



Request for Proposals: Urban Farming Education and Programming to Advance Sustainability, Climate Resilience, and Sales Capacity

Issued by: Eastern Market and City of Detroit Office of Sustainability

Total Available Funding: \$225,000 awards

RFP Posted: September 26, 2025

Proposal Due Date: October 30, 2025

Review Period: November-December

Awards Announced: December 2025

Grant Period: January 1– December 30, 2026

Mid Report Due: June 2026

Final Report Due: December 2026

Overview

The Eastern Market Partnership and City of Detroit Office of Sustainability Urban Agriculture Division are pleased to announce grant funding opportunities to Detroit-based farmers and farmer collectives to lead community-serving projects that support food sovereignty, environmental education, climate resilience, and sustainable land use. These grants are designed to get resources directly to growers and collectives, while advancing the city's sustainability goals.

This effort also advances the goals of the Eastern Market to increase sales channels for Detroit's urban growers. In recent years, Eastern Market has increased its programming for small-scale urban farms including dedicated vending space during Saturday markets, LFPA food box purchasing agreements with Detroit growers, and dedicated dock and refrigeration space at Shed 7, a new wholesale distribution center that will open in Spring 2026.

Funding Tiers

Grants are available at two levels, depending on size and capacity of the farm/farm collective:

Tier 1: \$50,000 (3 awards available)

- Intended for farmer collectives or multi-farm collaborations or cooperative Groups
- Projects should include multiple community offerings or large-scale public benefit

Sample Tier 1 Project Ideas :

- Land Purchase and Permitting Training,
- Food Safety and Tractability trainings
- Agribusiness development, Farmstead development
- Equipment and tools,
- Soil management and remediation

Tier 2: \$15,000 (5 individual)

- Intended for individual farms or smaller partnerships
- Projects should include at least 2–3 public-facing deliverables (e.g., workshops, open farm days, educational installations)

Sample Tier 2 Project Ideas

- Farm tours or on-site educational programming
- Composting site development, tours, or workshops
- Soil testing and soil health education
- Invasive species education and control
- Motor City Makeover programming (e.g., seed giveaways, beautification events, community workdays)
- Youth or intergenerational programming on farms
- Market stand or vendor development training
- Animal care workshops and public demonstrations
- Safety, tractability, and permitting trainings
- Branding, signage, and marketing assistance
- Water access solutions (e.g., totes, education on water rights)
- Public cooking demonstrations, tastings, or food giveaways
- Training on land stewardship, land trusts, and cooperative models
- Agribusiness education and peer mentorship

Eligible Activities for both Tiers

Projects must serve the public through education, engagement, or demonstration. Due to funding restrictions, grant dollars may not be used for permanent improvements to privately owned property, such as fencing, buildings, or private-use equipment.

Eligible expenses may include:

- Staffing, stipends, or facilitation costs

- Materials for public events or classes
- Educational or engagement programming
- Supplies for temporary installations or demonstrations
- Public distribution of fresh produce or meals
- Outreach, signage, or interpretation
- Event support (food, childcare, transportation)

We encourage applicants to align with other citywide efforts where applicable.

Who Should Apply

We strongly encourage applications from:

- Black and Indigenous growers
- Farmer collectives and cooperatives
- Farms located in or serving historically disinvested Detroit neighborhoods
- Youth-led or multigenerational projects

Applicants must be based in Detroit and committed to using their projects to serve the broader public.

Proposal Requirements

Applications must include:

1. Project Description (1–2 pages)
 - What will you do? Detailed description of proposed programming
 - Who will you serve? Summary of anticipated audiences for programming
 - What is the timeline for your work?
2. Budget (simple breakdown—template provided)
 - Include estimated expenses and how the grant funds will be used
3. Grant Tier Requested (\$15,000 or \$50,000)
4. Lead Applicant(s) and a brief background
5. Optional: Photos, work samples, or letters of support

Timeline

Milestone	Date
RFP Opens	September 26, 2025
Proposals Due	October 30, 2025
Awards Announced	November 2025
Project Period Begins	December 2025

All Funds Spent by	June 30, 2026
Final Reports Due	December 15, 2026

Reporting Requirements

All grantees will submit a short final report by July 15, 2026. Reports may be written, video-recorded, or audio-recorded. They should include:

- A summary of completed activities
- Approximate number of participants
- What went well, and what you learned
- Photos and other visual documentation

The Office of Sustainability may also conduct optional midpoint check-ins for shared learning and support.

Support and Contact

If you have questions about the application process or need help preparing your proposal, contact:

- For technical assistance and questions related to application subject matter please contact City of Detroit Office of Sustainability Urban Agriculture Division: Patrice Brown, Patrice.Brown@detroitmi.gov
- Questions related to grant administration and oversight should be directed to Eastern Market: Katy Trudeau, ktrudeau@easternmarket.org
- Please submit final responses to Patrice.Brown@detroitmi.gov and ktrudeau@easternmarket.org