

## Food Access Programs

Programs that provide funding to increase access to healthy, affordable food as a means to improve health outcomes in nutritionally underserved communities.

[www.mass.gov/guides/agricultural-grants-and-financial-assistance-programs](http://www.mass.gov/guides/agricultural-grants-and-financial-assistance-programs)

### MA Food Trust Program (MFTP)

Provides funding to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) to invest in sub-recipients for projects that increase access to healthy, affordable food options, sourcing Massachusetts grown, caught, or harvested food while improving economic opportunities for nutritionally underserved communities.

### MA Food Ventures Program (MFVP)

Funds projects that support food ventures in low- or moderate-income communities. Key areas of investment include: food processing infrastructure, improved food distribution systems, and retail outlet strategies.

### Urban Agriculture Program

Funds projects that increase the production, processing, and marketing of produce grown and sold in urban centers. Key areas of investment include: soil management, land, equipment, marketing/distribution, infrastructure, and innovative technologies.

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## Grants & Funding Programs

# Programs at work for you

Connecting your agricultural business with the funding resources you need

## Environmental & Food Safety Programs

Reimbursement grant programs with goals of improving soil health, water quality, water use efficiency, reducing or limiting greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency, reducing air quality impacts, and improving food safety while maintaining sustainability and productivity. Grant funding is available in amounts between \$25,000 and \$50,000 dependent on budgetary allocations.

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### The Climate Smart Agriculture Program (CSAP)

The combined application for the ACRE, AEEP, and ENER grants.



#### Ag Climate Resiliency & Efficiencies (ACRE) Program

Funds projects that help farms adapt to climate change, mitigate climate change, and improve economic resiliency. These projects include soil health, water use efficiency, and other projects that reduce or limit greenhouse gas emissions. Project examples include no-till equipment, high-tunnels, infrastructure, and monitoring systems.



#### Ag Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP)

Funds conservation practices that reduce or prevent negative impacts to natural resources that may result from agricultural practices. Project examples include drip irrigation, fencing, fuel storage, manure storage, pesticide storage, and water re-use projects.



#### Ag Energy Program (ENER)

Funds agricultural energy projects that improve energy efficiency and the adoption of alternative energy technology. Project examples include heat recovery, plate coolers, reverse osmosis (ROs), thermal blankets, solar panels, battery storage, and geothermal.



#### Ag Food Safety Improvement Program (AFSIP)

Funds produce and aquaculture operations for projects that improve food safety and meet buyer and regulatory requirements. Project examples include refrigeration, hand-washing sinks, washing equipment, facility upgrades, containers, and drainage systems.

#### Ag Composting Improvement Program (ACIP)

Funds composting projects for agricultural composters who are looking to improve the management of their operation. Project examples include screeners, spreaders, mixers, compost pads, and windrow covers.

## Agricultural Viability Programs

Programs that provide business and technical assistance to help beginning and established farms identify strategies to increase farm viability such as new or expanded enterprises, increased productivity, marketing, and environmental sustainability. Grant funding is provided to selected participants to implement identified strategies.

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### Farm Viability Enhancement Program (FVEP)

Business & technical assistance for established farms to identify strategies to increase farm viability. Funds of \$75,000 to \$150,000 are available for capital projects identified in the business plan process in return for signing an ag covenant on the farm property for 10 to 15 years.

Funds are typically used for building or repairing structures, modernizing equipment, or improving marketing structures or food processing capacity.

### Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture (MEGA)

Business & technical assistance for beginning farmers (1-6 years) to identify strategies to develop their farm. Funds of \$10,000 with a 1:1 match are available to implement strategies identified in the planning process.

Funds are typically used for equipment, infrastructure, or other capital improvements.



### APR Improvement Program (AIP)

Business & technical assistance to farms with land that has already been protected through the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program to identify strategies to enhance the long term continued use of the farm. Funds of \$60,000 to \$120,000 are available towards infrastructure projects identified in the business planning process.

### Stewardship Assistance & Restoration on APRs (SARA)

Funds new owners of land that has been protected through the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program to resolve stewardship issues on the property.

Funding of up to \$35,000 for materials, contracted labor, and equipment rental costs to clear or reclaim cropland that is inactive, at no fault of their own, or was affected by natural disasters, to restore active commercial farming.



### Other Financial Assistance Programs

✓ **Organic Cost Share**

Reimbursement to certified organic farmers and food processor up to 75% (\$750 max) of their total certification costs.

[www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-the-organic-certification-cost-share-program](http://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-the-organic-certification-cost-share-program)

✓ **Farm Energy Discount**

10% discount on electricity and natural gas bills for agricultural entities engaged in production agriculture. [www.mass.gov/farm-energy-discount-program](http://www.mass.gov/farm-energy-discount-program)