

## **Beginning Farmer and Farmworker Training and Workforce Development Program – Technical Review Panel Application**

Form FEP 1.6

Rev. 06/2022

State of California- Department of Food and Agriculture  
Executive Office- Farm Equity Office

### **Program Description:**

The Beginning Farmer and Farm-worker Training and Workforce Development Grant Program (BFFTP) through the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Farm Equity Office, seeks to support organizations in the development, enhancement and/or expansion of beginning farmer apprenticeship programs and farm worker training and workforce development programs. The overall goal of the BFFTP program is to ensure that resources are dedicated to strengthening support for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in the first ten years of business (beginning farmers), and upscaling or advancement of agricultural skills for farmworkers to provide job sustainability.

### **Technical Review Panel:**

The Farm Equity Office is seeking support from members of the public to take part in the 2022 BFFTP technical review panel. Applicants to the technical review panel should have expertise or experience with working directly with socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and/or farmworker training/workforce development programs. Individuals who are interested in becoming external technical reviewers of the BFFTP grant program process can apply by completing this form. Please note that applicants to any of the funding tracks of the BFFTP grant program, including partnering organizations or individuals affiliated with applicants may not participate in the external technical review process. The Farm Equity Office will be receiving applications to the 2022 BFFTP technical review panel from June 15<sup>th</sup> through July 15<sup>th</sup>, and all applicants will be notified of a decision by July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The external review period will begin on or around August 15, 2022 and continue for three weeks. During this review process, each technical reviewer will have approximately 3-5 applications to review. The time commitment to review each application will be of approximately 40-60 minutes. There will be a required, one-hour Amplifund Reviewer Portal training during the first week of August for technical reviewers to get acquainted with the Amplifund application reviewing system and scoring and ask any related questions.

External technical reviewers will be asked to participate in a mandatory group reviewing session in early September (final date to be determined, depending on reviewers' schedules) for a final rank of applications based on scores and feedback provided from the group. Please note all activities related to the 2022 BFFTP technical review panel will be done via Zoom, access to a computer and internet will be necessary.

Participation in the 2022 BFFTP technical review panel is voluntary, there are no payments available for external reviewers.

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**2022 BFFTP Technical Review Panel Application Form**

**1. Contact Information:**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Do you have access to a computer and internet?**  YES  NO

**3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Applicants to the 2022 Beginning Farmer and Farmworker Training and Workforce Development Grant Program (BFFTP) may not participate in the external technical review process (this includes supporting project partners that are part of any of the three funding tracks).

**Are you or your organization applying to the 2022 Beginning Farmer and Farmworker Training and Workforce Development Grant Program?**

Yes, I or my organization is applying

Yes, I or my organization is a supporting project partner in a Track 2 application

No, but I am consulting on one or more grant applications.

No, none of the above apply to me

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**4. In which of the BFFTP Funding Track areas do you have experience or expertise?**

Please check all that apply

Beginning Farmer Program Planning and Development

Farmworker Training/Workforce Program Planning and Development

Beginning Farmer Program Implementation

Farmworker Training/Workforce Development Program Implementation

Other. Please specify below

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**5. Please describe your background related to the Funding Track specified above, including your experience working with Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers or farmworker groups. Please briefly describe your interest in reviewing grant applications for this program (250 words or less).**

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### **6. Which funding track of the 2022 BFFTP Grant Program are you interested in reviewing?**

#### **Track 1: Program Planning and Curriculum Development Grants**

This program provides direct support for existing or new programs to fully develop their programs serving beginning farmers *OR* farmworker training and workforce development program, establish partnerships, seek accreditation, land tenure (either land lease or purchase) and design curriculum. This track is for organizations who would like to formalize or expand the reach of existing programs and need assistance during the phase of program planning or curriculum development. Each applicant organization can apply for a maximum amount of \$100,000 in this track. This track also prioritizes programs that are developing local or regional partnerships that will support beginning farmers and farmworkers to be successful. This track aims to prepare organizations to successfully apply for larger grants and build capacity to serve a region's beginning farmers and/or farmworkers through training and workforce development for the agriculture industry.

#### **Track 2: Program Implementation: Beginning Farmer Training Program**

The Program Implementation track (beginning farmers) provides support for eligible entities to apply for funds to support a beginning farmer training grant in the amount of up to \$1,000,000. The priority for this track will be funding for infrastructure, tool lending libraries, land tenure (either land lease or purchase), regional networking opportunities and apprenticeships (including stipends). Priority will be given to organizations serving socially disadvantaged and small-scale farmers and ranchers and applications with demonstrated partnerships and demonstrated ability to continue the program beyond the funding period.

#### **Track 3: Program Implementation: Farmworker Training and Workforce Development Program**

The Program Implementation (farmworker training) track provides support for eligible entities to apply for funds to support development of farmworker training and workforce development program in the amount of up to \$1,000,000. There are several priorities within this track.

- 1) Regional collaborations that focus on job skills training, paid apprenticeships, education, and agricultural technology training for farmworkers not currently eligible for Federal Dept of Labor and and/or programs funded through

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Section 167 of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP). Organizations currently receiving funding through these programs are eligible to apply for the BFFTP program and will need to demonstrate how BFFTP funding will expand currently programming to focus on agricultural careers and those not currently served through Federal programs.

- 2) Farmworker workforce development programs with curriculum and instruction tailored towards serving the unique cultural and language needs in the farmworker agricultural sector and providing advanced skills training needed to advance to a higher skilled job in the ag sector. Examples of trainings might include new ag technology, ag centered certification programs, training in IPM or organic management practices, irrigation systems or industry-specific skills training such as vineyard management.
- 3) There will be a geographic preference and priority for projects in areas with high concentrations of farmworkers (Central Valley, Coachella Valley, Imperial Valley, Central Coast, Southern California), A secondary priority of this track is programs that target job upskilling for agricultural workers who have lost jobs due to climate change, drought, or other natural disasters.

**7. If you expressed interest in reviewing multiple tracks above, please rank your selections, starting with 1 as the track you would most like to review.**

Track 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Track 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Track 3 \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Please let us know of any reasonable accommodations you may need to participate in the 2022 BFFTP external technical review process.**

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- 9. Are you aware of anything that would affect your ability to participate in the 2022 BFFT external technical review process? If yes, please briefly explain.**