

# STATE OF NEW YORK

2249

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 16, 2025

Introduced by Sens. COMRIE, BRISPORT -- 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 Assem-  
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivisions 2, 3 and 5 of section 16-w of section 1 of  
2 chapter 174 of the laws of 1968 constituting the urban development  
3 corporation act, subdivision 2 as amended by section 1 of part W of  
4 chapter 58 of the laws of 2016 and subdivisions 3 and 5 as amended by  
5 section 1 of part FF of chapter 58 of the laws of 2015, are amended to  
6 read as 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 consider farm income and farm  
16 investments as necessary to accommodate beginning farmers reporting less  
17 than ten thousand dollars of annual farm income.

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 to enhance the profitability of farming  
2 operations, including on land under lease by the recipient. Such grants  
3 may be used for purposes including, but not limited to, the purchase of  
4 machinery or the construction or improvement of physical structures,  
5 including semi-permanent structures. Recipients of awards for  
6 construction or improvement of physical structures on land under lease  
7 by the award recipient, shall receive compensation for or retain owner-  
8 ship of such structures. Any capital grant shall be issued with a one-  
9 to-one match between the state and recipient.

10 5. The beginning farmers NY fund shall not invest an amount in any  
11 single beneficiary that is less than one thousand dollars or that  
12 exceeds fifty thousand dollars, subject to any exceptions to be estab-  
13 lished by guidelines of the corporation. The corporation shall estab-  
14 lish award tiers to accommodate awards of less than fifteen thousand  
15 dollars. Awards of five thousand dollars or less shall be awarded in a  
16 single payment prior to project completion.

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