STATE OF NEW YORK

8073

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

June 11, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. LUPARDO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Economic Development

AN ACT to amend the urban development corporation act, in relation to the beginning farmers NY fund

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivisions 2 and 3 of section 16-w of section 1 of chapter 174 of the laws of 1968, constituting the urban development corporation act, subdivision 2 as amended by section 1 of part W of chapter 58 of the laws of 2016, and subdivision 3 as amended by section 1 of part FF of chapter 58 of the laws of 2015, are amended to read as follows:

2. The corporation shall consult with the department of agriculture and markets in order to establish such criteria governing the award of grants as authorized herein, as the corporation and such department deem necessary. Such criteria shall include, but not be limited to, farmers who have not produced an "agricultural product" as defined by section three hundred twenty-eight of the agriculture and markets law, for more than ten consecutive years, and who will materially and substantially participate in the production of an agricultural product within a region of the state. **Such criteria shall also include priority for applicants who are economically disadvantaged or who are socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers as defined by 7 U.S.C. §2279(a).**

3. Appropriations to the beginning farmers NY fund may be used for the following purposes:

(a) to assist farmers in demonstrating innovative agricultural techniques including, but not limited to, organic farming and specialty crops.

(b) capital grants in accordance with a business plan to improve farm profitability. Upon completion of such business plan, recipients shall be eligible for capital grants **of not less than five thousand dollars**

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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and not more than fifty thousand dollars to enhance the profitability of farming operations**, including on land under lease by the recipient**. Such grants may be used for purposes including, but not limited to, the purchase of machinery or the construction or improvement of physical structures**, including semi-permanent structures**. Any capital grant shall be issued with a one-to-one match between the state and recipient.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of April next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.