)
Statement of Need

Project Abstract

Statement of Need:

Palm Beach County (PBC) struggles with food insecurity, with 10.8% (Feeding South Florida) of residents lacking consistent access to nutritious food, including 1 out of 5 children (PBC Food Bank). Meanwhile, PBC is vulnerable to climate change hazards that can impact food production. Sustainable urban agriculture (SUA) can help deliver healthy, fresh food to County residents, while helping to mitigate climate change impacts, increase food resiliency, increase environmental sustainability, and promote economic development.

However, the SUA market is niche and small farmers often struggle to become and/or remain profitable due to challenges including understanding land use laws, identifying markets, and general business development issues. At the same time, SUAs need a consistent definition so that regulators, financial institutions, and the market understands the economic and environmental benefits from SUAs.

The Project Team will prioritize Zip Codes that the USDA Food Access Research Atlas and the PBC's Hunger Relief Plan demonstrate are disproportionately burdened by food access issues: These Zip Codes include 33404, 33415, 33417, 33430, 33435, 33461, and 33476. The Project Team will also consider housing affordability and climate change vulnerabilities, as these risks can exacerbate food access challenges. In addition the Project Team will work with United Way's Hunger Relief program coordinator, food pantries, and local partners to incorporate resident needs into SUA recommendations.

PBC currently supports farmers by offering safety trainings, help-desk support, and workforce development programs. Additionally, the County supports food insecure residents by offering trainings on nutritional food cooking classes, coordinating on food pantry locations, and providing free meals for children. PBC is committed to planning for current and long-term climate change impacts through climate resilient adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

Summary Project Description:

Sustainable urban agriculture can help PBC reduce food insecurity while generating long-term economic, environmental, and social benefits. However, SUA businesses face numerous challenges to forming and remaining profitable. PBC seeks a Planning Grant to promote SUAs and expand healthy food access by creating a Project Plan, with farmer and resident input and engagement. The Plan will recommend land use, education, business development, workforce development, and partnership strategies. The SUA Project Plan will build upon PBC's work to increase farming opportunities, healthy food access, climate resiliency, and sustainability.

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Number: 4040-0006
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. Non-Federal	10,935	\$	\$	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 250,000.00
2. Non-Federal						
3.						
4.						
5. Totals		\$	\$	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 250,000.00

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1) Federal	(2) Federal	(3)	(4)	
a. Personnel	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 0.00	\$	\$	\$ 3,750.00
b. Fringe Benefits	0.00	0.00			0.00
c. Travel	0.00	0.00			0.00
d. Equipment	0.00	0.00			0.00
e. Supplies	3,600.00	0.00			3,600.00
f. Contractual	162,400.00	0.00			162,400.00
g. Construction	0.00	0.00			0.00
h. Other	13,522.00	0.00			13,522.00
l. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	183,272.00	0.00			\$ 183,272.00
j. Indirect Charges	66,728.00				\$ 66,728.00
k. TOTALS (sum of 6l and 6j)	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$	\$	\$ 250,000.00
7. Program Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$	\$	\$ 0.00

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SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES					
(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e)TOTALS	
8. <small>Non-Federal</small>				\$	
9. <small>Non-Federal</small>					
10.					
11.					
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)	\$	\$	\$	\$	
SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS					
	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
14. Non-Federal	\$				
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT					
(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (YEARS)				
	(b)First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth	
16. <small>Non-Federal</small>	\$	\$	\$	\$	
17. <small>Non-Federal</small>					
18.					
19.					
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)	\$	\$	\$	\$	
SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION					
21. Direct Charges:		22. Indirect Charges:			
23. Remarks:					

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Budget Narrative File(s)

* **Mandatory Budget Narrative Filename:**

To add more Budget Narrative attachments, please use the attachment buttons below.

Budget Narrative-Increasing Access to Food in Palm Beach County through Sustainable Urban Agriculture

Item #	Item Name	Item Description	Price	Category
1	Post-Doc Personnel Costs	Palm Beach County will contract with the University of Florida for the personnel costs of this grant. One post-doc will be hired at 40 hours/week for 1.5 years at an annual rate of \$48,000.00 per year with a 12.4% fringe rate. The post-doc will be responsible for conducting a systematic review of literature for the needs assessment, conducting interviews and focus groups, supporting the development of surveys, and supporting the development of reports and informational resources to disseminate findings and train SUA farmers. The post-doc will devote 18 calendar months to this project throughout the project and will be trained in survey development, qualitative data collection (conducting interviews and focus groups), SPSS quantitative data analysis software, and NVivo qualitative data analysis software. Salary support is requested, totaling \$72,720, and fringe totaling \$9,017 over 1.5 years, for a total of \$81,737. Salary is projected to increase at a rate of 3% per year. This cost will be included in the contract with UF.	\$ 41,863.00	Contractual
2	Post-Doc Mentorship	Dr. Catherine Campbell salary support is requested totaling \$31,957 is allocated for 1 calendar month of her time for years 1-3 (for a total of 3 calendar months), at a 31% fringe rate total of \$9,907. Dr. Campbell will be responsible for assessment protocol development and management, including supervising and directing the work of the post-doc, providing oversight and technical support for the assessment implementation, developing surveys, organizing and trainings, and providing support as needed for tasks and objectives in the project. She will provide the post-doc with a computer, office space, and necessary software, including SPSS quantitative data analysis software, NVivo qualitative data analysis software, access to Municode Professional Edition for the policy analysis. In year three of the project, Dr. Campbell will develop tools and resources to disseminate findings to SUA farmers and develop tools for training SUA farmers. This cost will be included in the contract with UF.	\$ 81,737.00	Contractual
3	Travel for Post Doc Fellow	Travel and hotel costs from Apopka, FL to Palm Beach County for key workshops and meetings, 10 x \$320.00. This item will be included in the contract with UF.	\$ 3,200.00	Contractual
4	Indirect Cost Rate	Calculation: \$126,800.00 x 52.5%= \$66,728.00. See attachment for proof of the University of Florida's Federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.	\$ 66,728.00	Indirect Charges

Budget Narrative-Increasing Access to Food in Palm Beach County through Sustainable Urban Agriculture

7	SUA Subject Matter Experts	PBC plans to compensate 10 for local subject matter experts in sustainable, urban agriculture for their time serving on the steering committee. \$3,000 stipend each for their time and expertise over the 3 years of this project.	\$ 30,000.00	Contractual
6	Workshop Food	PBC plans to serve a meal at each workshop to ensure equitable access by workshop participants. \$300 to serve food to 25 people at each of the 6 community workshops.	\$ 5,800.00	Other
7	Workshop Stipends	PBC plans to compensate workshop participants for their time and show that we value their feedback and lived experiences. \$50 stipend x 150 Community Workshop Participants	\$ 5,000.00	Other
8	Workshop Childcare	PBC plans to offer childcare during community workshops to ensure equitable access by workshop participants. \$100 Child Watch costs x 6 workshops.	\$ 900.00	Contractual
8	Workshop Supplies	\$150 workshop supplies x 6 community workshops, for miscellaneous supplies such as paper, markers, sticky notes, etc.	\$ 900.00	Supplies
10	Report Translation	Cost of a contractor for translation services of the report into Spanish and Haitian Creole, the 2nd and 3rd most used languages in the County. At \$0.10/ word, this will be approx. \$2500.00 for each language for a ~50 page report.	\$ 5,000.00	Contractual
11	Graphic Designer for Report/ SUA Resources	Cost of a graphic designer to make the report visually appealing and user friendly, including tables, charts and infographics. ~50 page report x ~1hour per page x \$75 per hour for a PBC staff graphic designer.	\$ 3,750.00	Personnel
12	Report Printing	Cost for printing 200 copies of ~50 page report in full color in a booklet form.	\$ 2,700.00	Supplies
13	Marketing Costs	Marketing costs to share information about workshops, trainings, SUA Report, and other SUA Resources.	\$ 4,222.00	Other
TOTAL			\$250,000.00	

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

* APPLICANT'S ORGANIZATION	
<input type="text" value="County of Palm Beach"/>	
* PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
Prefix: <input type="text"/>	* First Name: <input type="text" value="Megan"/> Middle Name: <input type="text" value="S."/>
* Last Name: <input type="text" value="Houston"/>	Suffix: <input type="text"/>
* Title: <input type="text" value="Director, Office of Resilience"/>	
* SIGNATURE: <input type="text" value="Completed on submission to Grants.gov"/>	* DATE: <input type="text" value="Completed on submission to Grants.gov"/>

Other Attachment File(s)

* **Mandatory Other Attachment Filename:**

[Add Mandatory Other Attachment](#)

[Delete Mandatory Other Attachment](#)

[View Mandatory Other Attachment](#)

To add more "Other Attachment" attachments, please use the attachment buttons below.

[Add Optional Other Attachment](#)

[Delete Optional Other Attachment](#)

[View Optional Other Attachment](#)

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES RATE AGREEMENT

EIN: 59-6002052

DATE:05/25/2022

ORGANIZATION:

FILING REF.: The preceding agreement was dated 06/17/2021

University of Florida
 Finance & Accounting Division
 PO Box 113200
 Gainesville, FL 32611-3200

The rates approved in this agreement are for use on grants, contracts and other agreements with the Federal Government, subject to the conditions in Section III.

SECTION I: INDIRECT COST RATES

RATE TYPES: FIXED FINAL PROV. (PROVISIONAL) PRED. (PREDETERMINED)

EFFECTIVE PERIOD

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>RATE (%)</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>APPLICABLE TO</u>
PRED.	07/01/2019	06/30/2023	52.50	On-Campus	Organized Research
PRED.	07/01/2019	06/30/2023	34.10	On-Campus	AREC (A)
PRED.	07/01/2019	06/30/2023	32.60	On-Campus	Other Sponsored Activities
PRED.	07/01/2019	06/30/2023	47.50	On-Campus	Instruction
PRED.	07/01/2019	06/30/2023	26.00	Off-Campus	All Programs
PROV.	07/01/2023	Until Amended			Use same rates and conditions as those cited for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

*BASE

ORGANIZATION: University of Florida

AGREEMENT DATE: 5/25/2022

Modified total direct costs, consisting of all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel and up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards under the award). Modified total direct costs shall exclude equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000. Other items may only be excluded when necessary to avoid a serious inequity in the distribution of indirect costs, and with the approval of the cognizant agency for indirect costs.

ORGANIZATION: University of Florida

AGREEMENT DATE: 5/25/2022

SECTION I: FRINGE BENEFIT RATES**

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>RATE (%)</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>APPLICABLE TO</u>
FIXED	7/1/2022	6/30/2023	19.60	All	Clinical Faculty
FIXED	7/1/2022	6/30/2023	31.00	All	Faculty
FIXED	7/1/2022	6/30/2023	41.60	All	TEAMS/USPS Exempt
FIXED	7/1/2022	6/30/2023	54.80	All	TEAMS/USPS Hourly
FIXED	7/1/2022	6/30/2023	21.80	All	House Staff/Clinical Post Docs
FIXED	7/1/2022	6/30/2023	12.40	All	Grad Asst & Post Docs
FIXED	7/1/2022	6/30/2023	7.20	All	Other OPS/TEMP Faculty
FIXED	7/1/2022	6/30/2023	1.30	All	Student/OPS FWSP
PROV.	7/1/2023	Until amended			Use same rates and conditions as those cited for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

** DESCRIPTION OF FRINGE BENEFITS RATE BASE:

Salaries and wages.

ORGANIZATION: University of Florida

AGREEMENT DATE: 5/25/2022

SECTION II: SPECIAL REMARKS

TREATMENT OF FRINGE BENEFITS:

The fringe benefits are charged using the rate(s) listed in the Fringe Benefits Section of this Agreement. The fringe benefits included in the rate(s) are listed below.

TREATMENT OF PAID ABSENCES

Vacation, holiday, sick leave pay and other paid absences are included in salaries and wages and are claimed on grants, contracts and other agreements as part of the normal cost for salaries and wages. Separate claims are not made for the cost of these paid absences.

OFF-CAMPUS DEFINITION: For all activities performed in facilities not owned by the institution and to which rent is directly allocated to the project(s) the off-campus rate will apply. However, grants or contracts will not be subject to more than one F&A cost rate. Therefore, the rate will be determined by how the majority of activity is performed under the project (i.e. off-campus, in an REC, or for Other Sponsored Activities), and that rate will apply to the entire project.

ORGANIZATION: University of Florida

AGREEMENT DATE: 5/25/2022

Fringe Benefits Include: FICA, State Unemployment, Workers' Compensation, Retirement, Life Insurance, Health Insurance, Leave Cash Outs, Sick Leave Pool Payments, Clinical Disability Insurance and Parental leave Program.

Equipment Definition:

Equipment means article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year(s) and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit.

The rates contained in this agreement reflect the combined cost of the University of Florida Research Foundation, Inc. and will apply to grants and contracts awarded to the foundation.

APPLICATION OF INDIRECT COST RATES TO DOD CONTRACTS/SUBCONTRACTS:

In accordance with DFARS 2231.303, no limitation (unless waived by the institution) may be placed on the reimbursement of otherwise allowable indirect cost rates incurred by an institution of higher education under a DOD contract awarded after November 30, 1993, unless the same limitation is applied uniformly to all other organizations performing similar work. It has been determined by the Department of Defense that such limitation is not being uniformly applied. Accordingly, the following rates do not reflect the application of the 26% limitation on administrative indirect costs imposed by OMB Circular A-21.

TYPE	Effective Period	Rate (%)	Locations	Applicable
To				
PRED	07/01/15-06/30/19	54.5%	On-Campus	Orgn. Research
PRED	07/01/15-06/30/19	28.0%	Off-Campus	Orgn. Research
PROV	07/01/15-Until Amended	Use same rates and conditions as those cited for fiscal year ended June 30, 2019.		

This rate agreement updates the Fringe Benefits section only.

Next Fringe Benefit proposal based on actual expense for fiscal year ending 06/30/2022 is due in our office by 12/31/2022. Next Facilities and Administration (F&A) proposal based on actual expense for the fiscal year ending 06/30/2022 is due in our office by 12/31/2022.

Effective 4/2/2022, all awards and contracts associated with The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) Florida Campus in Jupiter, FL were transitioned to the University of Florida, Jupiter campus. Until our office issues an updated rate agreement for the University of Florida which also covers the awards at this location, the awards included in TSRI's last proposal or awards that have been included in TSRI's next proposal will apply TSRI's current Florida F&A rate of 93.2%. TSRI Florida Campus will apply the University of Florida fringe benefits rate(s), as published.

ORGANIZATION: University of Florida

AGREEMENT DATE: 5/25/2022

SECTION III: GENERAL

A. LIMITATIONS:

The rates in this Agreement are subject to any statutory or administrative limitations and apply to a given grant, contract or other agreement only to the extent that funds are available. Acceptance of the rates is subject to the following conditions: (1) Only costs incurred by the organization were included in its facilities and administrative cost pools as finally accepted; such costs are legal obligations of the organization and are allowable under the governing cost principles; (2) The same costs that have been treated as facilities and administrative costs are not claimed as direct costs; (3) Similar types of costs have been accorded consistent accounting treatment; and (4) The information provided by the organization which was used to establish the rates is not later found to be materially incomplete or inaccurate by the Federal Government. In such situations the rate(s) would be subject to renegotiation at the discretion of the Federal Government.

B. ACCOUNTING CHANGES:

This Agreement is based on the accounting system purported by the organization to be in effect during the Agreement period. Changes to the method of accounting for costs which affect the amount of reimbursement resulting from the use of this Agreement require prior approval of the authorized representative of the cognizant agency. Such changes include, but are not limited to, changes in the charging of a particular type of cost from facilities and administrative to direct. Failure to obtain approval may result in cost disallowances.

C. FIXED RATES:

If a fixed rate is in this Agreement, it is based on an estimate of the costs for the period covered by the rate. When the actual costs for this period are determined, an adjustment will be made to a rate of a future year(s) to compensate for the difference between the costs used to establish the fixed rate and actual costs.

D. USE BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES:

The rates in this Agreement were approved in accordance with the authority in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200 (2 CFR 200), and should be applied to grants, contracts and other agreements covered by 2 CFR 200, subject to any limitations in A above. The organization may provide copies of the Agreement to other Federal Agencies to give them early notification of the Agreement.

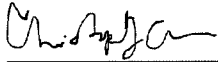
E. OTHER:

If any Federal contract, grant or other agreement is reimbursing facilities and administrative costs by a means other than the approved rate(s) in this Agreement, the organization should (1) credit such costs to the affected programs, and (2) apply the approved rate(s) to the appropriate base to identify the proper amount of facilities and administrative costs allocable to these programs.

BY THE INSTITUTION:

University of Florida

(INSTITUTION)



(SIGNATURE)

Christopher Cowen

(NAME)

Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

(TITLE)

9/1/2022 | 9:30 AM EDT

(DATE)

ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

(AGENCY)

Darryl W. Mayes -S

Digitally signed by Darryl W. Mayes -S
DN: cn=US, ou=U.S. Government, ou=HHS, ou=PSC,
ou=People, o=2342.19200309.100.1.1=2000131609,
cn=Darryl W. Mayes -S
Date: 2022.07.15 15:13:34 -0400

(SIGNATURE)

Darryl W. Mayes

(NAME)

Deputy Director, Cost Allocation Services

(TITLE)

5/25/2022

(DATE) 7034

HHS REPRESENTATIVE:

Lucy Siow

Telephone:

(301) 492-4855

Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2023
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production
(UAIP) Competitive Grants Program

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO)
No. USDA-NRCS-NHQ-UAIP-23-NOFO0001230



Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO)

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Federal Awarding Agency Name: U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service - Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP)

Notice of Funding Opportunity Title: Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants Program

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NRCS-UAIP-23-NOFO0001230

Assistance Listing: This program is listed in the assistance listings on [Sam.gov](https://www.sam.gov) under 10.935, Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.

SAM is a web-based, government-wide application that collects, validates, stores, and disseminates business information about the Federal Government's trading partners in support of the contract awards, grants, and electronic payment processes.

Notice of Funding Opportunity Summary

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), under the OUAIP, is soliciting applications from eligible entities to host the UAIP Competitive Grants pilot project.

The primary goal of the UAIP pilot project is to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production. The two types of UAIP grants being made available for application under this NFO are Planning Projects and Implementation Projects. Planning Projects are projects that will initiate, develop, or support the efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, members of tribal communities, and other stakeholders in areas where access to fresh foods are limited or unavailable. Implementation Projects are for accelerating existing and emerging models of urban and/or innovative agricultural practices that serve multiple farmers or gardeners. Innovation may include new and emerging, as well as traditional or indigenous, agricultural practices.

For new users of Grants.gov, see section D. for information about steps required before applying through Grants.gov.

Key Dates

Applicants must submit their applications through Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on (March 27, 2023). For technical issues with Grants.gov, contact Grants.gov Applicant Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov. Awarding agency staff cannot support applicants regarding Grants.gov accounts.

Limit questions to those regarding specific information contained in this NFO (such as dates, page numbers, clarification of discrepancies, etc.). Questions related to eligibility, or the merits of a specific proposal will not be addressed.

A webinar has been pre-recorded and the presentation and supporting information, the recording can be found at this link <https://youtu.be/ThLf2b6DMg> . The recorded webinar can also be found in the “Related Documents” tab of this opportunity <https://www.usda.gov/topics/urban/grants#resources> .

The agency anticipates making selections by June 12, 2023 and expects to execute awards by September 30, 2023. These dates are estimates and are subject to change. Note that completing all steps required to apply for a federal award can take some time; the table below represents a general overview of each part of this process. These elements may take more or less time depending on the applicant’s individual circumstances.

Required Action	Timing
Obtain a TIN/EIN from the IRS	Refer to IRS website for applicable timeframes
Register with SAM.gov and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier number	Refer to SAM.gov website
Register with Grants.gov, add a profile, and authorize an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)	Refer to Grants.gov
Submit UAIP application in Grants.gov	March 27, 2023
Applicants notified of selection or non-selection	By 6/12/2023
Awards executed	By 9/30/2023

Federal Funding Floor and Ceiling Amounts:

(1) **Planning Projects (PP):** The funding floor for PP is \$50,000 and the funding ceiling is \$250,000.

(2) **Implementation Projects (IP):** The funding floor for IP is \$75,000 and the funding ceiling is \$350,000.

The funding floor indicates the minimum agreement funding amount for the federal share per agreement awarded. The funding ceiling indicates the maximum agreement funding amount for the federal share per agreement awarded. These numbers refer to the total federal share, not any specific budget period.

Federal Financial Assistance Training

The funding available through this NFO is federal financial assistance. Federal fund management training is highly recommended for those seeking knowledge about federal financial assistance. The training is free and available to the public at <https://www.cfo.gov/grants-training/>. It consists of five modules covering each of the following topics: laws, regulations, and guidance; financial assistance mechanisms; uniform guidance administrative requirements; cost principles; and risk

management and single audit. FPAC agencies also apply federal financial assistance regulations to certain non-assistance awards (e.g., non-assistance cooperative agreements).

Table of Contents

- A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION..... 6
 - 1. Legislative Authority and Executive Priorities6
 - 2. Purpose6
 - 3. UAIP Projects or Activities7
- B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION 9
 - 1. Available Funding9
 - 2. Type of Award.....9
- C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION..... 9
 - 1. Eligible Applicants9
- D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION 11
 - 1. How to Submit an Application.....11
 - 2. Information for New Users of Grants.gov.....11
 - 3. Electronic Application Package14
 - 4. Content and Form of Application Submission.....14
 - 5. Submission Dates and Times and Correspondence.....19
 - 6. Intergovernmental Review20
 - 7. Funding Restrictions.....20
 - 8. Indirect costs limitations21

E.	APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION	22
1.	Review and Selection Process	22
2.	Merit/Technical Criteria	22
3.	Administrative and Risk Criteria.....	24
4.	Awards Over the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (if applicable)	25
F.	FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION.....	25
1.	Federal Award Notices	25
2.	Administrative and National Policy Requirements	26
3.	Reporting	26
G.	FEDERAL AWARDED AGENCY CONTACT	27
H.	OTHER INFORMATION	27
	APPENDIX A: Application Package Checklist	30
	APPENDIX B: Budget Narrative Guidance	31
	APPENDIX C: Instructions for Completing SF-424.....	38
	APPENDIX D: Instructions for Completing SF-424A.....	40

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. Legislative Authority and Executive Order Priorities

The Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants program is authorized by Section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, as added by Section 12302 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, 7 U.S.C. 6923.

The Secretary of Agriculture delegated the authority for the administration of UAIP to the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). UAIP is administered by the NRCS.

Proposals submitted under this announcement will be reviewed for alignment with USDA priorities on Climate Adaptation Plan, Equity Action Plan, and environmental justice. Applicants are encouraged to review Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support to Underserved Communities, Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, and Executive Order 13990, Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis, to learn more about these critical priorities. Executive orders may be located using the following link - <https://www.federalregister.gov/presidential-documents/executive-orders>.

2. Purpose

UAIP grants support projects designed to improve access to local foods in areas where access to fresh, healthy food is limited or unavailable through urban and/or innovative agricultural

practices, including, but not limited to, community gardens, urban farms, rooftop farms, urban agroforest, food forests, orchards, outdoor vertical production, green walls, indoor farms, greenhouses, high-tech vertical technology farms, and hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic farm facilities.

3. UAIP Projects or Activities

UAIP grants fund Planning Projects and Implementation Projects. Proposals for both types of projects must be designed to support multiple farmers or gardeners, target historically underserved areas lacking access to fresh, healthy foods, and promote urban and/or innovative agricultural practices.

Planning Projects support one or more of the following:

- Assessments of historically underserved community needs within the local food system to identify how food is grown, distributed, or marketed and what existing needs related to food access, nutrition education, conservation, and economic development can be addressed by urban and/or innovative agriculture.
- Planning activities and community partnerships to improve how food is grown, distributed, or marketed in the target area using urban and/or innovative agriculture.
- Business planning, feasibility studies, and other strategies, such as community resource development, that support new and beginning farmers. USDA defines beginning farmers and ranchers as those who have operated a farm or ranch for 10 years or less either as a sole operator or with others who have operated a farm or ranch for 10 years or less.
- Policy development to make municipal policies and zoning laws in the target area more supportive of the needs of urban and/or innovative agriculture.
- Creating educational materials and programs that will increase knowledge about food and agriculture and encourage careers in agriculture and innovative production in the target community; example topics include nutrition, crop and biology science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Implementation Projects support one or more of the following:

- Increasing food production in small, urban, and indoor spaces which may include emerging or innovative technology such as hydroponics, vertical farming, environmental controls, etc.
- Promoting agricultural businesses through job training and providing resources to help historically underserved communities access land and equipment, mentoring, and other assistance to new and beginning farmers in the local community.
- Implementation of best practices to address food access, zoning, compost, land access, soil health, emerging technologies, infrastructure needs (such as access to water and utilities) at the State, local, municipal, or school level to meet the needs of target community and local agricultural producers.
- Educating the impacted community about food systems, nutrition, agricultural production, and environmental impacts by:
 - Operating community gardens or nonprofit farms that offer hands-on training in farming or gardening through virtual or web-based formats
 - Providing K-12 schools with educational resources or programs that increase student knowledge of and access to locally grown foods, emphasize the

importance of consuming nutritious and locally grown foods, and train students for careers in agriculture or innovative production.

Planning Projects	Implementation Projects
Project phase: Funds are used as an early-stage investment in new, startup projects	Project phase: Funds are used to accelerate or expand the work of an existing project
Funding range available: \$50,000 (floor) to \$250,000 (ceiling)	Funding range available: \$75,000 (floor) to \$350,000 (ceiling)
Activities may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys • Assessments • Technology development • Design and planning • Developing recommendations and strategies • Creating business plans • Feasibility studies • Municipal planning regarding policies and zoning • Producing educational material NO IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT ACTIVITES	Activities may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job training • Mentoring • Business development assistance • Increasing food production • Training students for careers in agriculture • Expanding operations of community gardens or nonprofit farms NO PLANNING PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Note Regarding Organizational Capacity

Special emphasis will be placed on your organization’s capacity to carry out meaningful community-focused work in urban agriculture. This capacity is measured by criteria factors (see Section E internal organization support) including:

- Experience in agriculture or innovative production for **3 years or more** or in serving historically underserved communities or where access to fresh foods is limited or unavailable.
- Demonstrated ability to implement a project, provide fiscal accountability, collect data, and prepare reports and other necessary documentation.
- Demonstrated willingness to share information with researchers, evaluators, practitioners, and other interested parties, including a plan for dissemination of results; and
- Collaboration with one or more partner organizations working in the project target area to carry out the innovative or urban agricultural work described in your proposal.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED OR CONSIDERED. “Research” is defined as a systematic study directed toward fuller scientific knowledge or understanding of

the subject studied. Research consists of systematic observations, measurement, and experimentation undertaken to discover or establish facts or principles, where variables are unknown and subject to manipulation.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

1. Available Funding

a. Estimated Funding

The federal funding agency expects to award approximately \$7,500,000 through this opportunity. However, the agency retains the discretion to award a larger or lesser amount.

b. Start Dates and Performance Periods

Applicants should plan their projects based on an estimated project start date of September 30, 2023.

All projects are expected to be completed within 12 to 36 months (1 to 3 years). Applicants are expected to achieve project deliverables and close out activities within the grant period specified.

c. Number of Awards

There is no commitment by NRCS to make a specific number of awards.

2. Type of Award

a. Type of Federal Award

The agency plans to award grant agreements pursuant to this opportunity.

b. Procurement Contracts

The agency does not expect to award procurement contracts associated with this NFO.

c. Eligibility of Renewal or Supplemental Project Applications

Applications for renewal or supplementation of existing UAIP projects are eligible to compete with applications for new federal awards. An application for renewal means an application submitted to continue an existing agreement that meets the objectives and requirements of this NFO. An application for supplementation of an existing project means an application to add components to an existing agreement so that it would meet the objectives and requirements in this NFO. Applications for renewal or supplementation of existing projects should be accompanied by a summary of progress to date on the current project. This summary should be included as a supplementary attachment using the "Other Attachments" form in Grants.gov.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

Applicants and applications must meet eligibility criteria by the application deadline to be considered for award. Eligible applicant type is determined by the implementing program statute. Applicant entities identified in the SAM.gov exclusions database as ineligible,

prohibited/restricted, or excluded from receiving Federal contracts and certain Federal assistance and benefits will not be considered for Federal funding, as applicable to the funding being requested under this Federal program (2 CFR 200.206(d)).

Eligibility for this opportunity is limited to the following entity types:

- A nonprofit organization:
 - o Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS (other than institutions of higher education)
 - o Nonprofits that do not have a 501 (c)(3) status with the IRS (other than institutions of higher education)
- A unit of local government, including:
 - o City, township, county, or regional governments
 - o School districts
 - o Soil and Water Conservation districts (regional organization)
- A Tribal Government, including
 - o Native American Tribal Governments (federally recognized)
 - o Native American Tribal organizations (including organizations that are not federally recognized Tribal Governments)
 - *Note: State-designated Indian tribes should select “Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)” when completing the SF-424, block 9.*
- Any school serving grades Kindergarten through grade 12

Note: Applicants located within the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands), the Pacific Islands Area (Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) are eligible.

2. Other:

Any award made pursuant to this NFO will be made to a single entity. Applicants that apply as partnerships or other similar groupings must clearly describe the relationship between the applicant and the partner entities. In all but exceptional cases, it must be reflected in the award as an awardee-subawardee relationship.

Each applicant organization is limited to one application per project as determined by NRCS. This includes differing approaches for the same project. In the case of applications submitted as revisions or corrections to a previously submitted application under this NFO, the agency will only consider the last application submitted before the established deadline. In the case of duplicate or substantially similar proposals for the same project, the agency will consider the last submission of the “revised” and final copy for review purposes.

Awards made pursuant to this NFO are not Farm Bill incentive contracts; therefore, the awards in and of themselves are not limited by the payment limitation in 16 U.S.C. Chapter 58. However, any agricultural producers receiving a payment through participation in a project awarded under this NFO must meet the eligibility requirements of 7 CFR Part 12 and 7 CFR Part 1400 and have control of the land involved for the term of the proposed award period.

3. Cost Sharing or Matching

There is no cost sharing or matching requirement for this opportunity. There is no competitive advantage to applicants who voluntarily provide a match.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. How to Submit an Application

Applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov (see section D.2. of this opportunity). Submissions must be received by the time and due date referenced under “Key Dates” in this document. Late submissions will not be reviewed or considered. The agency will rely on the Grants.gov system-generated date and time receipt documentation in determining if the application was submitted prior to the established deadline.

2. Information for New Users of Grants.gov

a. Overview

While a Grants.gov account is not required to download an NFO and related documents, it is required to submit an application. If your organization has never submitted an application through Grants.gov, please be aware that there are several steps you must take to register your organization before you can submit an application. **Completing those steps can take a significant amount of time, plan accordingly.**

For information about the Grants.gov pre-award phase of the grant lifecycle, go to <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants/grants-101/pre-award-phase.html>.

b. Register to Apply through Grants.gov

Carefully review the registration steps and gather information requested before beginning the registration process to avoid last minute searches for required information. For assistance with the registration process, contact Grants.gov Applicant Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.

Organizations must complete all steps to register (see steps i. through v. below). Complete organization registration instructions are included on Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>.

Although creating a Grants.gov account online can take only minutes, SAM registration may take several weeks. Therefore, organizations should begin the process early to

ensure they have sufficient time to complete registration and meet required application submission deadlines.

c. Steps to Register

- i. Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): All entities applying for funding must have a UEI number from issued by SAM.gov. Applicants must enter the UEI in the data entry field labeled "UEI" on the SF-424 form.
- ii. Register with System for Award Management (SAM): All organizations must register with SAM to apply online through Grants.gov. SAM registration must be renewed annually. Part of the SAM registration process includes designating an Electronic Business point of contact (EBiz POC). **The EBiz POC plays an integral part in the organization's Grants.gov registration and application process.** The individual in that role must authorize all other roles in Grants.gov. For more detailed instructions for registering with SAM, go to <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html>
- iii. Create a Grants.gov Account: From the Grants.gov webpage (<https://www.grants.gov/>), click "Register" in the top right-hand corner and follow the on-screen instructions or see the detailed instructions at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration.html>
- iv. Add an Organization Applicant Profile to a Grants.gov Account: A profile in Grants.gov corresponds to a single applicant organization the user represents (i.e., an applicant) or an individual applicant. If you work for or consult with multiple organizations and have a profile for each, you may log in to one Grants.gov account to access all your grant applications. To add an organizational profile to your Grants.gov account, enter the UEI for the organization in the "UEI" field while adding a profile. For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, go to <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/add-profile.html>
- v. EBiz POC Authorized Profile Roles: After you register with Grants.gov and create an organization applicant profile, you must establish roles for individuals in the organization. The authorized organizational representative (AOR) role is critical; it gives an individual permission to complete and submit applications on behalf of the organization. (Please be aware that the EBiz POC and the person with the AOR role cannot be the same individual; they must be different people.) Without this role, the organization cannot submit any applications. The request for role assignment will be routed to the organization's EBiz POC for approval. Once approved, the AOR can submit an application online. For more detailed instructions about creating an EBiz POC authorized profile on Grants.gov, go to <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/authorize-roles.html>
For instructions about tracking your role request, go to <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/track-role-status.html>

d. Electronic Signature

When applications are submitted through Grants.gov, the name of the organization applicant with the AOR role that submitted the application is inserted into the signature line of the application, serving as the electronic signature. The EBiz POC **must** authorize people who are able to make legally binding commitments on behalf of the organization as a user with the AOR role. **This step (see step c.v. above) is often missed, and it is crucial for valid and timely submissions.**

e. Workspace.

Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different webforms within an application. For each NFO, you can create individual instances of a workspace. An applicant can start an application in Workspace and return to work on it later within Workspace.

f. Apply for an Opportunity

Below is an overview of applying on Grants.gov. For complete instructions on how to apply for opportunities, go to

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html>

- i. **Create a Workspace:** Creating a workspace allows you to complete an application online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
- ii. **Complete a Workspace:** Add participants to the workspace to work on the application together, complete all the required forms online or by downloading PDF versions, and check for errors before submission. The Workspace progress bar will display the status of your application process as you apply. As you apply using Workspace, you may click the blue question mark icon near the upper-right corner of each page to access context-sensitive help.
 - **Adobe Reader:** If you decide not to apply by filling out webforms, you can download individual PDF forms in Workspace. The individual PDF forms can be downloaded and saved to your local device storage, network drives, or external drives, then accessed through Adobe Reader.

NOTE: Visit the “Adobe Software Compatibility” page on Grants.gov to download the appropriate version of the software at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html>
 - **Mandatory Fields in Forms:** In the forms, you will see fields marked with an asterisk and a different background color. These fields are mandatory fields that must be completed to successfully submit your application.
 - **Complete SF-424 Fields First:** The forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant’s name, address, and UEI. Once it is completed, the information will transfer to the other forms.
- iii. **Submit a Workspace:** An application may be submitted through Workspace by clicking the “Sign and Submit” button on the “Manage Workspace” page under the “Forms” tab. Grants.gov recommends submitting your application package at

least 24-48 hours before the close date to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.

- iv. **Track a Workspace Submission:** After successfully submitting a Workspace application, a Grants.gov tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application. The number will be listed on the “Confirmation” page that is generated after submission. Using the tracking number, access the “Track My Application” page under the “Applicants” tab or the “Details” tab in the submitted Workspace.

For additional training resources, including video tutorials, go to <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-training.html>

3. Electronic Application Package

Applicants interested in submitting an application in response to this NFO must submit it through Grants.gov; the agency **will not** accept applications submitted by email or any other method. Applicants are urged to submit early to the Grants.gov system.

For technical issues with Grants.gov, contact Grants.gov Applicant Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov. Awarding agency staff cannot support applicants regarding Grants.gov accounts.

Address to Request Application Package

All information necessary to apply for this opportunity is included in the Grants.gov opportunity announcement.

4. Content and Form of Application Submission

The agency may choose not to consider applications that fail to comply with the required content, format, and page limits or that are incomplete. Page limits are noted in parentheses after each item. The text of the project narrative must be single-spaced and typed in a standard typeface (e.g., Times New Roman, Arial, Courier) with no smaller than 12-point font.

To be considered for funding under this opportunity, an application must contain the documents and information requested in a-g below.

a. Project Abstract (1 page maximum)

Provide a descriptive title of your project and clearly identify if the project is a planning or implementation project. Then, present a statement of need or assessment of the problem. Define the intended beneficiary of this project and include the zip codes of the area impacted by your project activities. Identify any historically underserved communities and describe your approach to determining the critical elements and needs of the local food economy or food system of the area or communities to be served. Describe how this project will initiate, build upon, or expand related work or programs. The summary should also include the relevance of the project to the purpose and priorities of UAIP as outlined in section A.2.

Include a summary project description in a minimum of 3-5 sentences. This information will be used as a brief project summary for reporting and tracking purposes.

b. Project Narrative (15 page maximum)

The project narrative must cover all activities proposed to be carried out with federal funds and should expand upon the information provided in the project abstract.

The project narrative must not exceed 15 pages, 10 pages of written text, and up to 5 additional pages for figures and tables. This page limitation applies to the project narrative only and does not include the project abstract described in section a. Each page must be numbered and have 1-inch margins.

All project narratives must contain at least headings 1 through 4 below, in order, and respond to each of the points included under each heading.

1. Project Overview: Community and the Needs to be Addressed

- Present a statement of need or assessment of the problem. What is the situation that is causing concern? Why is it happening?
- Describe the target area and identify the zip codes for the communities being served under the proposal. Detail how you determined the need there, with at least one source of data supporting that access to fresh local food is an issue in the target area.
- Describe the intended underserved community explaining the needs of the local community or food system, and provide at least one source of supporting data, such as demographics, income, and geographic characteristics of the area or community. Describe how limited access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food is an issue in this community. Proposals should, to the extent possible, describe limiters of fresh food access using data available in the USDA Food Access Research Atlas. (<https://data.nal.usda.gov/dataset/food-access-research-atlas>).
- Explain how the project is aligned with the purpose and priorities of this program and will make a difference in the targeted intended beneficiary community(ies).
- Describe how this project will initiate, build upon, or expand related work or programs.
- Describe the anticipated impact of this project on executive order priorities including climate, equity, and environmental justice. This element may include, but is not limited to: participation by historically underserved groups or groups serving historically underserved or vulnerable communities; activities with the potential to mitigate the impacts caused by climate change.

2. Project Goals and Intended Outcomes

- Concisely state the goals and objectives of the proposed project.
- Describe the project goals, including who will benefit from the project and what community needs it will address.
- Describe project objectives that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time bound.

- Describe project outcomes, including what will be accomplished, who will benefit (e.g., residents, students, participants), and how many people will benefit.
- Describe the involvement of stakeholders in developing project objectives and implementing results.

3. The Organizations and Partners Involved

- Explain your organization's experience in the field of urban agriculture or innovative production, serving communities lacking access to fresh foods, and providing outreach in impacted target area or community.
- List your organization's leadership and key personnel for this project. For everyone listed, describe: their role in project and qualifications to carry out project, including experience and expertise in agriculture and innovative production and working with impacted communities and related food systems (which will be considered as important as academic or professional credentials).
- List two or more partner organizations for this project and include their contact information, relevant experience, community connections, and specific responsibilities for achieving the project goals. For projects that will be operating in another city or state at least one partner should be located where the project will be served.
- Explain plans to coordinate work with partner organizations and to leverage existing resources.

4. Workplan and Activities to Achieve the Goals

FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS:

- Summarize the work to be performed in nontechnical terms for each goal and project objectives.
- Explain why the applicant and its partners selected the activities proposed in the application.
- Include a timeline of activities (i.e., annually, quarterly, monthly) milestones and clear, tangible, measurable indicators to demonstrate how progress will be achieved. Include the specific tasks to complete each activity and identify the responsible party to complete the task.
- Describe plan to ensure financial accountability, including accounting and purchasing policies. Include the specific tasks to complete each activity and identify the responsible party to complete the task.

IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Describe how you will evaluate the outcome and whether objectives were met.
- Describe how project will continue beyond end of the award period, how it will become self-sustainable, and potential funding sources for continuation of the project after federal funding ends. Discuss how a one-time infusion of federal funds will be sufficient for the proposed Implementation Project to advance UAIP goals and achieve sustainability.

If your proposal will include information collection from non-federal sources, ensure the collection meets the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act. Surveys of individuals or entities are generally prohibited without prior approval from the Office of Management and Budget. For additional guidance about allowable and unallowable activities, please go to <https://pra.digital.gov/do-i-need-clearance/>

The following documents do not count toward the above-stated page limit.

c. Standard Form (SF) 424, “Application for Federal Assistance”

See “Instructions for Completing SF-424” located in APPENDIX C.

d. SF-424A, “Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs”

Fill in all spaces as appropriate. Section B, Item 6, Column 1 should reflect the agency funds, and Column 2 should reflect the applicant’s matching funds. This form is the summary budget for the project and should include the full project totals on pages one and two. See “Instructions for Completing SF 424A” located in APPENDIX D. For information regarding indirect costs, see section D. of this opportunity.

e. Budget Narrative

- i. In a separate document titled “Budget Narrative,” explain and justify all requested budget items and costs. (See the budget narrative guidance located in APPENDIX B.) Detail how the totals on the SF-424A were determined and demonstrate a clear connection between costs and the proposed project activities. For personnel salary costs, include the baseline salary figures and the estimates of time (as percentages) to be directly charged to the project. Describe any item that under the applicable federal cost principles requires the agency’s approval and estimate its cost. The pages included as the budget narrative do not have a page limit.
- ii. Any non-federal entity (except State and local governments that receive more than \$35 million per year in federal funding) that does not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. No documentation is required to justify the 10 percent de minimis indirect cost rate. As described in 2 CFR Section 200.403, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all federal awards until such time as a non-federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-federal entity may apply to do at any time.
- iii. MTDC) means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards under the award). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000. Other items may only be excluded when necessary to avoid a serious inequity in the distribution of indirect costs, and with the approval of the cognizant agency for indirect costs.

- iv. As required in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F, “Audit Requirements,” all U.S. States, local governments, federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments, and nonprofit organizations expending \$750,000 or more in federal award funds in a fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse’s Internet Data Entry System.

f. Letters of Support

A letter of support from partner organizations indicating their intention to participate and their responsibilities on the proposed project may be included in the application. For implementation projects, a letter of financial support may also be submitted. Letters of support are not required but may be added as an attachment to the Other Attachment form.

g. Grants.gov Lobbying Form, Certification and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Under 31 U.S.C. Section 1352, an applicant or recipient must not use any federally appropriated funds (both annually appropriated and continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a grant or cooperative agreement award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is defined as influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the award. Submission of an application also represents the applicant’s certification of the statements in 2 CFR Part 418, Appendix A, “Certification Regarding Lobbying.” If you or your organization has made or agree to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying, you must also complete and submit the SF-LLL, “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities,” located at 2 CFR Part 418, Appendix B. See 2 CFR Section 418.110 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

h. Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest

Applicants must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the performance of its employees in the selection, award, and administration of federal awards. No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a federal award if there is a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any immediate family members, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties referenced, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from an applicant considered for a federal award. The standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the applicant.

If the applicant has a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization that is not a State or local government or Indian tribe, the applicant must also maintain written standards of conduct covering organizational conflicts of interest. Organizational conflict of interest means that, because of the relationships with a parent company, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, the applicant is unable or appears to be unable to be impartial in conducting a federal award action involving a related organization.

i. Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) if applicable

If charging indirect costs (including for cost share), upload the NICRA under “Other Attachments” (listed as an Optional Form) in the Grants.gov Opportunity Application Package. For information regarding indirect costs, see section D. of this opportunity.

j. Supplementary Attachment on Prior Project Progress, if applicable

If your application is intended to renew or supplement an existing UAIP project, provide a summary of progress to date on the current project. This summary should be included as a supplementary attachment using the “Other Attachments” form in Grants.gov. See section B.2. of this announcement for additional guidance on renewal/supplementary applications.

k. Unique entity identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to: (i) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application; (ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and (iii) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency. The agency may not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the agency is ready to make an award, it may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

Entities must obtain an UEI and register in SAM prior to registering with Grants.gov. A description of each is below. Entities are strongly encouraged to apply early for their SAM registration.

System for Award Management (SAM) Registration: To register, go to: <https://www.sam.gov>. The Federal Service Desk is available for registration assistance and can be contacted via the Help tab at the website listed above.

Awarding agency staff cannot support applicants regarding UEI or SAM issues.

5. Submission Dates and Times and Correspondence

Applicants must submit applications through Grants.gov. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. eastern time (ET) on March 27, 2022. An application submitted or resubmitted after the deadline is late (an application is considered on time at 11:59:59 p.m. ET, but it is late at 12:00 a.m. ET). Late submissions will not be reviewed or considered.

Grants.gov will provide either an error or a successfully received transmission in the form of an email sent to the applicant with the authorized organizational representative (AOR) role attempting to submit the application. **The Grants.gov Support Center reports that some applicants end the transmission because they think that nothing is occurring during the transmission process; be patient and give the system time to process the application.**

If you have trouble submitting an application to Grants.gov, you should first contact the Grants.gov Help Desk to resolve any issues. Keep a record of any such correspondence. For Grants.gov contact information, see section D.2. of this opportunity.

For applications successfully transmitted to Grants.gov before the deadline, the applicant with the AOR role who submitted the application will receive:

- an acknowledgement of receipt and a tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov
- an email with the official date and time stamp (this stamp is used to determine if the application was received prior to the deadline) and Grants.gov

When the agency successfully retrieves the application from Grants.gov and acknowledges the download of submissions, Grants.gov will also provide an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of the application to the applicant.

6. Intergovernmental Review

This funding opportunity is not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

7. Funding Restrictions

Funds may not be used to pay any of the following costs unless otherwise permitted by law and approved in writing by the agency in advance of incurring such costs:

- a. Costs above the amount of funds authorized for the project.
- b. Costs incurred prior to the effective date of the award, including time spent applying for this opportunity.
- c. Costs which lie outside the scope of the approved project and project amendments.
- d. Entertainment costs, regardless of their apparent relationship to project objectives.
- e. Compensation for injuries to persons or for damage to property arising out of project activities.
- f. Consulting services performed by a federal employee during official duty hours when such consulting services result in the payment of additional compensation to the employee.
- g. Capital expenditures for general purpose equipment, buildings, and land and for improvements to land, buildings, or equipment which materially increase their value or useful life. See 2 CFR Section 200.439 for additional information.
- h. Management fees and profit. Any funds awarded to for-profit entities must be used for reimbursement of award-related direct and indirect costs only.
- i. Meals may be charged to an award only if they are necessary for the performance of the project. For instance, meals (normally only lunch) that are a necessary part of the costs of meetings and conferences (i.e., required attendance and continuity of a meeting), the primary purpose of which is the dissemination of information,

are allowable, as are costs of transportation, rental of facilities, speakers' fees, and other items incidental to such meetings or conferences.

Note: Meals consumed while in official travel status do not fall in this category. They are considered to be per diem expenses and should be reimbursed in accordance with the organization's established travel policies subject to statutory limitations or in accordance with federal travel policies.

- j. Costs normally charged as indirect costs may not be charged as direct costs without proper justification and agency approval. Proper justification includes documentation that the costs meet the criteria for allowability (see 2 CFR Section 200.403). Examples of such costs include rent, utilities, depreciation on buildings and equipment, the costs of operating and maintaining facilities, and general administration and general expenses, such as the salaries and expenses of executive officers, personnel administration, and accounting.
- k. Salaries that are not commensurate with level of work. All costs must be reasonable to be allowable, and 2 CFR 200.404 defines a reasonable cost as one that, in its nature and amount, does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the cost. Salaries determined not to be reasonable compared to the level of work will be unallowable.

This list is not exhaustive. For additional information, please see 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E, "Cost Principles."

8. Indirect costs limitations

- a. To be eligible to recover any indirect cost under a federal award, recipients must either have a current negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) with a federal agency that has not expired or qualify for use of the de minimis rate authorized by 2 CFR Section 200.414(f). A State, local, or Tribal governmental department or agency unit that receives more than \$35 million in direct federal funding is not eligible for the de minimis rate.
- b. Applicants not subject to a statutory limitation and who have a current NICRA must calculate indirect costs using the rate and base specified in their NICRA. A recipient may voluntarily reduce or waive recovery of indirect costs at its sole discretion and must not be encouraged or coerced in any way to do so by the agency. A copy of the applicant's current NICRA must be provided with the application. Indirect costs may not be recovered under an expired NICRA. However, if an applicant with a current NICRA is subject to the statutory limitation, indirect costs must be calculated as follows. First, multiply the NICRA rate by the base stated in the NICRA to arrive at amount A. Next, multiply the statutory limit of 10 percent by the total of all direct costs to arrive at amount B. The lower of amount A and B is the amount of indirect cost to include on the budget.
- c. Recipients are prohibited from shifting unallowable indirect costs to another federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Review and Selection Process

Applications will be screened for completeness and compliance with the provisions of this notice. Incomplete, noncompliant, and applications not meeting the formatting criteria may be eliminated from competition. In that event, the agency will send notification of elimination to the applicant. The agency intends to select and award without conducting any discussions or allowing applicants to correct deficiencies or omissions in their applications. Consequently, applicants must ensure their applications are complete and accurate. However, while the agency intends to select without contacting applicants, it reserves the right to request applicants to revise their applications to correct deficiencies or omissions it identifies. If this occurs, the agency will conduct discussions with all applicants, identify deficiencies and omissions for all, and give applicants an opportunity to submit a revised application by a common cutoff date. The agency may also contact individual applicants to clarify certain components of their applications.

Merit and technical reviews will be conducted by a technical review board nominated by the approving official. Risk reviews will be conducted by the FPAC Business Center, Grants and Agreements Division.

The approving official will make the final award decisions. The approving official for this opportunity is the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service or Designee. In addition to the merit/technical review and risk reviews, the approving official may also give consideration to furthering programmatic purposes, including geographical dispersion, program balance, or diversity of awards.

Projects will be categorized, evaluated, and ranked according to proposal type.

2. Merit/Technical Criteria

The weights and evaluation criteria below will be used in reviewing applications submitted in response to this NFO. Proposals will be evaluated by the extent to which they meet the listed criteria:

Project Consistent with UAIP Purpose and Priorities (30 points)

- Degree to which applicant successfully describes the need or problem in the impacted underserved community and degree to which this description is substantiated with supporting documentation that access to fresh local food is an issue. Evidence that the impacted underserved community has a demonstrated need for local or community food systems. How well the project activities and outcomes aligned with the purpose and priorities of this program.
- Applicant's persuasiveness and level of detail in describing project goals, including who will benefit from the project and what community needs the project will address. Applicant described project objectives that were specific, measurable, attainable,

realistic, and time bound. The project outcomes including what will be accomplished, who will benefit, and how many people will benefit are reasonable.

- Quality of the plan presented to promote urban, indoor, and emerging agricultural practices, such as gardens and farms, rooftop farms, urban agroforest, food forests, orchards, outdoor vertical production, green walls, indoor farms, greenhouses, high-tech vertical technology farms, and hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic farm facilities within the target area.
- The likelihood the project will be successful in positively impacting access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food in the specified timeframe and in the impacted underserved community as described in the USDA Food Access Research Atlas.
- Degree to which the proposal aligns with executive order priorities including climate, equity, and environmental justice. Amount of anticipated participation by historically underserved groups or groups serving underserved or vulnerable communities. Description of activities with the potential to mitigate the impacts caused by climate change.

Internal Organization Support and Partnerships (20 points)

- Organization has experience in field of urban agriculture or innovative production, serving communities lacking access to fresh foods, and doing outreach in target area or community.
- The organizational leadership and key personnel have the necessary qualifications to carry out project. Factors considered include experience and expertise of key personnel in agriculture and innovative production and working with impacted communities and related food systems (which will be considered as important as academic or professional credentials).
- One or more partners are involved in the project. The partners involvement adds value to the project and will contribute to the success of the project.
- Quality and extent of external partnerships, and plan to leverage existing resources.
- Degree of collaboration with partner organizations working in the local community.

Project Workplan (20 points)

- The activities the project will undertake, timelines and milestones, the specific tasks to complete each activity, and identified responsible party to complete the task are appropriate.
- The demonstrated ability of applicant to implement the project, provide fiscal accountability, collect data, and prepare reports and other necessary documentation.
- The mechanism the applicant will use to measure progress toward the project's goal and identified verifiable indicators is appropriate to demonstrate progress.
- **(IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT ONLY)** The evaluation of the outcome and whether objectives were met is suitable.
- The plan to ensure financial accountability, including accounting and purchasing policies is sufficient.
- **(IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT ONLY)** Applicant described how project will continue beyond end of award period, how it will become self-sustainable, and identified potential funding sources for continuation of the project after federal funding ends.

Budget (25 points)

- Total funding requested is appropriate for scope of project. Proposed costs are reasonable, necessary, and allocable to carry out project's goals and objectives.
- Budget narrative includes a line-item description of every allowable cost and shows how it supports the project goal. Budget calculations are itemized sufficiently to show how the budget components were developed and costs estimated and derived.

Data and Information Sharing (5 points)

- Manner of collection of data and information on program deliverables.
- Suitable reporting policies.
- Extent information about project outcomes and results will be shared with researchers and other interested parties, including public or private, nonprofit or for-profit entities, academic institutions (including minority-serving colleges and universities), other appropriate professionals, community-based organizations, and local government entities.
- Reasonableness of specific strategies for sharing project information.

3. Administrative and Risk Criteria

Notice of selection after merit or technical evaluation does not guarantee that an applicant will receive an award. Following notification of selection for funding (see section F. of this opportunity), the FPAC Business Center, Grants and Agreements Division's staff conducts a final administrative and risk review of those applications. The administrative review includes, but is not limited to, a check to ensure that NFO requirements were met (e.g., applicant meets eligibility criteria, application was submitted through Grants.gov by the established deadline), and proposed costs are allowable, allocable, and necessary. During this process, it may be necessary to request further documentation from the applicant (e.g., organizational information as part of the risk assessment, more detail regarding proposed costs).

In addition, to comply with the requirements of 2 CFR Section 200.206, the agency will follow, at a minimum, the risk review process described below (additional steps may be taken).

The awarding agency will check SAM to ensure the applicant is not suspended or debarred, which would preclude receiving an award. In addition, prior to making a federal award with a total federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold (\$250,000), the agency must review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently the Federal Awardee Performance Integrity Information System (FAPIS)) (see 41 U.S.C. 2313 and 2 CFR 200.206(a)).

An applicant must meet the following standards to be considered for award:

- a. **Financial Stability.** The applicant maintains an adequate financial resources or cash flow to meet its financial obligations on a routine basis in order to successfully complete any agreement it may be awarded.

- b. **Quality of Management Systems and Ability to Meet Management Standards Prescribed in 2 CFR Part 200.** The applicant has a financial management system adequate to segregate and track federal funds. It has adequate systems in place for proper agreement administration; compliance with the standards outlined in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart D, for procurement, property, and records management; and required financial and performance reporting.
- c. **History of Performance.** If the applicant has previously obtained federal financial assistance award, it has never failed to materially comply with the federal award terms and conditions and has never had an award terminated on that basis.

Submission of an application constitutes certification that an applicant meets these standards. The agency may request documentation to substantiate the certification. Based on risk assessment, the agency may impose specific award conditions in accordance with 2 CFR Section 200.208.

4. Awards Over the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (if applicable)

- a. Prior to making a federal award with a total federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold (\$250,000), the agency must review and consider any information about the applicant that is in FAPIIS accessible through SAM. FAPIIS is a federal database intended to serve as a government-wide source of information about the prior performance and compliance of federal procurement contractors, grantees, and cooperative agreement holders (see 41 U.S.C. 2313 and 2 CFR 200.206(a)).
- b. An applicant may review information in FAPIIS accessible through SAM and comment on any information about it that a federal awarding agency previously entered.
- c. The agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR Section 200.206, "Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants."

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notices

The agency will provide notice that an application has been selected before it makes the federal award. As such, the selection notification is not an authorization to begin performance. Any pre-award costs incurred by the awardee will not be reimbursed. The Notice of Grant and Agreement Award (ADS-093) signed by the authorized agency official is the only authorizing document and will be provided electronically to the entity's authorized official for signature.

The agency anticipates announcing or notifying successful and unsuccessful applicants by June 12, 2023 and expects to have federal awards in place by September 30, 2023. **These dates are estimates and are subject to change.**

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

All project funds will be used in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 and the general award terms and conditions, which are available at <https://www.fpacbc.usda.gov/about/grants-and-agreements/award-terms-and-conditions/index.html>.

Projects performed pursuant to this opportunity may be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act. If applicable, NRCS must work with awardees to complete an environmental review of each awarded project before project commencement. In addition, before any ground-disturbing activities related to NRCS funding, the awardee must work with NRCS staff to complete an environmental evaluation related to those activities. Awardees may be required to prepare or pay for preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS), should any environmental review find that an EA or EIS is required.

In addition, a National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 106 review and consultation by an NRCS State or area office with consulting parties (such as the pertinent State historic preservation officer and federally recognized Indian Tribes) may be required before the implementation of project activities that have the potential to impact cultural resources. Section 106, its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and other related authorities require federal agencies to determine if a project has the potential to cause an effect to historic properties and, if so, if they are adverse and how the effects may be addressed. The NHPA review and compliance in accordance with Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800 must be completed by NRCS, and applicants may be required to pay for any cultural resource surveys needed for NRCS to assess project effects. More information on the applicant's role in the Section 106 consultation process can be found on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation website at <https://www.achp.gov/digital-library-section-106-landing/section-106-applicant-toolkit>.

Consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is also required for projects that may affect listed or proposed species or destroy or modify critical habitat. The ESA consultation in accordance with Section 7 of the ESA and implementing regulations of 50 CFR Part 402 must be completed by NRCS before the implementation of project activities that have the potential to impact species or habitat protected under the ESA. More information on the Section 7 consultation process can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/consultations-overview.html>.

3. Reporting

Reporting will follow the guidelines included in the agency's general award terms and conditions, which are available at <https://www.fpacbc.usda.gov/about/grants-and-agreements/award-terms-and-conditions/index.html>.

If the federal share of any agreement awarded under this opportunity notice may include more than \$500,000 over the period of performance, recipients must also comply with the post-award reporting requirements reflected in appendix XII of 2 CFR Part 200, "Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters."

Applicants that receive awards pursuant to this opportunity and any subawardees must comply with the reporting requirements described at 2 CFR Part 170 unless an exception applies. Applicants must ensure they have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with those requirements. A list of exceptions can be found at 2 CFR Section 170.110(b).

Submission of interim and final reports are required to demonstrate the progress made toward the completion of project goals, objectives, and outcomes, as well as the grant agreement's overall financial status. SF-425, "Federal Financial Report," are due with each performance report to account for financial expenditures during that reporting period.

Performance reports and SF-425 are due annually no later than 90 calendar days after each annual performance reporting period end date.

A final performance report and SF-425 must be submitted no later than 120 calendar days after the performance period end date.

Submit reimbursement requests to the ezFedGrants system or the FPAC Grants and Agreements Division by email at FPAC.BC.GAD@usda.gov on a quarterly basis. See the general award terms and conditions for more information regarding payment requests.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT

For questions regarding this opportunity, please contact the following individual with the NFO number in the subject line:

Jose Berna

Grants Management Specialist

FPAC Business Center

Email: Jose.Berna@usda.gov with a copy to FPAC.BC.GAD@USDA.GOV

H. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Questions regarding this opportunity must be submitted to the Federal Awarding Agency contact identified above by email with the NFO number in the subject line.
2. For technical issues with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), please contact [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) Applicant Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov. Awarding agency staff cannot support applicants regarding [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) accounts.

3. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Applications are considered confidential information. Applications are not shared with individuals or entities seeking public disclosure through FOIA without the consent of the applicant. More specifically, Executive Order 12600 and 7 CFR Part 1, Subpart A,

requires the awarding agency to provide notice to applicants that a third party has requested copies of their business information and requires the awarding agency to consult with applicants regarding the releasing their records.

4. Government Obligation

The Federal Government is not obligated to make any federal award as a result of this opportunity. Only authorized federal officials can bind the Federal Government to the expenditure of funds.

5. Any award made pursuant to this NFO may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

6. Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), a federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, a person is not required to respond to, and a person shall not be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number for information collected within this announcement is 0578-0032. All responses to this collection of information are voluntary; however, in order to obtain or retain a benefit, the information in this form is required (Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, 7 U.S.C. 6923). The Natural Resources Conservation Service has no plans to publish information collected under the provisions of this program. You may submit comments identified by Docket ID No. NRCS-2022-0007, using Federal eRulemaking portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. For further information contact Brian Guse; telephone; (202) 641-7249; email: urbanagriculture@usda.gov.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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 <https://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program->

discrimination-complaint-usda-customer 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

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

APPENDIX A: Application Package Checklist

Important: Proposals Missing Any of These Required Items Will Not Be Considered

PROPOSAL

- 1. **Project Abstract:** (one page maximum)
- 2. **Project Narrative:** (15 pages maximum)
 - a. Project Overview: Community and the Needs to be Addressed
 - b. Goals and Intended Outcomes
 - c. The Organizations and Partners Involved
 - d. Workplan and Activities to Achieve the Goal
 - Evaluations (*Implementation Projects Only*) Self-Sustainability (*Implementation Projects Only*)
- 3. **Standard Form 424, “Application for Federal Assistance”**
- 4. **Standard Form 424A, “Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs”**
- 5. **Certification Regarding Lobbying**
- 6. **Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest**
- 7. **Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement: (if applicable)**
- 8. **Letters of Support: (optional)**
- 9. **Supplementary Attachment on Prior Project Progress, if applicable**

APPENDIX B: Budget Narrative Guidance

All costs must comply with the cost principles of 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E, “Cost Principles.” All costs (both Federal and any required non-federal cost sharing/match) that are part of an award must be:

- Allowable (2 CFR Section 200.403),
- Allocable to the agreement (2 CFR Section 200.405), and
- Reasonable in amount (2 CFR Section 200.404).

A thorough budget narrative will aid the administrative review and processing of a recommended award. Amounts included in a budget and budget narrative are estimates; in the event of an award, payments will be based on actual expenditures. The following is guidance for your use in preparing a thorough budget narrative. The guidance follows the order of the budget items.

COST SHARING/MATCHING: You must provide the information below for the federal portion of costs and **separately** provide the information below with the same level of detail for the cost sharing/matching portion, as applicable, as part of the budget narrative.

PERSONNEL – Only include employees of applicant organization

This category includes salaries and wages of personnel of the applicant organization (i.e., employees) that will be working directly on the project. For each individual, identify their role and describe their contributions to the project. Also include their annual salary, percent of effort, and the period of time they will contribute to the project along with the associated funds requested for support.

The following format is an appropriate way to provide the information:

Mr. Jones – Project Director. Accountable for assuring that all project activities are carried out in a timely, cost-efficient and responsible manner. He will provide oversight of daily activities and lead and direct the project toward accomplishment of the objectives of the project. He is responsible for the submission of the required reports.

Salary	% effort	Project Duration	Funds Requested
\$50,000	25%	12 months	\$12,500

FRINGE BENEFITS – Only related to salaries identified under Personnel

Fringe benefits include, but are not limited to, the costs of leave (e.g., vacation, family-related, sick or military), employee insurance, pensions, and unemployment benefit plans. Also, see 2 CFR Section 200.431, “Compensation - fringe benefits.” Provide information about how fringe benefits are determined along with the amount requested.

Example: Fringe benefits - 25% of salaries and wages (\$12,500 @ 25%). \$3,125

TRAVEL

See your organization's travel policy for guidance on how to arrange travel. If your organization lacks a policy, it is expected that you follow the U.S. Federal Government policy. See <http://www.gsa.gov/federaltravelregulation>.

For the budget narrative, identify the total funds requested for travel. Provide as much detail as possible including purpose, destination, dates of travel, and number of individuals for each trip. If the dates of travel are not known, specify estimated length of trip. Identify what will be followed (e.g., organizational travel policies or government per diem rates).

The following are a few examples of how to provide the information.

- 2 people - travel to Washington D.C. once per year for a two-day meeting [identify purpose of meeting].
 - Airfare \$800 x 2 for airfare = \$1,600;
 - Airport parking = \$64
 - Hotel for 3 nights x 2 @ \$200 = \$1,200;
 - Meals for 2 days x 2 = \$245;
 - Rental car for 3 days @ \$110/day = \$330. Total for trip: \$3,439
- Local travel for project manager is calculated at .50 per mile throughout primary service area x 326 miles/month x 12 months = \$1,956.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment is defined as an item of property that has an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more (unless the organization has established lower levels) and an expected service life of more than 1 year. List each item of equipment along with the applicable cost. Include justification of its need in accomplishing the goals of the project.

Example:

To complete objectives #1 and #2, Refrigerated Trailer is required. XYZ Refrigerated Trailer, Model #123, at \$5,555

These costs should only include the costs to purchase new equipment. The cost of renting or leasing equipment is not to be included in this category but instead, include under the "Contractual" category. If equipment is costly, include a lease versus purchase comparison in the budget narrative in support of route chosen.

SUPPLIES

Supplies are defined in 2 CFR Section 200.94 as all tangible personal property other than those described in 2 CFR Section 200.313, "Equipment." A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-federal entity for financial statement purposes or \$5,000, regardless of the length of its useful life. See 2 CFR Section 200.453, "Materials and Supplies Costs, Including Costs of Computing Devices," regarding the allowability of costs.

Indicate general categories of expendable supplies, including an amount for each category. **Caution:** If a category is viewed as too general or the associated amount is too high, further itemization may be requested. Therefore, use good judgement in determining the level of detail to provide.

Example:

General office supplies \$50/mo. x 12 mo. = \$600
Postage \$37/mo. x 8 mo. = \$296
Laptop Computer 1 x \$900 = \$900
Printer 1 x \$300 = \$300
Projector 1 x \$900 = \$900
Copies 8000 copies x .10/copy = \$800

CONTRACTUAL

A contractor (versus a subrecipient) provides goods and services within normal business operations. These goods and services are ancillary to the operation of the federal program. A contractor generally provides similar goods or services to many different purchasers, and normally operates in a competitive environment. This category includes consultants, subcontracts, etc.

Consultants -- List the total costs for all consultant services. Identify each consultant, the services performed, total number of days, rate of pay, travel costs, per diem, and total estimated costs.

Contract -- A contract is defined in 2 CFR Section 200.22 as a legal instrument by which a non-federal entity purchases property or services needed to carry out the project or program under a federal award. The term as used in this part does not include a legal instrument, even if the non-federal entity considers it a contract when the substance of the transaction meets the definition of a federal award or subaward (see §200.92 Subaward).

Explain the need for each agreement and how their use will support the purpose and goals of the project. For each contract, describe the associated activities, scope of work or services to be provided, and how the costs were estimated. If budgeting for a procurement action, document if a solicitation process has occurred or if the contract will be a sole source.

Example:

- ABC Company: Training \$250/individual x 3 staff 5 days = \$ 750
- Amy White to provide Technical Assistant Services
 - 1FTE @ \$25,000 + 20% Fringe Benefits of \$5,000 = \$30,000
 - Travel at 2,000 miles @ .50 per mile = \$ 1,000
 - Training course \$ 175
 - Supplies @ \$42.50 x 12 months = \$ 510
 - Telephone @ \$40 x 12 months = \$ 480 \$32,165
- John Doe, Consultant \$40 per hour x 220 hours for 12-month period = \$ 8,800

- To Be Announced Outreach Coordinator Annual salary \$30,000 x 10% level of effort/12 months = \$ 3,000

CONSTRUCTION

Construction efforts are to be included under this category with the same level of detail as described under the “Other” category below.

OTHER

Costs not fitting under one of the other categories are to be included under this category. The level of detail is to be commensurate with other categories. Subawards should be included in this category. Per 2 CFR Section 200.92, a subaward is an award provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to carry out part of a federal award received by the pass-through entity. It does not include payments to a contractor or payments to an individual that is a beneficiary of a federal program. A subaward may be provided through any form of legal agreement, including an agreement that the pass-through entity considers a contract.

Please include a similar level of detail in your subawardee budget narratives as you do for your primary awardee, including all relevant cost categories discussed elsewhere in this section.

Example: Outreach Workshop

- Rental of facilities (\$750/2 days) \$1,500
- Information technology services \$400
- Training packets (approx. 125/\$40 each) \$5,000
 - Total \$6,900

Note: Percentage for contingencies is not an allowable cost.

INDIRECT

2 CFR Section 200.56 defines indirect (facilities & administrative (F&A)) costs as those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. To facilitate equitable distribution of indirect expenses to the cost objectives served, it may be necessary to establish a number of pools of indirect (F&A) costs. Indirect (F&A) cost pools must be distributed to benefitted cost objectives on bases that will produce an equitable result in consideration of relative benefits derived.

This cost category guidance includes several components:

- Calculation (This is to be included as part of the budget narrative)
- Indirect Cost Rates
- Negotiated Rate
- 10% De Minimis Rate
- Limitation (i.e., indirect cost cap)
- Unrecovered Indirect Costs for Cost Sharing/Match
- Voluntarily Reduce/Waive

Calculation.

If indirect costs are requested as part of the proposed budget, you must provide details used in determining the indirect costs requested. For instance, provide the calculation specifying the amounts used in applying the base (the base specified in the applicable rate agreement) by the applicable rate (see indirect cost rate info below as well as Limitation section). The calculation can be displayed in different formats but must capture the components (i.e., amounts used in applying the base and the applicable rate).

EXAMPLE 1: For purposes of this example, the recipient uses the 10 percent de minimis indirect cost rate (10 percent of Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)). MTDC means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward. MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000.

Item	Budget	Indirect Eligible Amounts
Salaries and wages	\$50,000	\$50,000
Materials and supplies	\$3,000	\$3,000
Equipment	\$5,500	\$0
Subaward	\$30,000	\$25,000
		\$78,000 x 10% = \$7,800 Indirect Costs

EXAMPLE 2: For purposes of this example, the recipient has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) of 20 percent with a base of salaries and fringe benefits.

Item	Budget	Indirect Eligible Amounts
Salaries and wages	\$50,000	\$50,000
Fringe Benefits	\$10,000	\$10,000
Materials and supplies	\$3,000	\$0
Equipment	\$5,500	\$0
Subaward	\$30,000	\$0
		\$60,000 x 20% = \$12,000 Indirect Costs

Indirect costs may only be recovered if the non-federal entity has one of the following indirect cost rates.

1. Negotiated Rate: If the organization has a **current** NICRA established with the cognizant federal agency (the agency that provides the most funds to the organization), then provide a copy of the NICRA; expired rates are not acceptable. If unable to obtain a current negotiated rate from the cognizant agency, you are permitted to opt to use the 10 percent de minimis cost rate (you may only be reimbursed for allowable direct cost). Violation of cost accounting principles is not permitted when rebudgeting or charging costs to awards. Rather, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs. Along with a copy of the NICRA, include the rate and base as part of the budget narrative.

Example: Rate 24.87% of MTDC - 24.87% applied to the following items: \$97,300 of Personnel, \$23,352 of Fringe, \$110,000 of other, and the first \$25,000 of three (3) subawards = \$76,015.65 indirect costs

2. 10 Percent De Minimis Cost Rate: In accordance with 2 CFR Section 200.414(f), any non-federal entities, unless excepted, may elect to forgo calculation of an indirect cost rate and request a 10 percent de minimis indirect cost rate. The 10 percent de minimis rate is applied to modified total direct costs (MTDC). For this purpose, MTDC means total direct costs related to the award, such as direct labor, fringe benefits, materials and supplies, publications, consultant services and travel costs. MTDC excludes the following costs: equipment, capital expenditures, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward and subcontract in excess of \$25,000. Violation of cost accounting principles is not permitted when charging costs to awards. Rather, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

If the 10 percent de minimis option is chosen, it must be used consistently for all federal awards until such time you choose to negotiate for a rate, which you may apply to do at any time. If the organization previously opted for the de minimis rate, a copy of the rate agreement must be provided. If the organization is currently electing the de minimis rate, use an indirect cost rate of no more than 10 percent of MTDC when preparing the budget. If selected for award, a de minimis rate agreement will be executed along with the award, as appropriate.

Example: Rate 10% of MTDC – 10% applied to the following items: \$45,000 of Personnel, \$10,800 of Fringe, and \$59,000 of Other = \$11,480 indirect costs

Limitation: Some programs may not allow the recovery of indirect costs. In such instances, the limitation flows down to subcontractors. See the applicable notice of funding opportunity to determine if indirect costs are unallowable.

USDA appropriation acts limit indirect costs to 10 percent for cooperative and contribution agreements with nonprofit entities; for purposes of this limitation, “nonprofit entities” includes institutions of higher education. For agreements subject to this limitation, first apply the 10 percent indirect cost rate to the agreement’s total direct costs; this is shown on line 6.i of the SF-424A. Then calculate indirect costs using the rate and the direct cost application base specified in the recipient’s NICRA. Use whichever rate results in the lower amount.

If the organization has a NICRA, both the NICRA calculation and the 10 percent TDC must be completed in order to determine the lesser (i.e., maximum allowed indirect costs) for the applicable project.

Calculation instructions: First, multiply the NICRA rate by the base stated in the NICRA to arrive at amount A. Next, multiply the statutory limit of 10 percent by TDC to arrive at amount B. The lower of amount A and B is the maximum amount of allowable indirect cost, therefore include this amount on the budget.

Unrecovered Indirect Costs for Cost sharing/Match: 2 CFR Section 200.306(c) states that unrecovered indirect costs, including indirect costs on cost sharing or matching may be included as part of cost sharing or matching only with the prior approval of the federal awarding agency. Unrecovered indirect cost means the difference between the amount charged to the federal award and the amount which could have been charged to the federal award under the non-federal entity's approved negotiated indirect cost rate. In instances where indirect costs are statutorily

limited, unrecovered indirect costs will normally **not** be accepted as part of required cost sharing or match; it is only allowable if a statute specifically allows it.

Voluntarily Reduce/Waive: A recipient may voluntarily reduce or waive recovery of indirect costs at its sole discretion and must not be encouraged or coerced in any way to do so by the agency. If organizations waive indirect cost recovery and request only direct costs, the organization is required to include in the award budget only those types of costs consistently treated as direct costs by the organization.

APPENDIX C: Instructions for Completing SF-424

SF-424, APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE INSTRUCTIONS FOR USDA-FPAC AGENCIES

Applicants must review these instructions to ensure the form is completed correctly. This will reduce the likelihood that the form will need to be returned for correction and potentially delay execution of any resultant agreement.

Item	Name	Instructions
1	Type of Submission	Select "Application" since this is first time your entity is applying for this funding opportunity.
2	Type of Application	Select "New" since this application is being submitted to an agency for the first time for this funding opportunity.
3	Date Received	Leave blank.
4	Applicant Identifier	Leave blank.
5a	Federal Entity Identifier	Leave blank.
5b	Federal Award Identifier	Leave blank.
6	Date Received by State	Leave blank.
7	State Application Identifier	Leave blank.
8a	Applicant Legal Name	Enter the legal name of applicant. This name must be consistent with the name as registered in the System for Award Management (SAM). If the name in SAM is not correct, update it.
8b	Applicant Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN)	Enter the employer or taxpayer identification number of applicant assigned by the Internal Revenue Service. This number must be consistent with the number in the applicant's SAM registration.
8c	Applicant Organizational DUNS/Unique Entity Identifier	Enter the DUNS number of applicants. This number must be consistent with the number in the applicant's SAM registration. The DUNS number is a total of 13 digits. The first 9 are the basic DUNS number from SAM. The last four digits are reserved for a certain purpose and is usually "0000" for most applicants.
8d	Applicant Address	Enter the mailing address of applicant. This address must be consistent with the mailing address in the applicant's SAM registration.
8e	Applicant Organizational Unit	Not required.
8b	Applicant Contact Information	Provide the name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application. This does not necessarily need to be the person with authority to sign the application. It is a point of contact for agency staff to contact regarding the application.
9	Type of Applicant 1	Select the type of entity the applicant is. This type must be consistent with the entity type listed in the applicant's SAM registration.
10	Name of Federal Agency	Enter the applicable agency: USDA-NRCS, USDA-FSA, or USDA-RMA
11	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number/Federal Assistance Listing and Title	Enter the CFDA number from the Notice of Funding Opportunity. For the title, see https://beta.sam.gov/
12	Funding Opportunity Number and Title	Enter the opportunity number and title from the Notice of Funding Opportunity
12	Competition Identification Number and Title	Leave blank.

14	Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.)	Leave blank.
15	Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project	Enter a concise title for the project.
16a	Congressional District of Applicant	Enter the Congressional district based on the physical address of the applicant as listed in the applicant's SAM registration. District numbers can be found at http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/ .
16b	Congressional District(s) of Program/Project	Enter the Congressional district(s) for all districts affected by the program/project. Enter in the format: first 2 characters for state abbreviation and next 3 characters for the district number (e.g., "CA-005" for California 5th district, "NC-103" for North Carolina's 103 district). If all congressional districts in a state are affected, enter "all" for the district number (e.g., "MD-all" for all congressional districts in Maryland). If nationwide (i.e., all districts within all states are affected, enter "US-all"). Attach an additional list of program/project congressional districts, if needed. District numbers can be found at http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/ .
17a	Proposed Project Start Date	Enter an estimated date consistent with what is stated on the Notice of Funding Opportunity. Do not anticipate an earlier award date, even though an earlier award may be possible.
17b	Proposed Project End Date	Enter the estimated end date consistent with the start date and what is stated on the Notice of Funding Opportunity
18a-g	Estimated Funding	Enter the project's total amount of funding by organization including the Federal share, applicant share (if any), and any other sources of applicant funding, other than their own funds. <i>These values must be consistent with the values on the SF-424A and the Budget Narrative.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Federal</u>: enter the amount of Federal funds being requested. b. <u>Applicant</u>: enter cost share/match being provided by the applicant itself. Do not include cost share/match being provided by commitments from the sources listed below. c. <u>State</u>: enter the amount of any cost share/match being provided by a State government entity. d. <u>Local</u>: enter the amount of any cost share/match being provided by a Local government entity. e. <u>Other</u>: enter the amount of any cost share/match being provided by a source other than those listed above. f. <u>Program Income</u>: enter the amount of program income (if any) used for meeting cost share/match requirements (see 2 CFR 200.80 and 200.307). g. <u>Total</u>: enter the sum of all amounts. <i>This must equal the total proposed budget amounts above.</i>
19	Executive Order 12372	Select the applicable response as to whether or not the application is subject to State review under state laws or procedures. Executive Order 12372 can be found at https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/12372.html
20	Federal Debt Delinquency	Select the applicable response as to whether or not the applicant is delinquent on any Federal debt.
21	Certification and Signature	Check the "I Agree" box and provide the name and contact information for the person who is authorized by the applicant to submit the application on its behalf. The form will be electronically signed during the submission process on Grants.gov.

APPENDIX D: Instructions for Completing SF-424A

**SF-424A, BUDGET INFORMATION
INSTRUCTIONS FOR USDA-FPAC AGENCIES**

Applicants must review these instructions to ensure the form is completed correctly. This will reduce the likelihood that the form will need to be returned for correction and potentially delay execution of any resultant agreement.

SECTION A – BUDGET SUMMARY		
Column	Name	Instructions
(a)	Grant Program Function or Activity	FPAC agencies do not require the project budget be broken down into separate programs, functions, or activities on this form. That level of detail, if desired, is reserved for the Budget Narrative which is a related, but separate document. Enter “Federal” in 1(a) and Non-Federal in 2(a). Leave the remaining rows blank.
(b)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number	Enter the CFDA number from the Notice of Funding Opportunity in 1(b) and 2(b). Leave the remaining rows blank.
(c)	Estimated Unobligated Funds: Federal	Leave this entire column blank.
(d)	Estimated Unobligated Funds: Non-Federal	Leave this entire column blank.
(e)	New or Revised Budget: Federal	Enter the total amount of the Federal funds requested in Row 1. Leave the remaining rows blank. This amount must be consistent with the amount in Block 18a of the SF-424.
(f)	New or Revised Budget: Non-Federal	Enter the total amount of the Non-Federal cost share/match in Row 2 and leave the remaining rows blank. This amount must be consistent with the total amount of Blocks 18b through 18f of the SF-424.
(g)	Total	This auto-calculates and is the total proposed agreement budget. This amount must be consistent with the total amount in Block 18g of the SF-424.

SECTION B – BUDGET CATEGORIES		
Column	Name	Instructions
(1)	Grant Program Function or Activity 1	The form will auto-populate “Federal” in the heading of Column 1. See the list of budget cost categories at the end of this table for guidance on what types of costs to include in each category. The total of Column 1 must be consistent with the Federal total in Section A.
(1)	Grant Program Function or Activity 1	The form will auto-populate “Non-Federal” in the heading of Column 2. See the list of budget cost categories at the end of this table for guidance on what types of costs to include in each category. The total of Column 2 must be consistent with the Non-Federal total in Section A.
(3)	Grant Program Function or Activity 3	Leave this entire column blank.
(4)	Grant Program Function or Activity 4	Leave this entire column blank.
(5)	Total	This auto-calculates.

		<i>All costs must comply with the cost principles of 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E – Cost Principles. All costs must be allowable (2 CFR 200.403), allocable to the agreement (2 CFR 200.405), and reasonable in amount (2 CFR 200.404).</i>
	Personnel	<p>Compensation for employees of the applicant, for example, wages and salaries. See 2 CFR 200.430, Compensation-Personal Services.</p> <p>Do not include the cost of fringe benefits in this category. Such costs must be listed in the “Fringe Benefit” category.</p> <p>Do not include the personnel cost of contractor’s or other organizations with which a contract or other agreement for their services exists. Those amounts must instead be listed under the “Contractual” category as part of the total value of the contract or agreement.</p> <p>Do not include the value of donated or volunteer services (or third-party in-kind contributions of services) as it may <i>not</i> be charged to the Federal award either as a direct or indirect cost (2 CFR 200.434). However, the value of those services may be used to meet cost sharing/matching requirements (2 CFR 200.306).</p>
	Fringe Benefits	<p>Fringe benefits should be separated out from the personnel category and are allowances and services provided by employers to their employees as compensation in addition to regular salaries and wages. Fringe benefits include, but are not limited to, the costs of leave (vacation, family-related, sick or military), employee insurance, pensions, and unemployment benefit plans. Also, see 2 CFR 200.431, Compensation-Fringe Benefits.</p> <p>Do not include the fringe benefit cost of contractor’s or other organizations with which a contract or other agreement for their services exists. Those amounts must instead be listed under the “Contractual” category as part of the total value of the contract or agreement.</p>
	Travel	<p>Travel costs are the expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related items incurred by employees who are in travel status on official business of the applicant. This only includes the travel costs directly incurred by employees of the applicant. Also, see 2 CFR 200.475, Travel Costs.</p> <p>Travel costs do not include the cost of renting a conference room for people who are in travel status. Instead, that type of cost should be included under the “Contractual” category.</p> <p>Travel costs incurred by a third-party under a contract or agreement with the applicant should instead listed under the “Contractual” category as part of the total value of the contract or agreement.</p>
	Equipment	<p>The common dictionary definition or common use of the term “equipment” does not apply to financial assistance agreements. Consequently, property that might otherwise normally be considered equipment, might actually be considered “supplies” as defined by 2 CFR 200.94.</p> <p>“Equipment” is defined as “tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of</p>

		<p>the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000. See also §200.12 Capital assets, 200.20 Computing devices, 200.48 General purpose equipment, 200.58 Information technology systems, 200.89 Special purpose equipment, and 200.94 Supplies” (2 CFR 200.33).</p> <p>Include the cost of all equipment planned to be acquired under the agreement in this budget category.</p> <p>Do not include the value of third-party in-kind contributions of property (2 CFR 200.96) as it may <i>not</i> be charged to the Federal award either as a direct or indirect cost (2 CFR 200.434). However, the value of this property may be used to meet cost sharing/matching requirements (2 CFR 200.306).</p> <p>Do not include the cost of renting or leasing equipment in this category. Instead, such costs should be included under the “Contractual” category. Also, see 2 CFR 200.465.</p> <p>Also, see 2 CFR 200.439, Equipment and Other Capital Expenditures, regarding allowability of costs.</p>
	Supplies	<p>Property that might otherwise normally be considered equipment, might actually be considered “supplies” as defined by 2 CFR 200.94 (see section above regarding the definition of equipment).</p> <p>“Supplies” is defined as all tangible personal property other than those described in §200.33 Equipment. A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes or \$5,000, regardless of the length of its useful life. See also §§200.20 Computing devices and 200.33 Equipment” (2 CFR 200.94).</p> <p>Include the cost of all supplies acquired under the agreement in this budget category.</p> <p>Non-tangible goods and services associated with supplies, such as printing services, photocopy services, and rental costs should be included in the “Other” category.</p> <p>Do not include the value of third-party in-kind contributions of property (2 CFR 200.96) as it may <i>not</i> be charged to the Federal award either as a direct or indirect cost (2 CFR 200.434). However, the value of this property may be used to meet cost sharing/matching requirements (2 CFR 200.306).</p> <p>Also, see 2 CFR 200.453, Materials and Supplies Costs. Including Costs of Computing Devices, regarding the allowability of costs.</p>
	Contractual	<p>Services to be carried out by an individual or organization other than the applicant in the form of procurement.</p> <p>It excludes the acquisition of equipment and supplies, which is included under those respective categories.</p> <p>Do not include the value of donated or volunteer services (third-party in-kind contributions of services). While the value of those services may be</p>

		used to meet cost sharing/matching requirements, it may <i>not</i> be charged to the Federal award either as a direct or indirect cost (2 CFR 200.434). Also, see 2 CFR 200.459, Professional Service Costs, regarding the allowability of costs.
	Construction	Include any construction, alteration, or repair of real property (e.g., buildings and facilities).
	Other (Direct Costs)	This category includes all other direct costs that do not fit in any of the other direct costs categories above. "Direct costs" is defined by 2 CFR 200.413. The costs in this section must be broken down in the budget narrative. Include sub-awards in this category Also, see 2 CFR 200.466, Scholarships and Student Aid Costs, regarding tuition remission.
	Indirect Charges	This category includes the amount of indirect cost permitted under the agreement. "Indirect costs" is defined by 2 CFR 200.414.

SECTION C – NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES

Not required to be completed

SECTION D – FORECASTED CASH NEEDS

Not required to be completed

SECTION E – BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT

Not required to be completed

SECTION F – OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION

Not required to be completed