



# Small Farmer Grant

Status & Methodology Update

November 14, 2023

# Presentation

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# Program Review & Status of Payments

- 2021 Creation of the grant supporting social and economic opportunity for all and recognizes the importance of small farms to the community. 37 Applications scored with 3 applications receiving awards (full and partial)
- 2023 – All applications with scores of 30.0 and higher awarded via Revenue Recovery. 24 applications met this criteria

# Program Review & Status of Payments

- As of October 2023, 17 of 24 awardees were issued payments. \$52,494 in total.
- Ten (10) received full payment.
- Seven (7) received partial payment. Staff are awaiting final documentation to pay out the remainder of the grant awards.
- Six (6) have not responded to staff's attempt to contact them.
- One applicant is no longer farming and declined the funds.
- Staff will continue to keep the funds allocated by the Board but not distributed to awarded applicants.
- All funds not dispersed in six months will roll forward



# Examples of Materials Purchased



# Update to the Methodology

- Clarifying Language
- Incentives
- Tie-In to Other County Food System Projects
- Scoring Change 50 total points (40 for Viability, Economic, Equity Priorities + 5 points for Farm Plan + 5 points if not previously awarded)
- 25% Up Front Payment/75% Payout with Documentation

# Grant Criteria

- Resident of Alachua County with a Farm/Ranch with an Agricultural Exemption in the County
- Equipment/Infrastructure requests only
- Economic Priority: small farms, no more than \$250,000/year (Up to 10 Points)
- Priority of Equity (10 Points)
- Viability of Use Priority (Up to 20 Points)
- Farm Plan (5 Points) & Not Previously Awarded (5 Points)



Examples of Eligible Operations and Related Farm Products	
Eligible Food Operations:	Activity / Products:
Mushrooms from owned land or structure	Mushrooms for food
Cow, Pig, Chicken, Goose, Duck	Meat
Aquaculture, land tanks, on-farm ponds, salt water farms	Cultured fish or shellfish, kelp for human consumption
Nurseries, greenhouses	Vegetable, fruit, berry, other food crops or plants
Honeybees	Honey and honeycomb
Examples of Eligible Capital Equipment	
Eligible Capital Infrastructure or Equipment:	Activity / Products:
Exterior Infrastructure	Fencing, Buildings, Greenhouse, and Storage Facilities, Signage, Temporary-Portable Covering (Tent Systems), Utility Connections and Expansion
Interior Capital Equipment	Point of Sale Systems, Display and Rack Systems, Refrigeration, Freezer, Food Processing Equipment, Sanitization Equipment, Packing/Sorting Equipment, Cooking Equipment
Exterior Capital Equipment	Farm Equipment, Irrigation Systems, Lighting, Tractors, Harvesters



# Farm Plan Incentive

Encourage farmers to create a farm plan to increase the financial sustainability of the operations.

- (5-point bonus) The applicant has taken the Ag Extension Office's Agricultural Entrepreneurial Series (AES) and has a Farm Plan in place.
- If the applicant does not have a farm plan direct them to Ag Extension for workshop/assistance.
- Budget \$6,750 for scholarships from 052.17.1770.552.82.53 for up to 50 small farmers (\$135/farm) for the AES.

# Timeline to Next Award

- November 2023 – January 2024: Outreach & Encourage Signup for Extension Office Farm Plan Course.
- February – June 2024: Accept Applications
- July 2024: Staff Review and Ranking of Applications
- August 2024: Board Award of Next Grant Cohort

## **Recommended Action**

Approve updated methodology and direct staff to solicit new applications in 2024.

# Questions?