

## FAQ – Small & Accessible Sustainability Subgrants Program

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Question	Response
Can I apply for both RFAs?	Yes. Eligible organizations may apply to both the Donation & Reuse and Urban Agriculture RFAs but must submit <b>separate applications</b> for each opportunity.
Can the same project be funded under both RFAs?	No. Each application must be distinct and align clearly with either the Donation & Reuse or Urban Agriculture goals. Duplicate or overlapping projects will not be considered.
Is there a match requirement?	No matching funds are required.
Can funds be used for staffing or stipends?	Yes. Personnel and stipends are allowable if <b>directly tied to project implementation</b> and reflected in the approved budget.
What is considered a “Small, New, or Historically Excluded” organization?	<b>Small:</b> Fewer than 25 paid employees. <b>New:</b> Incorporated within the past 5 years. <b>Historically Excluded:</b> Located in or primarily serving <b>Wards 7 or 8</b> , or led by historically underrepresented communities (e.g., Black, Indigenous, immigrant, or women-led organizations).
Are government agencies eligible?	Only for the <b>Donation &amp; Reuse RFA</b> . Government agencies are not eligible for the Urban Agriculture RFA.
Can we partner with another organization?	Yes. Partnerships are encouraged; however, only <b>one organization should serve as the lead applicant and fiscal agent</b> .
When will awards be announced?	Awards are anticipated to be announced in <b>January 2026</b> .
When can we start spending funds?	<b>Urban Agriculture:</b> Costs can be incurred beginning <b>March 1, 2026</b> . <b>Donation &amp; Reuse:</b> Costs can be incurred beginning <b>April 1, 2026</b> .
Will there be technical assistance available?	Yes. The Center will offer post-award technical assistance sessions to support grantees with reporting, compliance, and project implementation.
Are MD groups eligible? Is the Urban Agriculture RFA only for DC-based groups?	Projects and urban farms must be <b>based in and serve Washington, DC</b> . The applicant organization does not need to be headquartered in DC but must operate an eligible DC-based project.
What type of organizations are eligible?	Eligible applicants include <b>nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, private enterprises, and government agencies (for Donation &amp; Reuse only)</b> . Applicants must align with at least <b>two program goals</b> outlined in the RFA.
Would a litter prevention campaign qualify?	Possibly, if it supports donation, reuse, or waste reduction goals—such as <b>encouraging reduced single-use plastics or promoting reusable materials</b> through education and outreach.



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<p><b>Does the small business employee count limit include part-time employees?</b></p>	<p>No. The count may include an <b>equivalent combination of part-time employees</b> totaling up to 25 full-time positions.</p>
<p><b>Can you share more about the priority communities you are focusing on?</b></p>	<p>The program is <b>open to all eligible applicants</b>, but additional priority points are awarded to <b>Small, New, and Historically Excluded (SNHE)</b> organizations, including those located in or serving Wards 7 and 8.</p> <p>An <b>urban farm</b> is any property in the District of Columbia used for growing, cultivating, processing, and distributing crops for profit, not-for-profit, or educational purposes. This includes <b>in-ground, rooftop, hydroponic, aquaponic, and controlled-environment operations</b>. Produce must benefit the public through <b>sales or donation</b> rather than personal use.</p>
<p><b>Please provide details of what qualifies as an urban farm.</b></p>	<p>Produce must benefit the public through <b>sales or donation</b> rather than personal use.</p>
<p><b>Explain “reuse” as it relates to this grant. Can a clothing business with surplus items benefit from this?</b></p>	<p>Yes. Under the <b>Donation &amp; Reuse RFA</b>, “reuse” refers to activities that extend the life of products or materials—such as <b>repair, redistribution, or donation</b>. A clothing business with surplus items could qualify if the project supports <b>donation or reuse initiatives</b> that prevent waste.</p>
<p><b>Are HOAs eligible? Composting initiatives &amp; community gardens?</b></p>	<p><b>Homeowners Associations (HOAs)</b> may be eligible if they meet the criteria of a nonprofit or private enterprise. <b>Community gardens</b> may qualify if they serve the broader public rather than individual households. <b>Composting</b> is not eligible if it involves processing non-edible food waste but may be allowable for <b>on-farm or small-scale soil amendment</b> as part of a larger urban agriculture project.</p>