

2023 Healthy Refrigeration Grant Program Request for Application for Refrigeration Equipment

Applications due by 5 pm PDT on June 6, 2023, through [AmpliFund](#).

Late submissions will not be accepted.

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Inspection Services Division
Office of Farm to Fork
Healthy Refrigeration Grant Program
Website: <https://cafarmtofork.cdfa.ca.gov/hrqp.html>
Email: cafarmtofork@cdfa.ca.gov



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FARM *to* FORK

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Stakeholder Input

In finalizing this Request for Application (RFA), the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) considered feedback received during the public comment period from November 21 – December 12th. These included questions and input emailed to CDFA as well as comments made during the virtual listening sessions in English and in Spanish on November 30 and December 1, respectively. Stakeholder input will also be considered when developing future RFAs. See the Summary of Public Comments and CDFA Responses linked on the program [webpage](#) for specifics.

About the Program

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is pleased to announce a competitive application process for the Healthy Refrigeration Grant Program (HRGP). CDFA will fund energy-efficient and climate-friendly refrigeration and freezer equipment in corner stores, small businesses, and food donation programs in low-income or low-food access areas throughout the state. New units are to stock California-grown fresh produce, nuts, eggs, meat, dairy, minimally processed, and culturally appropriate foods. The purpose of the program is to improve access to healthy foods in underserved communities, while promoting CA-grown agriculture.

Changes to HRGP since the 2019 pilot phase include:

- Food donation programs can now participate.
- A greater variety of items can now be stocked in fridges, including eggs, dairy, meat, and culturally appropriate foods grown in CA to the extent possible in addition to CA-grown produce, nuts, and minimally processed foods.
- Minimally processed foods that can be stocked in new equipment now include food prepared using traditional processes to make food edible, safe for consumption, or to preserve it, including smoking, roasting, freezing, drying, and fermenting; or using physical processes that do not fundamentally alter the raw product or that only separate a whole, intact food into component parts, for example, grinding meat, separating eggs into albumen and yolk, and pressing fruits to produce juices.
- Freezers are allowable purchases.
- The cap on technical assistance (TA) has been raised to 20% of total grant budgets – meaning that cities, counties, nonprofits, and Tribal governments can now include up to 20% of budgets to cover provision of technical assistance.
- Advance payments are possible following established criteria and processes.

This program is established in CA Food and Agricultural Code Section [49015](#) and renewed funding was made available through the 2021 and 2022 State Budget Acts.

Available Funding: Up to \$9 million is available in grants.

Proposals are due by 5 p.m. PDT on June 6, 2023.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are:

- Corner stores, which include small-scale or grocery stores, either independent or chain, that sell a limited selection of foods and other products, that are located in a low-income or low-food access area in a rural, urban, or suburban region.

Corner stores do not need to be located on street corners. Corner stores applying directly will apply only for equipment costs (no TA).

- Small businesses including but not limited to small farm operations with farm stands or stores, that sell or donate food to low-income or low-food access clientele.
- Nonprofits that will either:
 - apply for equipment and provide TA to corner stores, small businesses, and/or food donation programs; or
 - apply for equipment in order to sell allowable food items directly to low-income or low-food access clientele, in which case only equipment costs are allowable; or
 - apply for equipment in order to donate food directly to low-income or low-food access clientele, in which case only equipment costs are allowable.
- Cities, counties, or Tribal governments that will apply for equipment and provide TA to corner stores, small businesses, and/or food donation programs.
- Partnership applications may be submitted, with one lead grantee for administrative purposes.
- Joint Power Authorities are eligible applicants.
- Sites without electricity are eligible and may apply for solar or other energy solutions to power the equipment (see p.11 on Allowable Costs).

Low-income areas include census tracts in which the income of at least 20% of the population is at or below the federal poverty level by family size, or the median family income is at or below 80% of the median family income of surrounding census tracts.

Low-access areas for this program include census tracts in which there are significant barriers to accessing a supermarket or large grocery store, which may include, but are not limited to, a census tract where at least 500 persons or 33% of the population live more than one mile, for nonrural areas, or more than 10 miles, for rural areas, from a supermarket or large grocery store. Other barriers that can be considered include language, cultural, affordability, physical or transportation barriers (such as if a grocery store is across a freeway from residences and not easily physically accessible), or other that should be described in the application.

- Applicants may wish to refer to the [USDA ERS Food Access Research Atlas](#) or other mapping tools showing low-income and low food-access census tracts or other socio-demographic information, such as the [California Climate Investments Priority Populations map](#), [Opportunity Zones mapping tool](#), [Let's Get Healthy California tool](#), or other sources to help describe need in areas and communities served. CDFA-F2F can consider all information submitted, including data about income inequality as well as poverty rates in locales.

Small businesses must be independently owned, with 100 or fewer employees, average annual gross receipts of \$16 million or less, and, if conducting food sales, must be authorized to accept EBT/SNAP/CalFresh benefits.

- Small businesses may submit grant applications if they are not yet SNAP-authorized but must describe their projected timeline for authorization and this status will be considered in scoring. Grantees must be SNAP-authorized by the time the grant begins.
- CalFresh (the name for SNAP in California) is supervised by the Department of Social Services and operated by county agencies. Retailers can find more information including how to apply for authorization here (small farm operations may use this link). Technical Assistance Providers in your region, described below, may also be able to assist with the SNAP-authorization process.

Business size within the small business category can be considered in scoring. CDFA is committed to making programs accessible to all, including very small businesses in under-resourced areas and with owners from socially disadvantaged backgrounds (see Application Scoring Criteria on p.16).

Number and Amount of Grant Awards: There is no minimum or maximum amount applicants may request within the available funding pool. Applications should clearly explain need for the amount of funding requested. CDFA reserves the right to modify grant projects and make partial awards.

Grant Duration: CDFA will consider one year and multi-year grants, with a target start in fall 2023 and that end by December 2026.

Relation to March 2022 Technical Assistance Providers Grant Round

The March 2022 Technical Assistance Providers (TAP) grant round sought organizations to provide technical assistance (TA) in two categories:

1. Outreach and application assistance
2. Technical expertise with refrigeration, energy-efficiency, climate-friendly equipment, and/or “healthy retail” best practices (helping transform the corner store environment to offer healthier products for communities)

Seven TAP grants were awarded- see details on the program [webpage](#). Grantees are conducting a combination of statewide and regional programming. You may contact TAPs directly using the contact information provided or reach out to the Office of Farm to Fork at cafarmtofork@cdfa.ca.gov if you’re interested in an equipment grant and want to know if a TA provider could be of assistance in your region or with your application.

This current grant round is for small businesses and organizations seeking refrigeration equipment. Businesses and organizations may apply directly for equipment funding. Also, cities, counties, nonprofits, and Tribal governments may apply on behalf of small businesses and/or food donation programs in order to provide both refrigeration equipment and “hands-on” technical assistance to sites supporting healthy retail practices, equipment selection and installation, stocking, and marketing fresh foods, etc. Grantees providing this TA will also be asked to help selected sites complete surveys and possibly facilitate and/or provide interviews for the program evaluation.

Technical Assistance for this RFA:

TA provided as up to 20% of total grant awards through the equipment grant round can be broadly defined according to the applicant’s project and capacity, but generally include some outreach to finalize participating sites, assisting sites to select, purchase, and install refrigeration units, and support for procurement, stocking, and merchandising fresh produce and other allowable food items. TA budgets can include staff time, materials, printing, subsidizing produce procurement, and other expenses as needed for the project.

TA providers are encouraged to make connections to relevant vendors when possible, but may not require applicants to procure specific units or use favored contractors, vendors, or service providers.

Technical assistance must be provided free of cost to applicants and grantees and outreach materials must indicate that the assistance is free, with no fees or costs to corner stores, small businesses, or food donation programs.

Grant Disbursement and Allowable Expenses:

Reimbursement: Reimbursement for allowable expenses via invoicing CDFA is the typical payment method. Grantees can be reimbursed monthly, quarterly, or annually, at their convenience. Reimbursements can be expected within 45-60 days after invoices are approved.

Advance Payments: Nonprofits and small businesses may receive grant advances for up to three months of expenses at a time to alleviate cash flow issues, when a reimbursement process would severely impact their capacity to implement the project, if certain criteria are met and procedures followed. Criteria and procedures include:

- Grantees must attest that they have low cash flow and be prepared to provide backup documentation if requested.
- Grantees must apply for advance payment by submitting a form which includes similar information to a reimbursement invoice.

- Three months of project expenses may be advanced at a time, and grantees must spend down the advance before a new one can be made.
 - This does not mean the total grant amount must be split equally into three-month periods – rather, the grantee must be able to satisfactorily forecast and request the amount projected to spend during the three-month period. Backup information such as equipment quotes will be requested.
- No more than 90% of the total grant award can be advanced.
- Grantees must agree to abide by advance payment regulations, viewable [here](#), which include but are not limited to:
 - Any interest earned on an advance payment must be returned to CDFA – and the grantee must be able to document where funds are held and whether any interest is earned.
- Cities, counties, and universities are generally not eligible for advance grant payments.
- Eligible grantees may use a combination of reimbursement-based and advance payments.

Allowable Expenses: These include:

For all applicants:

- Refrigeration and freezer equipment* that meets equipment guidelines. Written justification may be requested if the price of the unit exceeds the average cost of similar units.
- Installation costs for equipment.
 - Applicants should get a quote for installation for remote condensing units and include with the application.
 - Applicants are recommended to use turnkey solutions that include costs of unloading, placement, and any removal/recycling of refrigerants and materials being upgraded and include this estimate in the application. See Quick Tips for more information.
- Although a turnkey solution that is all inclusive is recommended; unloading and placement fees for units can be included in the budget if needed. During the pilot phase of the program, these fees tended to fall in the \$300-\$500 range. CDFA recommends obtaining an estimate and including these costs in the application budget in order to have them covered by the grant.
- If old equipment is being replaced by new, grant-funded equipment, include the cost of removing and recycling equipment and reclaiming refrigerants in the application budget. See <https://dtsc.ca.gov/certified-appliance-recycler-car-program/> or <https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2021/03/Approved-Certified-Appliance-Recycler-3-1-2021.pdf> for a list of certified appliance recyclers by city – or contact your local utility provider to inquire about removal.

- Utility incentive programs for recycling old equipment may be utilized in conjunction with this grant.
- Utilities may also offer incentives for installing energy-efficient equipment, which may be utilized in conjunction with this grant. CDFA would like to know about any complementary programs applicants are using.
- Applicants planning to leverage multiple funding sources should be aware that not all state incentive programs allow use of other state grants for the same project. Applicants must verify the rules of each program.
- Any removal of equipment not being directly replaced through the grant is the responsibility of the site.
- Minor electrical work such as installing outlets to accommodate new equipment. CDFA recommends determining whether this will be necessary and obtaining an estimate to include in the application budget. Costs of over \$500 will require justification. Wholesale electrical and infrastructure updates cannot be covered by this grant and will be the sites' responsibility. Costs of over \$1000 are unlikely to be approved and would be considered to be the responsibility of the site.
- Temperature monitoring systems as part of the selected unit or an add-on.
- To account for external quote increases between the time of application submission and contract execution, CDFA will allow applicants to include an additional 10% of their total quoted costs for refrigeration and freezer equipment, installation, unloading and placement, removal and recycling, and electrical work.
- Documentation of all final costs incurred will need to be submitted.
- See NASRC Contractor Directory for a list of contractors who could potentially provide applicants with turnkey solutions, aid in confirming equipment costs, and provide quotes for other necessary services. It is NOT a comprehensive list of all contractors who can provide these services. However, the directory may be a useful starting point for applicants seeking guidance.

For applicants providing both equipment and technical assistance, allowable costs include:

1. TA costs at no more than 20% of the total grant amount, including:
 - Staff time and fringe benefits
 - Travel expenses, in compliance with state cost guidance policies and at set state rates, viewable [here](#).
 - Materials* & printing costs
 - Other program costs such as facility rental, communications, etc.
 - Subcontracting (with justification); and
2. Indirect costs. The baseline indirect rate for CDFA grant programs is 10% of total direct costs. If the applicant organization's indirect rate is higher and the baseline rate would pose a great hardship or barrier to application, applicants may include

an indirect rate of up to 30% of total direct costs. Indirect rates over 10% must be justified and documented in the application. All organizations with a federally negotiated indirect cost rate may use that rate instead and supply documentation of the rate.

*Materials are considered to be supplies that cost less than \$5,000 per unit. Equipment for this grant is considered to be items costing \$5,000 or more per unit.

**Applicants from the University of California or California State University may claim the negotiated rate for funding that originates from CDFA (30% current rate; 35% effective July 1, 2023).

How to apply: Applicants are required to complete and submit their proposals online using the AmpliFund system [here](#). Applicants will be prompted to create a user account with login. Email cafarmtofork@cdfa.ca.gov with any questions.

Grant proposals and required documents must be submitted no later than **5 pm PDT on June 6, 2023**. All proposal questions must be answered. Applicants will receive a confirmation email from AmpliFund. Please contact the Office of Farm to Fork at cafarmtofork@cdfa.ca.gov if a confirmation email is not received within two business days of submission.

Equipment Guidelines:

Selecting the right refrigeration unit: Applicants may select the units that work best for their needs within the range of allowable and available, energy-efficient and climate-friendly choices.

- See Appendix A for a list of pre-vetted equipment that meets guidelines
- See Appendix B for a list of units previous program grantees have purchased

These are reference guides – other equipment not listed in appendices can also meet criteria. Applicants may contact CDFA if unsure that equipment meets guidelines.

Energy-Efficiency: Applicants should consider the following energy-efficiency guidelines and select the most energy-efficient equipment available:

- All equipment will have a rated cooling capacity. This is the amount of cooling the unit can achieve. This will vary on its size, design, product type, and operating conditions. When comparing similar equipment that uses the same or similar GWP refrigerants, for a given cooling capacity, select the equipment with

the greatest energy-efficiency.

- When comparing stand-alone units, use the Energy Star Product Finder Tool linked below* to search for options.
- Ideally all refrigeration display cases, chilled or frozen, should have doors. This can reduce the energy consumption of the unit by more than 50% by avoiding cold air spillage.
- If space for hinged doors is difficult to accommodate due to limited floor space, it is recommended to consider a display case with sliding doors as an alternative.
- Doorless (open fronted) cases can be permitted only for uncommon unit types that are not available with doors, such as some types of low-height island cases, or when the site cannot comfortably accommodate a unit with doors.
- Applicants selecting doorless units must justify why they are necessary. In these cases, additional energy-efficiency measures such as night curtains should be used and included in application budgets.
- See more information on improving energy-efficiency in Quick Tips for Applicants and Grantees.

Climate & Environmental Friendliness: This program incentivizes and requires use of the most climate-friendly refrigeration options available. A key factor in determining climate-friendliness is the choice of refrigerant.

Refrigerant Types

- Many refrigerants used today are very potent greenhouse gasses. Global warming potential (GWP) is the metric used to compare the relative warming impacts of greenhouse gasses, including refrigerants.
- The most climate-friendly refrigerants have low global warming potential (GWP) values.
- Units selected for this grant should have the lowest GWP value possible.
- Conventional, high GWP refrigerants are being phased out and their prices are expected to increase rapidly in the coming years. Buying climate-friendly refrigerants will ensure that costs of replacing leaked refrigerants are kept low throughout the unit's lifetime.
- Examples of ultra-low GWP refrigerants that are climate-friendly include CO₂ (R-744), propane (R-290) and isobutane (R-600a). The availability of these

refrigerants varies depending on the type of equipment.

Equipment Sizes & Types

- Standalone units (i.e., self-contained refrigerated cases) must use hydrocarbon refrigerants for this program (R290 or R600a), if available. Hydrocarbon refrigerants are flammable; however, the design of the equipment and the limits on the amount of refrigerant used ensure product safety.
- A line-up of self-contained display cases, using propane (R-290) refrigerant, can be used in conjunction with a water loop circuit and dry air cooler/chiller external to the building (also known as, Micro-distributed).
- Larger systems, (i.e., remote condensing units – usually sited outside a building) that contain more refrigerant may be required to run larger equipment for e.g., large walk-in coolers or several pieces of equipment (a line-up of display cases). In these cases, CO₂ should be used if available.
- If CO₂ is not available, mid-range GWP refrigerants including R-448A and R-449A are permitted.
- Systems that contain over 50 pounds of refrigerant must be registered with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Refrigerant Management Program.

Grantees must select the lowest GWP refrigerant available for the type of unit being purchased when there is a choice. More information about the GWP of different refrigerants can be found at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/high-gwp-refrigerants>.

It is applicants’ responsibility to determine the refrigerant type and provide CDFA with the information. This can often be found in product manuals, but you may need to contact the manufacturer for this information in some cases.

Allowable Equipment	Guideline
Stand-alone (also known as self-contained, plug-in, or plug- and-play) units	<p>Must use hydrocarbon refrigerants (R-290 or R-600a; propane or isobutane), if available, to ensure energy-efficiency and lowest GWP.</p> <p>Energy Star provides a list of Energy Star-certified hydrocarbon units with doors that are all eligible. * (Units without doors are not Energy Star certified.)</p>

Walk-in coolers and freezers	Use CO ₂ or propane (R-290) if available; if not, use refrigerants R-448A or R-449A, or any other refrigerants with a lower GWP than R-448A or R-449A, to optimize efficiency and minimize GWP.
Remote Condensing Units	<p>Recommend using CO₂ units when possible. May also use refrigerants R-448A or R-449A RCUs.</p> <p>Micro-distributed propane (R-290) stand-alone units combined with a water loop or dry fluid cooler are also permitted.</p> <p>For systems larger than 50 lbs. (such as in larger grocery stores), currently available and commercially ready options permitted per CARB regulations include CO₂ and propane. Other options may become available in the future.</p>
New equipment	Equipment must be new. Used equipment tends to be less energy-efficient and may not comply with current CA regulations. Retrofits may be considered on a case-by-case basis, generally in cases when an applicant already owns a van and wants to retrofit it with refrigeration.
Equipment in Appendix A	Appendix A includes a catalog of pre-vetted equipment that manufacturers supplied in response to a request from the CA Air Resources Board (CARB) with CDFG for this program. It is NOT a comprehensive list of all eligible equipment. Other manufacturers and models meet grant criteria. However, the catalog may be a useful starting point for applicants seeking guidance.
Equipment in Appendix B	Appendix B includes a partial list of models previously purchased by grantees of this program, all of which are allowable choices.
Add-ons for energy-efficiency, such as night covers for open cases	Should be included when relevant for best energy-efficiency.

Temperature monitoring equipment may be used to ensure product quality and trading standards requirements	<p>Fridge/freezer temperature monitoring systems monitor temperatures at all times and deliver an uninterrupted measurement, automatically logging record data that can be used for food safety reporting and compliance, as well as generate instant alerts if temperatures rise above a given safety threshold.</p> <p>These systems can be via the networking of controllers in individual cases, or networkable wireless sensors added to single or multiple pieces of equipment.</p>
Freezers (stand-alone, plug-in)	Hydrocarbons. When hydrocarbons are not available, R-448A or R-449A may be used.
Refrigerated containers, such as cold boxes at farms	CO ₂ (R744) if available; or R-448A or R-449A
Other equipment, such as mobile carts, refrigerated trucks, larger refrigeration systems, or other	<p>Applicants should describe why this type of equipment is needed and select the most energy efficient and lowest GWP equipment available. For larger stores requiring refrigeration systems, CO₂ systems are allowable.</p> <p>CDFR can consult with applicants as needed, and applicants may wish to consult with Effecterra regarding other equipment options or unusual questions at: www.tinyurl.com/hrgp-technical.</p>

Units must comply with all state and federal regulations. See [California Significant Alternatives Policy](#) & this [Fact Sheet](#) for information about current CA regulations.

Unallowable Costs	
Mini-fridges or bar fridges	Not allowable for this program
Beer or liquor coolers	Not allowable for this program
Used equipment	Not allowable for this program
Units that do not utilize an approved refrigerant	Not allowable for this program

Retrofitting existing equipment with solar or battery power	New equipment may be purchased with solar, battery, or generator power if needed for regular equipment use. However, this program is not for retrofits of older equipment or for transitioning existing equipment to solar power.
Refrigeration equipment for purposes other than the sale or donation of CA-grown produce, nuts, eggs, meat, dairy, minimally processed, or culturally appropriate foods (for example, coolers to store ingredients for restaurant operations)	Not allowable for this program

*For Energy Star-certified, stand-alone hydrocarbon units with doors, see the **Energy Star product finder [tool](#)**. Note that the search terms can be changed to vary the volume, number of doors, etc.

Equipment choices that do not meet grant parameters may be grounds for proposal rejection.

Equipment Disposition:

Grantees are expected to use equipment according to program guidelines for the duration of the program and ideally for the life of the equipment. When the grant term ends, for equipment with a fair market value of \$5,000 or over at the end of the grant agreement, grantees must submit a request for disposition of equipment to be approved by CDFA (see www.cdfa.ca.gov/Regulations/General/FinalGrantAdminRegs-Text.pdf p. 19, 324.2). The preferred use is that equipment will continue to be used for the same purpose as during the grant term.

If this is impossible, no matter the market value of the equipment, grantees should contact CDFA-F2F, and ownership of the equipment should be transferred to other stores or sites that can use it to meet program goals. Similarly, if a business shuts down or changes ownership and is no longer committed to making healthy foods accessible, contact CDA-F2F to transfer the grant-funded equipment (of any market value) to other sites or programs with similar goals. CDFA-F2F can help find appropriate sites to transfer equipment ownership.

Tentative grant timeline and process:

RFA Released for Public Comment	November 21, 2022
Webinars for Live Comments	Week of December 1 – see webpage for recordings

Comments Addressed and Request for Application Released	By March 20, 2023
Grant proposals due	June 6, 2023, 5:00 pm PDT
Anticipated Awards Announcement	July 2023
Tentative Start Date for Grant Terms	October-November 2023

Compliance and reporting:

Grantees are required to submit annual and final reports to CDFA and participate in the program evaluation, which will be conducted by an external evaluator. Evaluation activities are likely to include survey completion and/or facilitating equipment grantees' survey completion, as well as participating in interviews with evaluators and/or helping facilitate interviews at participating equipment grantee sites. Other evaluation activities may include store visits, surveys and/or interviews completed with customers, and collection of information such as sales data and/or energy bills.

Recipients must comply with all state and local regulations. Documentation that businesses hold required permits or fit small business definitions may be requested.

Proposal review and evaluation:

CDFA will conduct an initial administrative review of proposals to determine whether all proposal requirements have been met. Misrepresentations and incomplete answers in the proposal are grounds for rejection. Proposals that have met all proposal requirements will receive a technical review to evaluate the merits of the grant request based on the published scoring criteria.

Appeal rights:

Any discretionary action taken by the Office of Farm to Fork may be appealed to CDFA's Office of Hearings and Appeals within ten (10) calendar days of receiving a notice of disqualification from CDFA. The appeal must be in writing and signed by the responsible party named on the grant proposal or his/her authorized agent. It must state the grounds for the appeal and include any supporting documents and a copy of the decision being challenged. The submission must be sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture Office of Hearings and Appeals, 1220 N Street, Suite 315, Sacramento CA 95814 or emailed to CDFA.LegalOffice@cdfa.ca.gov. If submissions are not received within the timeframe provided above, the appeal will be denied.

CDFA reserves the right to ask applicants clarifying questions about their proposals and to work with selected applicants to modify their proposals as well as to make partial awards.

Application Questions: There are two sets of questions depending on applicant type:

1. Corner stores and small businesses
2. Nonprofits, cities, counties, and Tribal governments

A copy of application questions is available on the [webpage](#) for reference. Applicants will answer these questions when submitting applications through the AmpliFund system, as described on page 8 of this RFA.

Application Evaluation Criteria: Total point maximums will depend on the type of applicant. After technical review, percentages out of the total will be generated for each type of application.

Criteria	Maximum Points
<p>Communities Served:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest need locations and populations based on income, proximity to grocery stores, and other demographic information will be prioritized. This will be based on publicly available information including census data based on site locations; as well as other information provided in the application. • Serving historically & socially disadvantaged populations, including those defined in the Farmer Equity Act*, will be prioritized. • Businesses and organizations owned or led by members of minority or socially disadvantaged groups will be prioritized. • Business size and access to resources within the small business category can be considered. Very small businesses that serve priority populations and with priority ownership will be prioritized. • For food donation programs, organization size, access to resources, and client/community reach can be considered in scoring. Smaller organizations and community-based food pantries that lack access to other funding sources for equipment and serve priority populations will be prioritized. 	25
<p>Track Record of Success OR Strong Project Plan Including Partnerships/Peer Support or Mentorship:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past experience with healthy retail programming/energy-efficiency programming/offering fresh foods to underserved communities will be considered. • A corner store envisioning a complete overhaul would need to demonstrate a strong plan, evidence of community demand for the fresh products, and a strong commitment to be considered for multiple units. Stores just beginning to offer some fresh produce would be most likely to be awarded funding for one new unit. • Number of years in business/operation will be considered. • SNAP authorization, if relevant for business type, will be considered. 	15
<p>Technical Assistance Provision, if relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations providing TA should demonstrate capacity, expertise, and relationships that support the project. • The TA plan should be clearly delineated. • Breadth of services offered will be considered. 	20
<p>Implementation Plan, Timeline, Goals and Outcomes, if relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation plans should be clear and realistic and should help meet overall HRGP goals. • Organization should demonstrate a thoughtful and actionable approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion, including for program delivery. 	15
<p>Budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed costs should be reasonable. • Budget should correspond well with program plan and offer sufficient detail to understand how resources will be used and the project will work. • Cost sharing is not required. Optional match or in-kind funding for the project can be considered if it strengthens the project. 	15

*A farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group – meaning a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice, including African Americans, Native American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, as defined in the California Farmer Equity Act of 2017 (AB [1348](#)).

Questions About this RFA: Email cafarmtofork@cdfa.ca.gov with questions about this RFA. Questions and answers will be anonymized and posted in Frequently Asked Questions on the program website.

Call for External Reviewers: Interested in joining the Technical Review Committee for this program? Email cafarmtofork@cdfa.ca.gov with your interest and be ready to submit information about any conflicts of interest, including affiliation with any organization applying for funding through this program.