



## **Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Grant**

### **Grant Description:**

The Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture (RSA) Grant is intended to provide financial assistance to Maricopa County growers to help them navigate, adapt, and succeed in our region's ever-changing environment. Faced with rapid population growth, rising temperatures, and a dwindling water supply, local growers are experiencing an unprecedented need to implement new practices in the wake of increasing land and crop loss. The changing climate not only impacts farms' ability to produce—it impacts our community's access to affordable, healthy food within Phoenix's local food system. The City of Phoenix Office of Environmental Programs (OEP) invites grant applications from private and non-profit farms interested in implementing projects designed to accelerate the transition toward a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive food system.

**Completed applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM on April 30, 2025.**

### **What Will the Grant Fund?**

The RSA Grant program will fund projects that:

- Promote efforts to reduce the impact of local food production and distribution on our changing climate (mitigation).
- Enhance the resiliency of the farm and local food system in the face of various shocks and disruptions (adaptation).
- Adopt new and/or expand existing sustainable food production practices.
- Adopt a variety of urban agricultural innovations into operations.
- Grow product lines through the implementation of agri-food technologies/innovations.
- Develop product prototypes.
- Create new jobs to implement food production related projects.
- Strengthen the economic viability of the farm by increasing the ability to grow and sell products locally.
- Advance equity within the local food system.

### **Background and Funding Information:**

The City of Phoenix is committed to developing policies and programs that tackle the challenges associated with climate change and barriers to local food production, such as water scarcity, extreme heat, urbanization, soil degradation, and farmland loss. Applicants are encouraged to review the [2025 Phoenix Food Action Plan](#) and the local food system

goals within the City's [2021 Climate Action Plan](#), which outline the City's commitment to working closely with local growers to build a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive food system. The funding source of this grant is the Farm Service Agency, passed through the University of Arizona Maricopa County Cooperative Extension's Center for Urban Smart Agriculture.

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Be located within the boundaries of Maricopa County.
- Must be actively farming, ranching, or growing.
- Have no more than 50 employees.

**Funding and Duration:**

- Total available funding through the RSA Grant program is \$225,000.
- The minimum grant request is **\$10,000**. The maximum grant request is **\$30,000**.
- The time period for projects funded through the RSA Grant is **12 months**. All funds awarded through this grant opportunity must be expended within the 12-month project period.
- Funds will be paid on a monthly reimbursement basis only. Advance payments will not be available.

**Commitment:**

- All work for this grant must be completed within 12 months after executing the official Grant Agreement with the City.
- Grant recipients must agree to the terms required by the federal government and sign a Grant Agreement. Grant applicants are encouraged to review the Sample Grant Agreement available here.
- Grant recipients are required to register as a City vendor at [Finance procurePHX Registration \(phoenix.gov\)](#).
- Grant recipient must submit monthly reports detailing their progress towards achieving their key performance measures.

**Deadline:**

- Completed applications and proposals are due **no later than 5 P.M. Wednesday, April 30, 2025**.

**Desired Project:**

This Section outlines the “Desired Project” that will result from a successful grant application. Grant applicants should review all referenced materials such as the City of Phoenix 2025 Phoenix Food Action Plan and 2021 Phoenix Climate Action Plan.

The Desired Project should:

- Promote efforts to reduce the impact of local food production/urban agriculture on our changing climate (mitigation).
- Enhance the resiliency of both the farm and local food system in the face of various shocks and disruptions (adaptation).
- Adopt new and/or expand existing sustainable food production practices
- Advance equity within the local food system.
- Strengthen the economic viability of the farm by increasing the ability to grow and sell products locally.
- Applicants should outline how partnering with the City on implementing resilience and sustainability measures will help the entity continue to grow food in an increasingly arid urban environment subject to extreme heat and drought.
- Contribute to greater capacity to distribute healthy food to people in need.
  - In Phoenix, there are 43 total food deserts, which account for over 75% of food deserts within Maricopa County.

**Criteria:**

Proposals will be evaluated through the following:

- Project plan
  - Project plan must include one or more of the desired project characteristics detailed in the previous section.
  - Project plan must clearly demonstrate how project works toward creating a more resilient food system.
  - Project plan must include a timeline outlining how the project will be completed within 12 months.
- Project Budget
  - Budget is clear and presented as requested.
  - Refer to below project budget details under Proposal Instructions section.
- Qualifications and experience of applicant(s)
  - Please outline qualifications and prior experiences of each food system entity and team members.
  - Please outline any prior work done in partnership with the FSA/CITY/MCCE.

**Proposal Instructions:**

Grant applicants must attach a project proposal as part of this application process. A template is included at the end of this document.

At a minimum, applicant proposals should include:

- Project plan
  - Project summary
  - Project timeline
- Eligible Costs and Project budget
  - Personnel (salary and wages)
  - Fringe Benefits
  - Equipment
  - Supplies
  - Contractual Services
  - Consultant (professional services)
  - Occupancy (rent and utilities)
  - Training and Education
  - Administrative costs
  - Miscellaneous costs
  - Other costs
- Qualifications and experience of applicant(s)
  - Outline prior experience/projects of individual and/or project team.
- Attachments
  - Photos
  - Maps
  - Design specs
  - Other

**Examples of Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Projects:**

- Projects include but are not limited to:
  - Water management and efficiency measures,
  - Green and climate resilient infrastructure,
  - GHG emissions reduction,
  - Regenerative agriculture practices or carbon farming,
  - Greenhouses with sustainability features,
  - Shade structures and shade cloth,
  - Enhancing wildlife habitat and biodiversity,

- Renewable energy (agrivoltaics, photovoltaics, etc.),
- Soil health improvement projects,
- Planting native crops,
- Hydroponics and aquaponics production,
- Vertical farming,
- Smart farming,
- Food waste mitigation efforts.

You will be notified about the status of your application within 30 calendar days from the closing date of April 30, 2025.

If you have any questions or need help in completing this application, please contact Maddie Mercer at [maddeline.mercer@phoenix.gov](mailto:maddeline.mercer@phoenix.gov) or call 602-534-5387.