

Current and Upcoming Grant Programs for Fruit and Vegetable Farmers

January 2019

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program



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Deadline Soon!



- NYS Grown & Certified Marketing Program for Agricultural Producers
- NYS Grown & Certified Marketing Program for Retail Establishments
- NYS Grown & Certified Farmer Grant
- Labor Ready Farmer HR Technical Assistance Grant
- Orange County Farm Labor Housing Cost Share

NYS Grown & Certified Marketing Program for Agricultural Producers

Funder: NYS Ag and Markets

Deadline: Funds are available until January 31, 2019, on a first come, first served basis until funds for this purpose are exhausted.

Purpose: The New York State Grown & Certified (NYSGC) Cooperative Marketing Program provides funding to eligible agricultural food and beverage producers who are currently enrolled in the NYSGC program as well as to new enrollees into the program. Funds should be used to facilitate the long-term use of the NYSGC seal or logo on product packaging and/or at point-of-sale location.

NYS Grown & Certified Marketing Program for Agricultural Producers

Total Funding Available: \$250,000.00

Maximum Grant: Reimbursement for expenses not to exceed \$5,000.00 will be made available to each eligible applicant. Applicants may only be awarded funding once per funding round.

Awardees of previous rounds of funding may apply for and receive funding for new and distinct projects. Funds are distributed on a reimbursement basis.

Cost Share/Match? No

Application is available on NYS Ag and Markets Website:
<https://certified.ny.gov/funding-opportunities>

NYS Grown & Certified Marketing Program for Retail Participants

Funder: NYS Ag and Markets

Deadline: Funds are available until January 31, 2019, on a first come, first served basis until funds for this purpose are exhausted.

Purpose: The program provides funding to retailers to increase marketing and promotional activities that build lasting consumer awareness, understanding, and exposure to eligible NYS Grown & Certified (NYSGC) products.

The program is open to any retailer in New York State who participates in the NYSGC program by signing a licensing agreement.

NYS Grown & Certified Marketing Program for Retail Participants

Funding Available: \$225,000.00

Maximum Grant: A maximum of **\$20,000.00** is available per retailer. Funding per category will not exceed **\$10,000.00**, and applicants may apply for up to two categories.

Projects must focus on promoting at least one of the following categories:

1. Specialty crops which include produce, fruit, maple, wine/hard cider, nursery, Christmas trees and greenhouse crops; and/or
2. Dairy, livestock, or shellfish products.

Cost Share/Match? No

Application is available on NYS Ag and Markets Website: <https://certified.ny.gov/funding-opportunities>

NYS Grown & Certified Farmer Grant

Funder: NYS Ag and Markets, but these grants are being administered regionally.

Purpose: To help producers meet the food safety standards necessary for participation in NYS Grown & Certified Program.

Eligibility:

Must be applying to the NYS Grown and Certified Program or be enrolled in the Program. See this website <https://certified.ny.gov/get-certified> to find out what is required to enroll your products in the NYS Grown and Certified program (rules vary by commodity or product)

Contact Soil and Water to participate in NYS AEM program and complete Tier 2 (or higher) certification.

Must be able to meet food safety protocol for your industry in order to participate in the NYS Grown & Certified. The grant can help to achieve this.

Must stay in the NYSGC program for 5 years after receiving the funding (or pay back funds)

NYS Grown & Certified Farmer Grant

Eligible producers can apply for up to **\$50,000** and must provide at least 10% of the project cost in cash, loans or other grants.

Accepting applications:

Fulton, Montgomery, Herkimer, Oneida, Otsego, Schoharie (quarterly deadlines)
<http://cceoneida.com/agriculture/buy-local/new-york-state-grown-certified>

Columbia, Albany, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer and Schenectady (Deadline February 8, 2019)
<https://www.hvadc.org/nys-grown-and-certified>

Jefferson, Lewis, St Lawrence, Clinton, Essex, Franklin and Hamilton Counties (no deadline listed)
<https://www.danc.org/business-development>

Closed for applications:

Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester

Administered by CCE Dutchess County see: <http://ccedutchess.org/agriculture/-nys-grown-certified-agricultural-producers-grant-program>

Labor Ready Farmer Technical Assistance Grant

Cornell Small Farms Program (USDA Beginning Farmer Grant)

Purpose: To help farmers improve their Human Resource practices on their farm. Provides up to **\$1200** for direct technical assistance to make HR/management improvements. Funding can include assistance with paperwork, compliance, development of employee manuals and policies, H2A readiness, assistance with training and assessment.

Eligible Applicants: Beginning Farmers (farm owners), Next-gen farmers moving into managerial roles, farm managers who plan to own a farm (with support of current farm owner)

Application Deadline: Reviewing applications in February 2019. Eligible farmers accepted until funds are fully obligated.

To apply <https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/projects/labor-ready-farmer-2/>

Orange County Farmworker Housing Rehabilitation Program

Funder: Orange County Office of Community Development

Purpose: The Orange County Farmworker Housing Rehabilitation Program is made available through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Under this program, owners of housing occupied by farmworkers with low incomes (less than 80% of the County median) are offered deferred grants in order to repair and upgrade their units. The program is administered by the Orange County Office of Community Development.

Eligible Applicants: To qualify, the properties must be a working, owner operated farm in Orange County and buildings to be rehabilitated must be used as a residence for seasonal or year-round farmworkers at rental rates that do not exceed 30% of household income. Owners must agree to make residential units assisted under the Program available for this purpose for a regulatory period of time as stated in Item IV of this document.

Application Deadline: February 4th, 2019

To apply <https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/projects/labor-ready-farmer-2/>

Orange County Farmworker Housing Rehabilitation Program

Maximum Funding: The County will provide owners with deferred grants in amounts not to exceed 75% of the total rehabilitation costs of the project. The applicant/owner will be required to provide a cash match of at least 25% of the total rehabilitation cost. The cash funds necessary to complete the rehabilitation shall be delivered to County at the time of the Grant Agreement/Promissory Note execution. The County will place these funds in escrow with the grant funds in the name of the premises. If project costs increase post-contract the owner will be responsible for the additional costs.

To apply: <https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/projects/labor-ready-farmer-2/>

Upcoming Deadlines.

- **Rural Energy for America Program – Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Grants and Loans**



Rural Energy for America Program – Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Grants and Loans

Funder: USDA Rural Development

Deadline: April 1, 2019 (applications for loans accepted anytime)

Purpose: Provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase or install renewable energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements.

Eligible Applicants: Ag business with at least 50% of gross income coming from agricultural operations. Or small businesses in rural areas (> 50,000 people)

Rural Energy for America Program – Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Grants and Loans

Grant Maximum: Grants for **up to 25% of eligible project costs**. Maximum **grant for energy system is \$500,000** and the maximum grant for **energy efficiency is \$250,000**. Combined grant and loan funding of up to 75% of total eligible project costs.

Small Project Track: A small project track \$20,000 or less with an expedited application process and allocated funding.

To apply: get applications from State USDA Rural Development Office
www.rd.usda.gov/ny

No Deadline.

- **Organic Certification Cost Share**
- **GAPS Certification Cost Share**



Organic Certification Grant

Funder: USDA AMS, but applications are through your USDA FSA county office.

Purpose: Provides cost share to farmers to help them obtain or renew their certification under the National Organic Program.

Maximum funding: Operations may receive up to 75 percent of their certification costs paid, not to exceed \$750 per certification scope.

To Apply: Contact your county USDA FSA office.

Good Agricultural Practices Certification Assistance Program

Funder: NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

Purpose: To help growers receive GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) certifications by reimbursing growers and handlers the cost, up to \$1000, of GAP and GHP audits, as well as the costs of water testing.

Funding availability: Funding for this program is available on a first come, first serve basis and is provided by the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

To apply: Application is available on NYS Ag and Markets Website:
<https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/gap/gap-for-growers/fundingsupport-for-growers/>