

USDA invests \$9 M in 10 Organizations Nationwide to support Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing nearly \$9 million in funding to local organizations to provide outreach, education and technical assistance to urban agricultural producers in ten U.S. cities. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is partnering with To Improve Mississippi Economics (T.I.M.E.) to administer an urban farm outreach program offering subawards to community groups that work with producers in cities where FSA has established Urban County Committees.

"Working with T.I.M.E. to fund organizations providing on-the-ground support to urban producers is an important step in fulfilling our commitment to the health and sustainability of our communities and building resilient local food systems," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux, "Through T.I.M.E.'s expanded outreach efforts, made possible through USDA funding, we can now connect producers to our Urban USDA Service Centers and broaden the impact of our Urban County Committees and the federal farm programs we offer."

The T.I.M.E. partnership is part of a broad USDA investment in urban agriculture and innovative production. Other efforts include:

Establishing 17 new Urban Service Centers staffed by FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees to better serve urban producers.

Organizing **27 FSA urban county committees** to make important decisions about how FSA farm programs are administered locally. Urban farmers who participate in USDA programs in the areas selected are encouraged to participate by nominating and voting for county committee members.

Investing \$5.2 million for **Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP)** competitive grants in fiscal year 2024

Administering the **People's Garden Initiative**, which celebrates collaborative gardens across the country and worldwide that benefit their communities by growing fresh, healthy food and supporting resilient, local food systems using sustainable practices and providing greenspace.

Creating and managing a **Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production** to advise the Secretary on the development of policies and outreach relating to urban agriculture.

Providing **cooperative agreements** that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans.

Investing in **risk management education** to broaden the reach of crop insurance among urban and innovative producers.

Partnering with the **Vermont Law and Graduate School Center for Agriculture and Food Systems** to develop resources that help growers understand and work through local policies.