

Questions and Answers for Request for Applications #2021-2026-USA

2021 DOEE Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Grant

Q1. Is hemp an eligible crop?

A1. Hemp production is not an allowable crop for funding under this grant.

Q2 Can the funds from grant be used for the insurance requirements?

A2. No. Meeting insurance requirements is a condition for receipt of funds under the Grant. The grantee at its sole expense shall procure required insurance.

Q3. How big does a farm have to be, size-wise, and could it be indoors or on rooftop?

A3. There is no size requirement for eligible farms. Farms may be in-ground, indoors, or on rooftops.

Q4. Will the funding prioritize existing urban farms for infrastructure investments, or will new urban farm projects be equally considered?

A4. All applications that meet the eligibility requirements will be equally considered.

Q5. Do community gardens qualify as an urban farm for the purpose of this grant?

A5. No, community gardens do not qualify as urban farms.

Q6. If I have a budget with a prior excel spread sheet may I submit this instead of using the template?

A6. You may use your organization's budget spread sheet if it includes all the applicable categories, line items and information included in DOEE's budget template.

Q7. Is there a template for the narrative?

A7. There is no specific template for the narrative however there are guiding prompts to inform the structure of your narrative. Find more details in Section 3 of the RFA, Application Content.

Q8. Does the 10 pages include the budget?

A8. No. As stated in section 3.1(b) of the RFA - budget tables, flowcharts, photographs, the work plan, and other supporting documentation may be attached in addition to the project description.

Q9. We are an all-volunteer organization whose membership includes people of color and women. Do we qualify as an SDF?

A9. Membership in the group is not the deciding factor for SDF-related eligibility. "Assisting" an SDF is. The eligibility requirement related to a socially disadvantaged farmer (SDF) is "An applicant must also d) Assist an SDF." Your application should clearly show how you presently assist, or propose to assist, an SDF.

Q10. What is the maximum amount of funds an applicant can request?

A10. Each applicant can request a maximum of \$25,000. Please note that the RFA has been updated to include this information, consistent with information on the RFA's webpage and the NOFA posted on the DC Register on 1/22/2021.

Q11. Can you clarify the Non-Federal Match in the budget template? If we are requesting the funds in advance do we still need to fill that section out?

A11. No. This RFA does not require matching funds therefore you do not have to fill that section out. However, if an organization opts to contribute a match, they are welcomed to do so.

Q12. Do you have to have access to a space you own to receive funds, or can it be a space you steward but don't own?

A12. You do not have to own the space where you are farming to be considered for this funding.

Q13. Is there a time frame on the Certificate of Good Standing? I've had one pulled about a month or two ago.

A13. Yes, there is a time frame. The Certificate of Good Standing must reflect a date within 6 months of the deadline date.

Q14. Is this grant aimed at farmers who hold onto a single stable space?

A14. Applicants who farm at multiple sites are eligible for funding.

Q15. Because of COVID our in-person programming has been suspended. Can we use 2019 numbers to demonstrate the number of educational events conducted and the number of people engaged in educational programming per the RFA's requirement for existing farms?

A15. The RFA has been revised to request that applicants provide both 2019 and 2020 farm data. See RFA-FY21 Urban Agriculture Infrastructure (rev.2.8.21), page 20 and Scoring Criteria.

Q16. I notice in the RFA that DC Public Schools can be a partner; do school gardens qualify as a farm for these grant purposes or would the partnership be more about the education aspect?

A16. School gardens do not qualify as an urban farm for funding under this RFA.

Q17. Can you talk a little bit about the difference in timing with the advance and regular disbursement?

A17. When approved, advance payments are treated as invoices. DOEE generally pays grant invoices 30 days after DOEE receives them.

Q18. Will you take letters of support in general?

A18. Yes, we accept letters of support to supplement your application. Please note, that if a partner is to be involved in the proposed project, a letter of support is required. For more information see Section 3.2 Proposal Content, (d) Partners.

Q19. Can you clarify if a letter of support can come from the ANC of the community farm is located in?

A19. Yes. Letters of support from communities, or stakeholders who will be impacted by the project are welcomed.

Q20. Are partnerships related with religious properties OK under grant guidelines?

A20. Eligible applicants for this funding include non-profit organizations, religious institutions, and private enterprises.

Q21. Who is on the grant review panel, will it be individuals in DOEE only, other District agencies, other?

A21. The grant review panel typically includes DOEE staff as well as staff from other District agencies and/or non-government subject matter experts. The specific composition of the grant review panel is confidential.

Q22. If an individual submits their application and there is additional information needed after the window has closed, will reviewers allow applicants to submit additional information?

A22. DOEE does not accept late information as part of an application. The review committee may ask for some clarifying information, in which case this will be communicated to the applicants.

Q23. When is the selection process and when will folks be notified?

A23. The application window closes on March 1, 2021 and the review period will commence immediately thereafter. Typically, DOEE expects to notify each Applicant in writing of its award status within six to twelve weeks after the application due date. For this RFA, we expect to notify applicants by mid-April.

Q24. Where is the FAQ located?

A24. Updates, Questions and Answers (Q&A) are located on this webpage, <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1517846>. DOEE will publish Questions and Answers from prospective applicants through February 22, 2021.

Q25. Are fish farms allowed to apply under this grant? Is cannabis?

A25. Fish farms are allowed under this funding opportunity. Cannabis production is ineligible for funding under this RFA. See section 3.2(c)(6) of the RFA for more information.

Q26. We want to install this infrastructure across multiple farms. Would we need to submit a different application for each farm?

A26. No. A single organization that manages multiple farms and seeks to apply for funding to be used at multiple farms does not need to submit separate applications for each site. An organization may combine their needs for all farms into one application. We seek and encourage efforts that increase food crop production, processing and/or distribution and improve access to fresh foods.

Q27. Could you clarify what is and isn't allowed for use of funds? On page 11, it states that typical allowable funds include rental of office space yet on page 12 it states that purchase of or rental of office space is not allowed.

A27. The funding for this RFA does not cover the purchase or rental of office space or farmland. The RFA has been updated to indicate this. See RFA section 3.2.c.6, Project Budget (typical allowable costs and non-allowable costs).