



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, October 13, 2021

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CITY OF STOCKTON URBAN FARMERS AND COTTAGE FOOD GRANT RELIEF PROGRAM

Relief Grant Program to Assist Urban Farmers and Cottage Food Entrepreneurs

STOCKTON, Calif. – Funding for the City of Stockton Urban Farmers and Cottage Food Grant Program is now available to assist entrepreneurs with local food availability and program development. This program is provided to increase community access to fresh, healthy, and affordable foods. Eligible businesses may receive grants of \$3,000 for tools, construction materials, equipment, supplies, operational materials, displays, signage, and fencing, while funds are available. Applications will be accepted using an online portal, beginning Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at noon; the system will close to applications on Monday, November 29, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

“Addressing food insecurity is a priority for the City,” said Carrie Wright, Director of Economic Development. “Fostering a supportive agricultural enterprise ecosystem and leveraging the region’s agricultural bounty and entrepreneurial spirit to those who directly provide fresh and healthy foods in our neighborhoods is the most direct way to make an impact. With COVID-19 significantly affecting these efforts, providing funding to our Urban Farmers and Cottage Food Entrepreneurs is critical to keeping our community strong.”

The Urban Farmers and Cottage Food Grant Program is intended to serve as an aid in assisting the program’s eligible businesses impacted by COVID-19 with financial assistance and temporary relief. To be considered for funding, a completed Urban Farmers and Cottage Food Grant Program application must be submitted online through the [Neighborly application portal](#).

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The online applications are available in multiple languages. Those applying must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Have a valid and current City of Stockton Business License number.
- The business address location is within the city limits of the City of Stockton.
- Proof of operational business in the City of Stockton prior to January 1, 2020, which will be validated by the business license.
- Be an eligible for-profit or non-profit entity, for example, urban gardener/farmer, community garden, urban farming enterprise, farmers market vendor, cottage food entrepreneur, etc. Note: The City reserves the right to deem the type of businesses that are ineligible.
- Follow permitting requirements to operate as required by the City of Stockton.
- Provide a detailed explanation of financial losses or incurred expense due to COVID-19.
- Provide a detailed explanation of how the program grant funds will be used and the urgent need of grant funding in relation to the impacts of COVID-19, showing the serious threat to the welfare of the community.
- Documentation that the need for grant funding is of recent origin (within the past 18 months).
- Be a business owner that has a current household income not to exceed 80% of Area Median Income (AMI).
- Non-profits must retain or create at least one full-time employee equivalent position for a person from a Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) household.

A total of \$107,650 is available for this program, which has been made possible through supplemental CDBG-CV3 CARES Act funding approved by Stockton City Council in response to COVID-19. For more information, including Urban Farmers and Cottage Food Grant Program

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guidelines, eligible business types, and for a link to complete an application in the online portal, visit www.StocktonCA.gov/Produce or call (209) 937-8539.

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Additional City of Stockton business resources, partner organizations, and other agencies offering COVID-19 assistance support and programs are also available at www.advantagestockton.com/covid-19-resources. Subscribe to the City of Stockton Economic Development Department newsletter for business-related news and resources through the Stockton Small Business Update email subscription.

For updates about the City's response and current information related to COVID-19, please visit www.stocktonca.gov/COVID , and subscribe to updates about City of Stockton actions, resources, and information through the Ask Stockton email subscription list COVID-19 – Coronavirus.

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