



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

### Community Farming Proposal for Partnership for Growth LA (PFGLA) Freedom Farms Program

#### BACKGROUND:

**Partnership for Growth LA (PFGLA)** is a nonprofit community development corporation with a mission to catalyze generational community wellness and cooperative development throughout South and West Los Angeles by addressing food insecurity, economic development, and housing affordability. PFGLA's primary service area can be seen at the following website: <https://bit.ly/PFGLAmap>

The objective of PFGLA's Freedom Farms program is to coordinate and scale urban farming efforts, leverage local urban agricultural expertise, and support job creation and economic development through urban farming programs. The vision of Freedom Farms is to create a network of urban farms and gardens that support an economically sustainable food distribution system to local businesses and community members. In the first year of the Freedom Farms pilot phase, PFGLA will collaborate with partners to establish 5 urban farms, and invest fiscal and technical support into 10 existing gardens and farms.

#### PURPOSE OF RFP:

PFGLA is requesting proposals from eligible entities to support Freedom Farms programming by growing agricultural products on sites and providing identified produce for sale and distribution to support a local food economy in the targeted Freedom Farms service area.

The Freedom Farms Program is open to growers across a broad spectrum of experience. PFGLA will assist with financial and technical support for existing urban agriculture sites and for the development of new urban farms on vacant lots. PFGLA will work with selected entities to understand the specific needs of each project site and provide the appropriate guidance. This support may include investment into materials and infrastructure, site assessment and planning, activation of vacant lots into productive urban agriculture sites, capacity building projects, and providing technical support. Through the Freedom Farms Program, the awardees will be growing produce that will improve food access in the community through crop swap programs, sale at farmer's markets, sale to local businesses, and community distribution.

The Freedom Farms Program is intended to be a cooperative partnership between PFGLA, selected entities, and our collective community partners. Selected entities will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with PFGLA that establishes terms of the partnership, including, but not limited to, funding, site access, allocations of products grown, and distribution plans.

#### SCOPE OF WORK:

- Partner with Freedom Farms team including PFGLA staff, Master Gardeners, and community partners to deliver programs to source quality agricultural products in support of Freedom Farms mission.

- Participate in regular meetings with Freedom Farms team to understand current priorities, delivery guidelines, access to farm locations, service requirements, and identified health and safety requirements related to agricultural product distribution.
- Develop and deliver sustainable strategies to support the scalable growth of agricultural programs as well as development of agricultural sites.
- Adhere to Freedom Farms programming and branding guidelines.
- Ensure that yield from agriculture programs meets established local guidelines and regulations for crop swap, produce for give away, and/or produce for sale.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

The following entities are eligible to apply for Freedom Farms funding:

- Not-for-profit entities
- Community Gardens or Community Garden Councils
- Schools
- Congregations, synagogues, or other faith-based institutions
- Private and public entities that have demonstrated commitment to social impact

PFGLA will prioritize entities with existing access to land that can be used or is already utilized for urban farming.

PFGLA is currently partnered with Los Angeles County Master Gardeners who are available to work with awardees to develop site design and agricultural plans after proposals have been submitted.

#### **FUNDING:**

Funding will be determined based on the project description and intended design. Project funding is separate from any agreements related to sale or distribution of agricultural yield from each location.

The maximum award amounts per applicant are as follows:

- \$150,000 for establishment of new urban farming projects
- \$50,000 for investment into existing urban farms/community gardens

#### **TIMELINE:**

Responses to this RFP must be submitted by **5:00 pm (PST), October 31, 2023**. Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis and contractor selection will be made by November 30, 2023.

Activity	Dates
Application period begins	September 26, 2023
Community Informational Meetings	September 26 - October 13, 2023
Applications due	October 31, 2023
Administrative review period	November 1 - November 15, 2023
Anticipated date of finalized awards	November 30, 2023
Award agreement term	One year from date of award

## **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

Please submit your proposal to Freedom Farms Program Manager, Nisha Bansal, at [nisha@pfgla.org](mailto:nisha@pfgla.org) **OR** complete the following Google Form response: <https://forms.gle/UzXGJoEmEUEi1RcT7>

If submitting your own proposal package, please be sure to include the following information:

- Applicant Information:
  - Applicant/Entity Name
  - Email Address
  - Phone Number
  - Mailing Address
- Project description:
  - Your vision for your current or future growing space (300 words max)
  - Site location and current stage of development
    - Site map/plan, if available
    - Existing water and electrical plans, physical structures, fences, vehicle access, storage spaces, if applicable
  - Description of approach for developing and sustaining the urban farm and how your vision will address Freedom Farms objectives (300 words max)
  - Currently involved community partners
  - Applicant/entity's capacity to provide volunteers/staff to maintain farm
- Statement of Qualifications including:
  - Details of experience and qualifications (300 words max)
  - Sample work, if available
  - Previous experience with community gardens, farming, or urban agriculture programs
- Cost Proposal
  - Estimated budget, including costs of materials, labor, water, etc.
  - Summary of additional existing funding sources
  - Potential market opportunities/sales, if available

Please provide as much as much of the requested project information as possible. For projects where such information is not yet available, please note that PFGLA has the capacity to work with selected entities to develop site designs, operational plans, distribution plans, etc.