

# Healthy Food Access

## Farmer Innovation Program Micro-Grants

Application Deadline - 5pm, April 24, 2024

### Information Session and Q&A

New Mexico Farmer  
Innovation Program

**Farm**  
to**Table**

# Purpose of the Micro-Grants

Farm to Table's New Mexico Farmer Innovation Program, in partnership with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Urban Agriculture Initiative, will award Micro-Grants in three grant cycles over the next three years.

- The purpose of the grants is to enhance ongoing urban agriculture programs led by new and established urban agricultural leaders, stakeholders, growers, and farmers.
- These competitive grants are intended to help implement conservation practices that will improve resilience to climate change and on-farm sustainability practices, increase underserved farmers' capacity to grow food, expand operations, implement climate-friendly practices, and build resilience to a changing climate, and support farmers who may not qualify for other USDA funding.



FRESH  
LOCAL  
PRODUCE



# Application Timeline

The grants will be awarded in amounts of up to \$20,000 with a total of \$114,000 to be awarded in each grant cycle. There will be three grant cycles over the next three years. Applicants may apply each year, but are eligible to receive only one grant award.

- The Request for Grant Applications is open between March 25 – April 24, 2024.
- Grants must be completed and returned by **April 24, 2024** either electronically through the online form on the Farm to Table website or mailed to the address provided.

# Eligible Entities

- The Micro-Grants are for short term projects and are open to any agricultural producers, political subdivisions of the state or local government, Tribal entities and agencies, and non-profit organizations which work to increase or improve healthy food access in urban and Tribal communities, and small towns.
- Applicant(s) must be producing healthy and/or preparing to produce healthy food in urban areas within the state of New Mexico.
- Producers with gross cash farm income under \$250,000 are eligible (commercial and noncommercial farms).



# Eligible Expenses

## Eligible expenses for Micro-Grants:

- Supplies, equipment and technical assistance to farmers who provide healthy food to underserved urban populations.
- To leverage or implement conservation practices.
- Purchase or lease on-farm infrastructure, equipment, supplies, and materials, such as but not limited to, irrigation, tools and printed materials.



# Eligible Expenses

- Provide cost share for some qualifying grants, if the match goes towards a project that has to do with urban agriculture.
- To expand growing operations if funding is not currently accessible through existing USDA programs.
- Access and or provide access to training and technical assistance for producers, such as but not limited to, soil testing, grant assistance and other services.





# Micro-Grant Beneficiary Requirements

- Grant beneficiaries must be able to expend the funds and submit a final financial report by November 30, 2024.
- The beneficiary's project will be submitted to the USDA for an Environmental Assessment review. If applicable the USDA will conduct an Environmental Assessment.
- Beneficiaries will be required to participate in follow-up storytelling and data collection. Beneficiaries agree to allow the Farmer Innovation Program staff to visit their farm/ranch or organization's project to interview, document, photograph and record the beneficiary and the project, and agree to allow the Farmer Innovation Program to share the story and images of the project.



# Micro-Grant Beneficiary Requirements

- Beneficiaries must not be a previous New Mexico Farmer Innovation Program (NMFIP) Micro-Grant Beneficiary. Producers will be eligible to receive a Micro-Grant only once.
- Progress and financial reports will be submitted midway through the grant period with a final progress and financial report due at the end of the project.
- Grants will be paid out on a reimbursement basis. In exceptional situations, an option for an advance may be considered.





# Micro-Grant Beneficiary Requirements

- Farm to Table and the Farmer Innovation Program will require all Beneficiaries to provide general information about how the award funds were used, how they impacted your farm or organization, and how they impacted the regional food supply chain and/or increased access to healthy food.



# Application Elements

To be complete the application must include:

1. Applicant information & Eligibility Type
2. Project Title
3. Project and Community Need
4. Demographic Information
5. Project Summary
6. Project Goals (2)
7. Project Impact
8. Project Timeline
9. Requested Amount and if an amount lesser will be accepted.
10. Budget - Itemized Summary
11. Budget Narrative

# Evaluation Timeline

- The evaluation process will take place from April 25- March 16, 2024.
- Staff will screen applications to ensure make sure they meet the requirements. They will then be forwarded to the advisory committee members to review.
- The advisory committee will review and score the applications based on the established criteria and the available funds for the grant cycle.



*These Micro-Grants are awarded through Farm to Table's Farmer Innovation Program in partnership with the USDA/FSA Urban Agriculture Initiative through the Urban and Innovative Agriculture Community-Based Organization Fund.*



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**



**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



**Farm Service Agency**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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# Contact Information

Please direct questions to [nmfip@farmtotablenm.org](mailto:nmfip@farmtotablenm.org).

## Program Contacts:

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