

# STATE OF NEW YORK

6067

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

April 2, 2021

Introduced by Sen. HINCHEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

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:

1 Section 1. Subdivisions 2 and 3 of section 16-w of section 1 of chap-  
2 ter 174 of the laws of 1968, constituting the urban development corpo-  
3 ration act, subdivision 2 as amended by section 1 of part W of chapter  
4 58 of the laws of 2016, and subdivision 3 as amended by section 1 of  
5 part FF of chapter 58 of the laws of 2015, are amended to read as  
6 follows:

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

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

20 (a) to assist farmers in demonstrating innovative agricultural tech-  
21 niques including, but not limited to, organic farming and specialty  
22 crops.

23 (b) capital grants in accordance with a business plan to improve farm  
24 profitability. Upon completion of such business plan, recipients shall

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

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1 be eligible for capital grants of not less than five thousand dollars  
2 and not more than fifty thousand dollars to enhance the profitability of  
3 farming operations, including on land under lease by the recipient. Such  
4 grants may be used for purposes including, but not limited to, the  
5 purchase of machinery or the construction or improvement of physical  
6 structures, including semi-permanent structures. Any capital grant  
7 shall be issued with a one-to-one match between the state and recipient.  
8 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of April next succeeding  
9 the date on which it shall have become a law.