



Urban Agriculture Resilience Program 2025 Criteria for Participation

General Information

Applications are due November 12, 2024, by 8pm ET/5pm PT using the [online application form](#).

Applicants will be notified by December 11, 2024.

Project funds are expected to be disbursed in January 2025.

Required online participant forums (Winter 2025, Spring 2025, and Fall 2025) and mid-program check-in (Summer 2025)

Final reports, including evaluations, photos, and expenses will be due February 1, 2026.

Project funding amounts range between \$5,000 and \$20,000

Applicant Criteria

Eligibility

- Urban agriculture partnership projects not previously funded by the Urban Agriculture Resilience Program.
- Previous Urban Agriculture Resilience Program (UARP) participants' projects should incorporate significant new components.
- Organizations that are currently participating in the Urban Agriculture Resilience Program (2024 participants) are not eligible to apply.
- All eligible projects must be a partnership between at least two organizations, one being a U.S. [public garden](#). Other partners can include U.S.-based nonprofit organizations, local government entities (e.g., parks and recreation departments, housing authorities), small businesses, other public gardens, educational institutions, or similarly qualified organizations. Applications must be submitted by only one organization (the primary applicant) on behalf of the partnership/project.
- The primary applicant must be a U.S. public garden and/or recognized tax-exempt nonprofit organization or part of state/local government. A tax-exempt letter is required for nonprofits and an IRS W-9 for all recipients is required.
- Applications must include letters of collaboration and commitment signed by the Principal Administrator/Chief Executives of all partners.
- Eligible collaborative projects must combine food growing and education and must also serve audiences experiencing food insecurity in urban or metropolitan areas.
- With application materials, complete a [provided budget template](#) detailing proposed uses of funds. Indirect expenses, including overhead costs and fringe benefits, may not exceed 10%.
- Participant funding may support new or existing programs/projects/partnerships.
- Participants must be willing to publicly share results and lessons learned from their Urban Agriculture Resilience Program participation.
- Participants must commit to attending all participant forums (Winter 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2025). These are 90-minute virtual meetings in which participants discuss urban agriculture successes, challenges, and ideas with one another to promote networking, capacity building, and peer learning.



Proposed projects will be assessed on the extent to which they demonstrate:

- Evidence they creatively utilize or leverage the assets of both the U.S. public garden and the partnering organization
- Efforts to combine food growing and education (e.g., food growing education, culinary and/or nutrition education, etc.)
- Facilitation of public engagement in urban food growing (e.g., by providing education and technical support, in-kind resources, growing space)
- Direct benefit to audiences or participants experiencing food security challenges
- Thoughtful approaches to increasing equitable access, representation, and benefit sharing at participating gardens and organizations and in communities
- Ability to use the funds to increase capacity in urban agriculture within and beyond the public gardens community

Preference may be given to:

- Public Gardens with annual operating budgets under \$3M
- Projects with a commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA)
- Projects with a commitment to sustainable agriculture and/or climate resilience
- Organizations starting an urban agriculture program
- Projects not previously funded by the Urban Agriculture Resilience Program

Questions regarding program eligibility may be directed to bneese@publicgardens.org

Reporting Requirements

The U.S. Botanic Garden (USBG) and the American Public Gardens Association (the Association) will provide reporting tools. Reporting requirements include a mid-point check-in conversation, and a brief final report collaboratively prepared by partnering organizations. Reports will document program expenditures and impacts, including quantitative information (e.g., participation numbers; pounds of food produced), and qualitative information (e.g., illustrative or other evidence of goals met, roles of partners and lessons learned from partnership, survey of audience served, feedback from program participants, etc.).

The USBG and the Association will request photographs of program activities, and marketing materials or other outreach communications from programs. Program participants will agree to allow the USBG and the Association to communicate about their programs, and to use provided photographs for their own communications.



Criteria Required for Program Fulfillment:

1. All publicity from UARP participation (or use of funds) including press releases, websites/webpages, and social media postings related to collaborative work shall acknowledge both the USBG and the Association. Publicity items about the Urban Agriculture Resilience Program (e.g., press releases, websites/webpages) should be created in collaboration with and approved by the USBG and the Association. The recipient institution and/or the partnering institution(s) may not engage in advertising practices that feature the United States Botanic Garden in a manner which conveys, or is reasonably calculated to convey, a false impression of sponsorship, approval or endorsement of any product or service by the United States Government, or any Department, Agency or instrumentality thereof.
2. All products and work resulting from this Agreement, including but not limited to, published material, websites/webpages, social media postings, and presentations shall acknowledge both the USBG and the Association. This should be according to each institution's style guidelines and with express consultation and permission of each party.
3. The recipient institution and the partnering institution(s) agree to indemnify, save and hold harmless, and defend the United States Government and/or the American Public Gardens Association (the Association) against all fines, claims, damages, losses, judgments, and expenses arising out of, or from, any act or omission of the recipient institution (primary awardee), its officers, employees, or (members, participants, agents, representatives, agents as appropriate) arising out of or in any way connected to activities authorized pursuant to this Agreement. This obligation shall survive the termination of this Agreement.
4. The recipient institution and the partnering institution(s) must have and maintain suitable insurance coverage or be self-insured for all activities related to the Urban Agriculture Resilience Program.
5. The primary applicant must be a U.S. public garden and/or recognized tax-exempt nonprofit organization or part of state/local government. A tax-exempt letter is required for nonprofits and an IRS W-9 for all recipients is required.
6. The recipient institution and the partnering institution(s) shall cooperate with the Association and/or the USBG in the investigation and defense of any claims that may be filed with the Association and/or the USBG arising out of the activities of the institution receiving the award, its agents, and employees.