

New Farmers Grant Fund Supporting Agribusiness Across New York State



Empire State
Development



Highlights

New York State announced \$1 million for the 2nd round of the New Farmers Grant Fund.

The grants will help beginning farmers improve profitability through one or more of the following program goals:

- Expanding agricultural production, diversifying agricultural production and/or extending the agricultural season;
- Advancing innovative agricultural techniques that increase sustainable practices such as organic farming, food safety, reduction of farm waste and/or water use;
- Creating or expanding partnerships with other entities such as farms, institutions or regional food-hubs for processing, selling and/or distributing agricultural products.

Grants may provide a minimum of \$15,000 and a maximum of \$50,000 for up to 50% of total project costs. The remaining 50% must be matched by the recipient. Eligible sources of recipient match are limited to cash, lines of credit and loans.

Eligibility

Eligible Farmers/Farms (*all of the following criteria must be met*):

- A farm operation of one hundred fifty acres or less located wholly within New York State which produces an agricultural product as defined by the Guidelines;

- The farm operation must have a minimum of \$10,000 in sales from products grown or derived from the farm as reflected in either personal or business 2014 or 2015 tax returns;
- All owners must be New York State residents of at least 18 years of age;
- All owners must be in the first ten years of having an ownership interest in any farm operation as of April 1, 2015;
- All owners must materially and substantially participate in the day-to-day production of an agricultural product grown or raised on the farm operation.

Eligible costs include the purchase of machinery and equipment, supplies, and/or construction or improvement of physical structures used exclusively for agricultural purposes.

Application and Guidelines

Program application and guidelines can be found at: www.esd.ny.gov/BusinessPrograms/NewFarmersGrantFund.html

Applications must be postmarked by January 22, 2016. Grant awards will be announced in the Spring of 2016.



Questions? Questions should be sent to Bonnie Devine at nyfarmfund@esd.ny.gov