

Application for Growing Equity Partnership

Join the Growing Equity Partnership! The Growing Equity Partnership will build the capacity of 20 partner organizations providing business technical assistance (BTA) to underserved farmers and ranchers. The participating organizations will join a national cohort of service providers and benefit from networking opportunities with peer organizations. Participating organizations will also receive a 4-year funding commitment to flexibly fund their existing or new work with underserved farmers and their participation in the Growing Equity Partnership.

Participating organizations should provide 1-1 BTA and work with farmers or ranchers to achieve one or more of the following: build resilient businesses; gain financial and tax literacy; increase market access; further farm management skills; manage risk; execute a business transfer or succession; access or retain land; or access capital.

The Growing Equity Partnership seeks to expand access to BTA among underserved farmers and ranchers, including socially disadvantaged, limited resource, LGBTQ+, and veteran farmers, as well as farms that are small and mid-sized, serve local and regional markets, and are located in impoverished areas. American Farmland Trust (AFT) is pleased to be partnering with Black Family Land Trust (BFLT), The Carrot Project (TCP), and the Agricultural Viability Alliance (Alliance). Funded through USDA-NIFA (The National Institute of Food and Agriculture), this project is intended to increase the quality and quantity of business technical assistance to underserved producers, including through a greater understanding of and potential participation in USDA programs and services.

The following are eligibility requirements for future partners.

1. My organization currently provides one or more of the following types of support to underserved farmers and ranchers. (Please check all that apply)

Individualized technical assistance

Assistance in determining eligibility for and applying to USDA programs

Skills development through workshops and trainings

Information sharing about USDA programs

None of the above

Other _____

2. My organization currently provides business technical assistance related to one or more of the following topics. (Please check all that apply):

- Financial and tax literacy
- Market development
- Farm management
- Business development
- Farm transfer and succession
- Access to capital
- Access to land
- Access to land retention
- Risk management
- Climate adaptation

Now we would like to ask you a few questions about the USDA NIFA American Rescue Plan Technical Assistance Investment Program.

3. This initiative is funded through the USDA NIFA American Rescue Plan Technical Assistance Investment Program (ARPTAIP).

Did your organization apply to ARPTAIP?

Yes

No

Display This Question:

If This initiative is funded through the USDA NIFA American Rescue Plan Technical Assistance Investm... = Yes

4. Were you awarded a grant through the American Rescue Plan Technical Assistance Investment Program?

Yes

No

Display This Question:

If Were you awarded a grant through the American Rescue Plan Technical Assistance Investment Program? = No

5. Since you applied and were not awarded a grant, please explain the justification you received for not being funded.

Display This Question:

If This initiative is funded through the USDA NIFA American Rescue Plan Technical Assistance Investm... = No

6. Why did you choose not to apply? (Select all that apply)

- Lack of staff capacity to write the proposal
- Lack of staff capacity to implement the grant if funded
- Lack of staff time to develop a proposal given risk of it not being funded
- Did not consider it
- Was not aware
- Other _____

7. Please provide your organization information below:

Organization Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Website/Social media handles:

Lead Contact Name: _____

8. Please describe how the farmers you work with meet the definition of Underserved Farmers and Ranchers. As a reminder, for the purposes of this project, an Underserved Farmer and Rancher includes socially disadvantaged, limited resource, LGBTQ+, and veteran farmers, as well as farms that are small and mid-sized and are located in impoverished areas.

9. How many years have your organization been involved with providing business technical assistance with underserved farmers and ranchers?

- Have not done it
- Less than 1 year
- 1-4 years
- 5-10 years
- More than 10 years
- Other _____

10. Please describe your experience with helping underserved farmers and ranchers successfully complete applications with USDA programs. (150 words)

11. Please share relevant impacts, indicators of success working with underserved producers. (150 words)

12. Please describe your organization's approach to reaching underserved producers. How do you engage, communicate, and support these producers with providing BTA to them? (150 words)

13. How many underserved farmers and ranchers do you reach in a year?

Via trainings and workshops : _____

Via information dissemination (newsletters, online resources, etc.) : _____

Other : _____

Total : _____

14. How many hours do you spend coaching and providing individual assistance to underserved farmers and ranchers per week?

- Less than 1 hour
- 1 hour to 2 hours
- 2 hours to 3 hours
- 3 hours to 4 hours
- 4 hours to 5 hours
- 5 hours and up

15. How often do you meet with underserved farmers throughout the year?

- Never
- Once a year
- Twice a year
- Once a month
- Weekly
- Daily
- Other _____

16. What are your signature events/programs and how do you promote them?

17. How will your participation in the Growing Equity Partnership build the capacity of your organization in providing BTA to underserved farmers and ranchers? (150 words)

18. Do you have any questions or needs as a potential participant in this partnership?

To conclude the application please provide any additional information about your organization that is relevant to Growing Equity Partnership application.

19. Is there anything else you would like to add about your organization and your approach to serving underserved farmers?
