STATE OF NEW YORK

4996

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 27, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. SLATER, BEEPHAN, BENDETT, E. BROWN, DeSTEFANO, GALLAHAN, HAWLEY, MAHER, MILLER, TAGUE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to establishing a community gardening grant program to strengthen local food chain resiliency

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

Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new section 31-k to read as follows:

§ 31-k. Food chain resiliency through community gardening grant program. 1. Definition. For purposes of this section, "eligible entity" means a nonprofit organization and any city, county, town, township, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of the state, excluding cities with a population of one million or more.

2. Food chain resiliency through community gardening grant program. There is hereby created within the department the food chain resiliency through community gardening grant program. Subject to the availability of funds, the department shall award grants to eligible entities to expand, establish, or maintain community gardens for the purpose of strengthening the resiliency of local food supply chains.

3. Eligible projects. Projects eligible under this section shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) the establishment of a community garden, the purpose of which shall be to support the needs of local food banks and food pantries;

(b) a community garden established on land owned by an eligible entity;

(c) re-granting to other organizations to support startups and capacity building;

(d) planning and consulting; and

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

LBD08552-02-3

(e) improvements to infrastructure related to food production, food storage, and food distribution areas.

4. Eligible costs. (a) Funding will be available through a competitive process to support projects that focus on increased local food production and improved local food resiliency. Eligible grant expenses shall include, but are not limited to:

(i) equipment for food storage, including refrigerators, food storage bins, and shelves;

(ii) equipment for food production and gardening, including costs for the rental or purchase of garden equipment and tools;

(iii) operating expenses including seeds, plants, pollinator plants, fencing, irrigation supplies, garden maintenance and beautification projects;

(iv) other capital improvements; and

(v) costs associated with preparing an application.

(b) Eligible entities shall provide ten percent funding, leveraging ninety percent in state funds. Grants to eligible entities may not exceed thirty thousand dollars, to be disbursed over a period of time not to exceed three years, after which eligible entities would be required to re-apply for grant funding.

5. Application. In order to receive a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the department an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the department may require, including:

(a) an assurance that priority for volunteers needed for the expansion, establishment, or maintenance of a community garden funded with a grant received under this section will be given to individuals who reside in the community where the garden is located; and

(b) a demonstration that the eligible entity is committed to providing financial or in-kind support for the community garden for which the entity receives funds under this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.