

**MARYLAND FARMS AND FAMILIES PROGRAM**  
**REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS, 2020**  
**AUTHORITY:** Md. Code Ann. Agric. Art., §§10-2001 et seq.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is seeking requests for grant proposals (RFGP) from qualifying non-profit organizations, including nonprofit farmers markets and local nonprofit organizations partnering with one or more participating local farmers markets for projects to be funded under the Maryland Farms and Families Program (the Program). The Program's purpose is to double the purchasing power of food-insecure residents of Maryland with limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables and to increase revenue for farmers through redemption of federal nutrition benefits at Maryland farmers markets.

A grant proposal:

1. Shall include a plan for August 3, 2020-June 30, 2021 to match purchases of Maryland citizens at participating farmers markets throughout the State made with checks from the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits and Women, Infants and Children benefits.
2. Shall distribute at least 70 percent of the granted amount directly to participating Maryland farmers markets for matching dollars for purchases made with FMNP, SNAP and WIC benefits. **Limitation on the use of funds** (No more than 30 percent of the funds may be used for program development, promotion and outreach, farmers market training and capacity building, technical assistance, program data collection, evaluation and administration.) Distribution of more than 70 percent of the grant in the form of incentives is encouraged and will be considered in ranking of applications. In its proposal, the applicant shall indicate the percentage of the granted amount that will be distributed to participating Maryland farmers markets.
3. Proposals shall be no more than 30 pages (8 ½ by 11, 11 point type, double spaced) in length with supporting documentation, and shall include a detailed Scope of Work.

**Eligible Applicants:** To qualify to receive a grant under this program, the Department must determine that the nonprofit organization has a demonstrated record of designing and implementing successful healthy food incentive programs that connect federal food benefit recipients with local farmers; implementing funds distribution and maintaining reporting processes; providing training and technical assistance to farmers markets; conducting community outreach and data collection, including customer surveys. Additionally, the Department seeks organizations that have completed initiatives addressing access to fresh produce in food deserts. In its proposal, the applicant must furnish proof that it is a qualifying organization.

**Successful applicants shall** submit a report to MDA of the names and locations of farmers markets that received funds under this program, the dollar amount of funds awarded to each, the dollar amount of FMNP, SNAP and WIC benefits used at each market participating as well as any unspent matching funds at each market. Additionally, the report shall include the number of FMNP, SNAP and WIC transactions carried out at participating farmers markets and an assessment of the program's effectiveness in increasing consumption of fresh, local fruits and vegetables by FMNP, SNAP and WIC families as determined by customer surveys.

**RFGP Posting Date:** June 22, 2020

**Application Deadline:** No later than 5:00PM, July 6, 2020

**Submit to:** Mark.Powell@maryland.gov

**Estimated Total Program Funding Available for this funding cycle:** ~\$100,000

**Award Ceiling:** \$100,000

**Award Floor:** \$25,000

**Opportunity category:** Competitive Grants

**Other Funds/Cost Share or Matching Requirements:** None, but encouraged. If the applicant is providing matching funds, it should be stated in the proposal, including the amount of the match.

**Selection Criteria:** Eligible applications that are received prior to the deadline will be evaluated on a competitive basis. MDA will review, rank, and make funding recommendations based upon the above criteria, including the criteria specified in Md. Code Ann. Agric. §§10-2001 et seq.

**Budget:** The applicant shall include a budget with its proposal setting forth how it will distribute/use the grant.

**Timeline**

**Date of Posting of RFP:** June 22, 2020

**Deadline for Application Submission:** July 6, 2020 5:00 PM

**Proposal Review Period:** July 7-July 13, 2020

**Notifications of Funding Decisions:** July 14, 2020

**Grant Agreements sent to grantees for signatures:** Within 1 working week after Notifications.

**Signed Grant Agreements returned to MDA:** With 1 working week.