

Franklin County Urban Agriculture Critical Infrastructure Grant Eligibility Requirements

If after reading through this document and the FAQ document, you still have questions, please contact FSWCD at 614-486-9613 or at <https://www.franklinswcd.org/contact>.

Who is eligible?

This grant is open to for-profit growing operations, non-profit growing operations, community gardens, and other types of growing operations. You must provide a State of Ohio business license, proof of 501(c)3, or proof of fiscal sponsor (your fiscal sponsor can be either a for-profit or non-profit organization, if it is a separate entity that your organization does not control).

Your acreage under production must be equal to or less than five (5) acres. If you do not own your property, you must provide a letter from the landowner(s) giving you permission to complete your project.

What can I use this grant funding for?

This grant funding can be used for equipment or infrastructure that will help scale growing operations to produce, process, sell/donate more local food. Examples of equipment and infrastructure include but are not limited to high tunnels, greenhouses, water service (building out tap from the city line), fences, sheds, wash/pack stations, utility sinks/drains, cold/dry storage, market stands, compost infrastructure, water catchment, drip irrigation, harvesting/planting equipment, alternative energy sources, grow lighting, vertical growing towers and other technologically intensive growing equipment, site design and planning, permitting costs, apiaries, and small animal husbandry facilities. If you do not own a scale to measure harvests, we will require that you include costs for a scale in your budget. This list is not comprehensive, and we will be flexible with growers to help them meet their needs.

What are ineligible uses of this grant?

Ineligible uses of funding include but are not limited to liability insurance, labor/admin costs, vehicles for transportation, sales tax, projects or purchases previously completed or in progress, research, salary or administration, meals or gifts, pass-through costs (subsidies or discounts), educational displays that exceed more than 20% of the total cost of grant request, pollinator plants or crops not for human consumption that exceed more than 10% of the total cost of grant request, signage or outreach items that exceed more than 20% of the total cost of grant request. This funding cannot be used to plant, grow, harvest, or distribute invasive plants and/or illicit substances. Please reference the latest Ohio Revised Code regarding illicit substances and the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District [Do Not Plant List](#). This funding is not intended to be used for acquisition of property, rent, or mortgage fees.

This list is not comprehensive, and anything deemed inappropriate or unsuitable by FSWCD or Franklin County staff will not be eligible for grant funding. Please consult your grant contact before making any purchases you are unsure about.

This program was financially assisted by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. This grant builds on and contributes to the ongoing efforts to implement the Columbus & Franklin County Local Food Action Plan.