

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

U.S. Department of Agriculture: Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production (UAIP)
Competitive Grants Program

City of New Haven Community Services Administration, Food System Policy Division

DATE: May 29, 2020

Funding request: up to \$500,000 over three years, not to exceed \$200,000 in a single year

The Community Services Administration, Food System Policy Division is applying for funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in order to partner with community members and organizations to identify, research, and develop a series of plans and activities that will create an enabling environment for urban agriculture, reducing barriers to entry and sustainability, and in which all residents will equitably benefit from the positive environmental, health, and socioeconomic outcomes. The planned activities include:

- Researching national and international best practices for zoning and ordinances regarding urban agriculture and related activities and updating New Haven's zoning in alignment with the findings and community feedback
 - Identifying - and ideally protecting - vacant land for community gardens and/or urban farms
- Researching equitable urban agriculture policy, development and programming that prioritizes vulnerable and disinvested communities
 - Would include reviewing and updating City policies regarding urban agriculture to be more transparent, equitable and community-led
- Identifying and/or creating pathways to education, jobs and resources for new farmers

Furthermore, funding from the grant would be used to create a grant-funded staff position to help with project coordination, considering that the Food Systems Policy Division currently has no staff aside from the Director.