

**2022 Beginning Farmer and Farmworker Training and Workforce Development (BFFTP) Grant Program
Project Abstracts of Awarded Projects**

Organization Name	Project Name	Funding Track	Award Amount	Region	Project Summary
African American Farmers of California	African American Farmers of California (AAFC) Beginner Farmer Training Program	Track 1	\$ 100,000.00	Central Valley	The foundation of AAFC was built upon the work of countless people who were determined to ensure that future generations of African Americans continue in the farming profession. This grant seeks to fulfill the original vision of AAFC, to formalize an agricultural training program that centers on the legacy of African Americans in farming. This planning grant will be allow AAFC to work on developing a demonstration farm site and agricultural training programs that will be run independently on an ongoing year-round basis.
Circle of Life	Generating Push Towards a Farmer-led Foodshed	Track 1	\$ 100,000.00	San Diego County	Circle of Life is a platform for projects that support people and planet. Since 1999, Circle of Life has helped incubate cutting edge projects that share our passion for living more compassionately and more lightly on the Earth. In March 2020, Foodshed Small Farm Distro and Resource Hub (Foodshed) joined the Circle of Life portfolio of projects. Foodshed is a farmer-run distribution company with a transformative purpose. They aggregate produce from a network of 50 small, regenerative farms and work with community partners to distribute it to people who are most negatively impacted by inequities in the food system. The organization is led by farmers who are also food system leaders with more than 20 years of experience innovating and expanding grassroots projects that generate lasting change. Foodshed will activate its network of socially disadvantaged producers, aspiring farmers and community partners to plan for effective training programs, identify workforce development needs and strategize for future projects.
Charitable Ventures/ CRECE	CRECE Urban Farming Training for Beginning Farmers	Track 1	\$ 100,000.00	Orange County	Community in Resistance for Ecological and Cultural Empowerment (CRECE) is an urban farming cooperative in Santa Ana, California. In the proposed project, CRECE will formalize its urban farmer education program by designing a training curriculum for socially disadvantaged beginning farmers in Orange County that is grounded in racial equity and agroecological principles. This bilingual (Spanish and English), culturally grounded curriculum will teach a variety of urban farming techniques and also engages farmers in discussions about agroecology and climate justice. This project seeks to develop a network for BIPOC beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers with a special focus on working-class Latinx community members of Orange County, promoting urban agriculture. The project will also design a network to advance CRECE as a regional hub for urban farming.
Huerta del Valle	Agricultores Del Valle: Enhancing Farmer Training for Socially Disadvantaged Beginning Farmers	Track 1	\$ 100,000.00	Riverside County	Huerta del Valle will further develop its existing farmer training program and collaborate with regional partners who will support new and beginning farmers with the skillset, experience, and network to enter careers in agriculture by providing culturally competent training, pathways to existing employment and opportunities for incubation farming. The goal of this project is to enhance our existing farmer training program to further support new and beginning socially disadvantaged farmers to be successful in starting their own farming enterprise or entering into careers in farming and other agriculturally related jobs by providing post program pathways to continue to develop skills and experience in mentorship, internships, apprenticeships, or employment. This program will explore potential pathways to starting a new farming operation that will allow participants to develop agricultural skills and reinvest into their future farm business.

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Pueblo Unido Community Dev Corp	The El Milagro Farming Program: Planning/ Dev Phase	Track 1	\$ 100,000.00	Riverside-Coachella Valley	Pueblo Unido CDC is establishing El Milagro Farming, the first program for small farmers in the Eastern Coachella Valley to provide: training/education; technical/financial resources; produce distribution networks; and leverage existing networks. The target population for El Milagro Farming will be farmworker families living at small mobile home parks legislatively designated as "Polanco" mobile home parks. Through this project, Pueblo Unido seeks to support beginning farmers that own plots ranging from 1 to 40 acres, to develop their assets, establish local market opportunities for produce distribution, provide income opportunities, and increase their potential for success.
Three Sisters Gardens	Three Sisters Garden Ag Youth Leadership Development Project	Track 1	\$ 100,000.00	Sacramento/Yolo Co.	The Three Sisters Gardens Ag Youth Leadership Development project will grow and support the agricultural leadership potential for local West Sacramento and Native youth to be farming leaders. The program will focus on system impacted youth and Native youth and provide a hands-on opportunity to learn about farming and running a farm business. The program will serve as a "hook" for youth, primarily focusing on youth who have been impacted by the incarceration system, and will also be an important "bridge" to continue building their job and educational skills beyond the first year apprenticeship. Youth will learn what it takes to transition from farm employee to farm manager or farm owner, and the risk management skills necessary to navigate those transitions.
Farmworkers Institute of Education	FIELD's CTE Ag Farmer Training Program	Track 1	\$ 100,000.00	Kern County	FIELD has a CTE Ag program that provides free career technical education to socially disadvantaged adults in locations throughout California. The organization serves English language learners, the majority of whom are agriculture workers. This project will enhance, revise and expand the agricultural program with an added emphasis on formation of agricultural cooperatives.
Sustainable Systems	Regenerative Agriculture Workshops for Socially Disadvantaged Beginning Farmers in the Monterey Bay Region	Track 2	\$ 135,000.00	Central Coast	The Sustainable Systems Research Foundation, in partnership with Whiskey Hill Farms, Hartnell College and the Community Alliance for Family Farmers, will continue a series of bilingual training assistance workshops for operators of small farms in the Monterey Bay Region over the coming two years (2022-24). These workshops were first offered in 2021-22, focused on regenerative agriculture and closed loop farm economies as well as technical assistance needs, tools and opportunities that support farm productivity, operations, management and access. The new workshop series will draw on lessons learned and feedback from farmer participants in the 2021-22 workshops, and will be better adapted to the specific needs and learning styles of beginning Latinx farmers.
Five Keys	The Ecological Agriculture Cultural Center Business and Career Path Development Program	Track 2	\$ 200,000.00	Riverside County	Since 2019, Five Keys has launched EAT's 10-month Small Farm Apprenticeship Program (free to participants), developed a tool lending library, created a weekly Farmers & Artisans Market featuring products from local farmers and craftspeople, and grown a culture that supports participants as they navigate their agricultural path. The Ecological Agriculture Training (EAT) Cultural Center will expand its beginning farmer apprenticeship program, educating 50 farmers, including socially disadvantaged farmers, and registering 25 new farms; create an educational enterprise farm; provide Alternative Agriculture Career Path Development; purchase equipment; and lease farmland.

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Fresno Metro Ministry	Yo'Ville Farm Incubator Program	Track 2	\$ 500,000.00	Fresno County	<p>The Yo'Ville Farm Incubator Program will take place at the Yo'Ville Community Garden & Urban Farm for the training site. The program consists of a 2 year commitment assisting a BIMPOC farmer to establish themselves and their business. They will be provided the resources, network, and support to farm planning and land management. The project's goal is to improve food access and local economic development in our community through aiding farmers and farmworkers in the development of their own businesses and increasing their capacities to participate and expand local markets.</p> <p>Outcomes include assisting farmers in the establishment of their business entities and acquire the necessary licenses and permits to be able to sell their produce at local markets by their second year.</p>
North Coast Growers Association	North Coast Beginning Farmer Training Program	Track 2	\$ 500,000.00	Northern CA	<p>The North Coast Beginning Farmer Training Program will significantly strengthen localized support exclusively for socially disadvantaged and small-scale farmers who currently have very limited access to resources in the remote, isolated and underserved counties of Humboldt and Del Norte, and for members of the The Yurok Tribe. Three main project areas will deliver this training and support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scaling Up for Wholesale: Small Farm Training Program. 2. Farmer Land Match - Direct support for land access 3. Climate Resilience Training Programs: Two training programs providing long term and sustainable strategies for climate resilience and adaptations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Yurok Food Production for Resiliency Program B. The Climate Resilient Farmer: A College of the Redwoods training program providing long term and sustainable strategies for climate resilience and adaptations. <p>The goal of the project is to increase financial resiliency, adaptive capacity, and agricultural production by facilitating producers' direct connection to local and national agricultural resources, training program services and support systems for socially disadvantaged and small-scale farmers.</p>
Agroecology Commons	Agroecology Common's Farmer-to-farmer Training and Mobilization Program	Track 2	\$ 500,000.00	Bay Area	<p>This project focuses on education, resources, and network building for beginning farmers through Agroecology Commons' Bay Area Farmer-to-Farmer Training Program (BAFFT) and Farmer Mobilization (FM). BAFFT and FM are dedicated to serving beginning farmers who are queer, trans, Black, Indigenous, multiracial, and/or people of color. Agroecology Commons serves beginning farmers, small farmers, and agroecological educators working to amplify farming practices that enhance food sovereignty and farming as a viable career choice. Through carefully curated and farmer-led programming, we contribute to cultivating a just and equitable food system.</p>

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Allensworth Progressive Organization	TAC Teaching & Innovation Farm Lab Program	Track 2	\$ 500,000.00	Central Valley	The Allensworth Progressive Association will build a program serving beginning farmers in the Central Valley, with access to land, water, and farming resources. The Allensworth Progressive Association (APA) will build a hands-on TAC Teaching & Innovation Farm Lab Program to serve beginning farmers in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Southern California, providing new or conventionally experienced agriculturalists access to land, water, and farming resources. This proposed Project will serve farmers in developing the necessary skills and experience to enter agricultural operations successfully, while shifting the industry through implementing sustainable, regenerative, and innovative practices. The project will establish a permanent beginning farmer training program in the historic Black community of Allensworth, incorporating the ethos of regenerative land management and economic resiliency through community collaboration.
Mesa Grande	Building a Tribal Farm Workforce for Job Sustainability	Track 3	\$ 500,000.00	San Diego County	The Mesa Grande Business Development Corporation, an instrumentality of the Mesa Grande Band of Diegueno Mission Indians, is seeking to expand its current two-acre demonstration garden to a total of 10 acres on tribally owned land. Mesa Grande desires to expand its tribal organic farm and workforce. The Band's Development Corporation now wishes to build the operation of its 2-acre farm and workforce into a sustainable long-term tribal business. The BDC has reserved up to 20 acres for organic farming, and will bring another eight acres into production under this project. This will require an expanded workforce and increased training opportunities for employees, as well as additional supplies, equipment, and external partner support.
MICOP	Indigenous Farmworker Training Program	Track 3	\$ 665,000.00	Central Coast	MICOP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to support, organize and empower the Indigenous migrant community along the Central Coast. As an organization that works almost exclusively with Indigenous migrants MICOP is seeking to expand its existing farmworker leadership curriculum to establish an Indigenous Farmworkers Training Program. The Program will provide labor relations and workplace safety training, and hands-on skills including forklift and farm equipment certification. The Program will create strong career pathways for 75 or more farmworkers and increase the capacity of the Labor Justice Program, adding a new and distinct workforce development component focused on improving career opportunities for farmworker leaders.
CA Farmworker Foundation	Growing Futures Program	Track 3	\$ 800,000.00	Central Valley	Since 2018, CFF has partnered with Bakersfield College and Porterville College to provide educational opportunities for Farmworkers in Kern and Tulare County. In addition, the partnership results have allowed CFF to produce non-credit specialized job training with the support of Agricultural companies. The Growing Futures project will provide Farmworkers with an opportunity to increase their educational attainment via credit and non-credit courses from local community colleges at their worksites and communities. The program will elevate the current workforce skillsets to ensure Central Valley Growers remain competitive in the global market.