
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 627 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY STREET, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, SCHWANK, SABATINA,
SANTARSIERO, FARNESE, BREWSTER, HUGHES AND COSTA,
MAY 13, 2019

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, MAY 13, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, establishing the Urban Agricultural Infrastructure
3 Grant Program.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 3 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes
7 is amended by adding a part to read:

8 PART IX

9 GRANT PROGRAMS

10 Chapter

11 107. Urban Agricultural Infrastructure Grant Program

12 CHAPTER 107

13 URBAN AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

14 Sec.

15 10701. Legislative intent.

16 10702. Definitions.

17 10703. Grant program.

18 10704. Distribution of grant money.

1 10705. Funding.

2 § 10701. Legislative intent.

3 It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish a
4 reimbursement grant program under which persons who implement
5 projects that improve agriculture infrastructure in urban areas
6 and that focus on aggregation of agricultural products, sharing
7 of resources and support for community development resources may
8 be reimbursed some portion of the costs of the projects.

9 § 10702. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
11 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Eligible project." A project that the department determines
14 does all of the following:

15 (1) Improves agricultural infrastructure in an urban
16 area.

17 (2) Improves or facilitates the aggregation of
18 agricultural products in an urban area.

19 (3) Entails the sharing of resources among urban
20 agricultural operations, agricultural producers or community
21 organizations.

22 (4) Supports community development in the project area.

23 "Person." An individual, partnership, association, firm,
24 corporation or any other legal entity.

25 "Program." The Urban Agricultural Infrastructure Grant
26 Program established under this chapter.

27 § 10703. Grant program.

28 (a) Availability.--Grants under this chapter shall only be
29 offered in a fiscal year in which and to the extent funding is
30 made available to the department. The following apply:

1 (1) If funding is exhausted or otherwise unavailable,
2 the department shall be under no obligation to provide grants
3 under this chapter.

4 (2) Grant money may be prorated or offered as a
5 percentage of actual costs, as determined by the department
6 and set forth in an order by the secretary, to spread
7 available money to a larger number of eligible projects. The
8 secretary shall transmit notice of an order to the
9 Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the
10 Pennsylvania Bulletin.

11 (b) Reimbursement grants.--Grants under this chapter shall
12 be reimbursement grants. The following shall apply:

13 (1) The amount of reimbursement shall be based on actual
14 eligible costs submitted by an approved applicant for an
15 approved project during any fiscal year in which grants are
16 offered.

17 (2) Grant reimbursement money shall be limited to 50% or
18 less of the costs of an eligible project.

19 (3) Grant reimbursement money shall not be used to
20 reimburse any portion of an in-kind contribution to an
21 eligible project.

22 (4) Grant money may not be used to pay or reimburse
23 wages or salaries of grant recipient staff.

24 (5) Grant money may not be used to reimburse any portion
25 of the project costs which are being paid or reimbursed under
26 another Federal or State grant program.

27 (6) A single applicant may not be awarded more than
28 \$100,000 in grants in any five-year period, calculated from
29 the date the department awards the grant.

30 (c) Eligibility.--A person may apply to the department, in

1 accordance with the program standards and requirements under
2 subsection (d), for a determination by the department that a
3 project is an eligible project that may receive a reimbursement
4 grant under this chapter.

5 (d) Program standards and requirements.--The department
6 shall, consistent with this chapter and any appropriation of
7 money for grants under this chapter, establish the terms and
8 conditions for the application process for program reimbursement
9 grants, including the maximum reimbursement grant amount an
10 applicant may receive in any single fiscal year. The department
11 shall transmit notice of the requirements to the Legislative
12 Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

13 (e) Application procedure.--An applicant who desires to
14 receive a program reimbursement grant shall submit a grant
15 application on a form provided by the department and in
16 accordance with program standards and requirements. The
17 application shall contain the following information and other
18 information as required by the department:

19 (1) The applicant's name, business address and contact
20 information.

21 (2) The details of the project for which reimbursement
22 grant money is sought, including the following:

23 (i) A project budget.

24 (ii) A statement of the maximum amount of grant
25 money sought for the project, not to exceed 50% of
26 project costs.

27 (iii) A project construction and implementation
28 schedule.

29 (iv) A narrative identifying each entity that will
30 assist in, participate in and benefit from the project.

1 (v) A description of how the project would improve
2 agricultural infrastructure in an urban area.

3 (vi) A description of how the project improves or
4 facilitates the aggregation of agricultural products in
5 an urban area.

6 (vii) A description of how the project entails the
7 sharing of resources among urban agricultural operations
8 agricultural producers or community organizations.

9 (viii) A description of how the project supports
10 community development in the project area.

11 (ix) An attestation signed by the applicant,
12 verifying the accuracy of the information presented on
13 the application.

14 (x) Other information as the department may
15 reasonably require.

16 (f) Grant awards.--The department shall award grants to
17 applicants in accordance with this chapter and the applicable
18 program standards and requirements.

19 § 10704. Distribution of grant money.

20 The department shall issue program reimbursement grant money
21 to pay some portion of the costs of an eligible project based
22 upon the applicant's submission of a verified statement that the
23 eligible project has been completed or implemented, including a
24 statement of the project completion date, photos of the
25 completed or implemented project with a narrative explanation of
26 each photo, bills and invoices for which reimbursement grant
27 money is sought and other information as the department may
28 reasonably require.

29 § 10705. Funding.

30 The department shall use money as appropriated by the General

1 Assembly for grants under this chapter, and may also use any
2 other money that is made available to the department for grants
3 under this chapter, by Federal appropriation, State
4 appropriation, donation or from any other source.

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.