



DCHHS

Dallas County Health and Human Services

Healthy People Healthy Communities
Health and Social Equity



Environmental Quality & Sustainability

Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Support Program

Dallas County Health and Human Services & The City of Dallas

Background

The USDA defines food security as the assurance that everyone has consistent access to a safe and adequate food supply for a healthy and active life. This not only involves the availability of nutritionally sufficient foods but also the ability to acquire them. Food insecurity has become a growing public health concern in the United States, especially heightened by the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Dallas County, being the second-largest county in Texas, has a population where approximately 65% identify as Black or Latino. The county faces significant health challenges, with chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease being leading causes of death.

To address these health threats and enhance the well-being of vulnerable individuals, a rising number of urban growers, organizations, and local entities in Dallas County have initiated various urban agriculture projects and initiatives. These endeavors aim to combat hunger and increase access to nutrient-rich foods.

In many urban areas, including Dallas, a significant portion of the population faces challenges in accessing healthy food, often due to a limited supply of locally produced affordable options. In an effort to address this issue, DCHHS and the City of Dallas are announcing Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Support pilot program grant.

Objective

The main goal of UAISP is to strengthen the capacities of urban growers and farmers in the city, thereby advancing food security, fostering healthier communities, and mitigating disparities within the local food system. UAISP strives to offer funding that addresses the expenses associated with executing projects aimed at improving agricultural infrastructure in the City of Dallas. Specifically, the program aims to assist farmers and food growers in the planning, design, and installation of eligible infrastructures, while also streamlining the permitting process.

Funding

The available amount for this pilot program grant is \$99,600 with maximum reimbursements up to \$10,000 per applicant.

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, individuals or establishments must fulfill the following criteria:

- a) Engage in edible farming and gardening, and/or participate in aggregation, and/or process agricultural food products.
- b) Contribute to the local food system by either engaging in food production and/or facilitating access to healthy and safe foods.
- c) Clearly demonstrate a need for funding to improve food-related infrastructure.

Allowable Expenditures

Permissible costs mainly encompass expenditures associated with the planning, design, and/or implementation of power or **water** infrastructure to support the production, **aggregation**, and/or processing of food. Projects involved in activities falling within this scope will receive preferential consideration during the application evaluation and selection process. Additionally, costs associated with structures and practices facilitating year-round production and storage of food will also be eligible. The following is an itemized list of some costs that the program will reimburse:

- a) Project/Infrastructure plans or designs.
- b) Urban agriculture infrastructure counseling and professional services.
- c) Utility connections to on or off-grid water systems, including drip irrigations.
- d) Utility connections for off-grid energy supporting urban agriculture operations.
- e) Contracted labor/installations.
- f) Greenhouses/hoop houses.
- g) Versatile high tunnels (multi-season).
- h) Cold storage/temperature control equipment.
- i) Grow light systems.
- j) Bee hives.
- k) Other expenses deemed allowable by DCHHS & the City of Dallas.

Non-Allowable Expenditures

The following is a list of some non-allowable costs that will not be reimbursed by the program:

- a) Personnel payments.
- b) Beautification projects, including fences and signage.
- c) Farming and gardening supplies.
- d) Training payments.
- e) Credit and debt payments.
- f) Other expenses deemed non-allowable by DCHHS & the City of Dallas.

Application Process

About the Application

All applicants are required to submit their mini-grant application for the UAISP using the provided UAISP mini-grant application form. The application for funding under the program must include the following information:

- a. **Project Description:** Detailed information about the project seeking reimbursement grant funds, including how the project aims to enhance agricultural infrastructure in Dallas and contribute to food security.
- b. **Budget:** An itemized outline of the project budget and expenditures.
- c. **Sustainability:** Description of additional financial and other resources, including community support (such as volunteers and other stakeholders). This section should also include an indication of a minimum three-year operational plan.
- d. **Community Impact:** Explanation of the project's impact on underserved communities and its contribution to efforts in mitigating health disparities.
- e. **Project Timeline:** A schedule outlining the implementation plan for the project.
- f. **Attestation:** A signed attestation by the applicant, affirming the accuracy of the information provided in the application.

How to submit the application

The application attached herewith must be submitted to the DCHHS Chronic Disease Prevention Division by September 2, 2024, 12pm Central Standard Time, for consideration of funding. Completed applications can be submitted via email or online. Following the receipt of applications, the CDPD will evaluate each submission based on project merit, sustainability, project impact, and community engagement, as outlined in the Evaluation Criteria Table. Additionally, DCHHS CDPD staff will conduct a site visit to the project site to verify the information provided in the application and address any relevant queries.

Applicants for the Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Support Program have two submission options:

1. **Online Submission:** Utilize the online form accessible on the DCHHS Chronic Disease Prevention Division webpage through the provided link. (Please note that there is currently no "Save and continue later" feature, so applicants must complete the form in one session and submit it). [\[Click here to apply online.\]](#)
2. **Email Submission:** Download the application form from the DCHHS Chronic Disease Prevention Division webpage ([Click Here](#)) and send the completed application along with relevant documents to chronic.disease@dallascounty.org. Please include "FY2024 Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Support Program" in the email subject. Alternatively, you can request the form by contacting the DCHHS Chronic Disease Prevention Division at chronic.disease@dallascounty.org or (214) 819-5115.
3. Application results will be sent via email in November 2024.



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**Environmental
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URBAN AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT PROGRAM

DALLAS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
 &
 THE CITY OF DALLAS

URBAN AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Contact Information

Entity/Individual Name	
Business Name	
Mailing Address:	
Phone	
Email Address:	
Website:	

Objective

In 150-300 words, describe how well the proposed project aligns with the goals and objectives of the grant program.

Infrastructure Need

In 150-300 words, describe what is your infrastructure need for your agriculture operation and how would this grant funding address that need.

Impact on Food Access (Community Health)

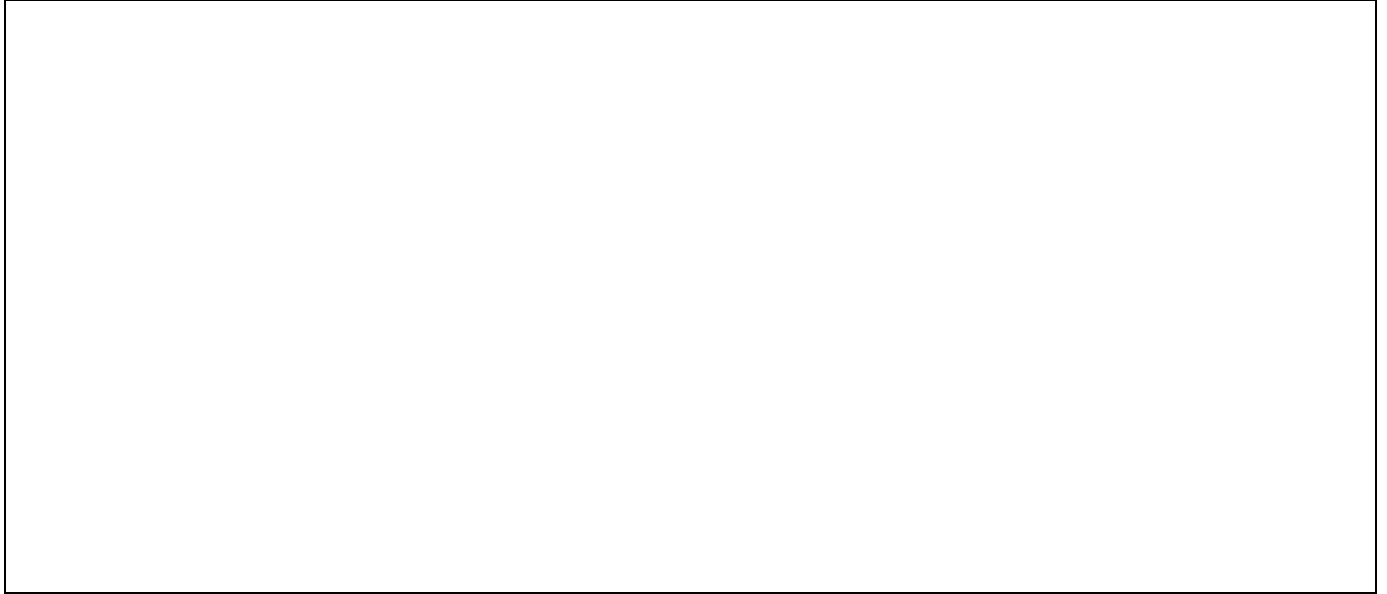
In 150-300 words, describe how the project impacts the food access to Dallas community. (Does the project impact target/high-risk communities?)

Community Engagement

In 150-300 words, describe how your urban agriculture site collaborates with community partners. (Does the project involve the community?)

Impact on Equity in Food Security (Health Disparities)

In 150-300 words, describe how the project will help narrow health disparities that exist in Dallas County. (Does the project address food insecurity, promote healthy food consumption, and promote equity in food security?)

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Project/Description of Expenditures

Provide a comprehensive budget that covers how you would expend the funds. Please list all major items that you intend to procure and corresponding cost estimates (*examples of categories include Project/infrastructure plans or designs, Urban agriculture infrastructure counseling and professional services, Utility connections to on or off-grid water systems, including drip irrigations, Utility connections for off-grid energy supporting urban agriculture operations, and Contracted labor/installations etc.*).

Category	Items	Cost (estimate)	Remark (If any)
Total			

Project Timeline

In 150-300 words, outline a realistic timeline for project implementation, detailing key milestones and project deadlines.

Sustainability

In 150-300 words describe a detailed 3+ year plan. (Include if the project has substantial support from the community and a stable source of financial support)

Signature Page

*Please email any supporting documents relevant to this application to the following email address chronic.disease@dallascounty.org (use subject line UAISG Supporting Documents).

I have completed this application and I confirm that the information contained within this application is truthful to the best of my knowledge.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____