



Maryland Urban Agriculture Commercial Lending Incentive Grant

Program Overview

MARBIDCO's Maryland Urban Agriculture Commercial Lending Incentive Grant (MUACLIG) is designed to incentivize beginning urban farmers to seek commercial lending to develop their urban agricultural enterprises, including the purchase of farm property in an eligible urban area, by offering an equity incentive grant. Many urban farmers lack the equity capital needed to obtain bank financing. MARBIDCO has partnered with Horizon Farm Credit to establish and manage this fund that offers equity grants of \$1,000 to \$15,000 for equipment and working capital, and up to \$35,000 for real estate purchases.

Eligible Applicants

- Beginning urban farmer (10 years or less farming experience or limited net worth under \$300,000).
- Commercial food or fiber operation located in an eligible Maryland urban area, as defined by the United States Census Bureau and any incorporated municipality recognized by the State of Maryland
- Commercial lender or FSA financing must be approved for the project.

Eligible Uses

- Real estate
- Agricultural supplies and inputs
- Farm tools and equipment
- Greenhouses, high tunnels, refrigeration, and irrigation systems
- Hired labor (maximum 20% of eligible project costs)

Applicants that are awarded grants may not materially deviate from their approved business plans without approval from MARBIDCO and the participating commercial lender.

Grant Terms and Conditions

Terms	Details
Maximum grant amount	\$15,000 equipment/working capital; \$35,000 real estate; maximum 25% of project cost and 33% of approved loan amount.
Minimum grant amount	\$1,000. (This means that there must be an approved commercial loan of at least \$3,000.)
Commercial Lender Participation	Required. A commercial lender must have approved a loan to fund the proposed urban farming project before a grant is awarded.
Disbursement of Funds	Funds will be disbursed to approved applicants on a schedule to be determined upon grant award.
Send completed applications to	Send Completed Applications to MARBIDCO Programs, 1410 Forest Drive, Suite 21, Annapolis, MD 21403

Maryland Urban Agriculture Commercial Lending Incentive Grant Application

Lender Information

To be completed by sponsoring bank for Farm Credit representative.

Financial Institution: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Office Phone: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

Direct Phone: _____ Email: _____

Grant Request Information

Total Amount of Project Cost: _____

Total Amount Provided by the Lender: _____

Total Amount Requested from MARBIDCO: _____

Other Funding/Applicant Investment: _____

Lender Terms: _____ Interest rate to be charged _____

Use of Funds	Amount

Sources of Equity and/or Matching Funds:

Source	Amount
Borrower	
MARBIDCO (Same amount requested above)	
Other:	
Total	

COLLATERAL (If Applicable)

(List all collateral the Lender is using as security for the loan, and any other lienholders on each item of collateral.)

Collateral	Value	Lien Holders	Lien Amount

Lender Certification

I certify that the above information is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Loan Officer Signature_____

Date_____

Applicant Information

Business/Farm Name: _____

Business Address: _____

City: _____

County: _____

State: _____

ZIP: _____

Contact Person: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Business Structure

Year Established: _____

State: _____

NAICS Code: _____

☐ Corporation

☐ Proprietorship

☐ Partnership

☐ LLC

Management/Ownership

If there are more than 2 owners, provide the information for all owners and attach to application.

Management/Ownership (Owner 1)

Name: _____

Title: _____ Ownership %: _____

SSN: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Are you a “beginner farmer” (defined as not operating a farm or ranch as a principal operator for more than 10 years): ☐ Yes ☐ No

Management/Ownership (Owner 2)

Name: _____

Title: _____ Ownership %: _____

SSN: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Are you a “beginner farmer” (defined as not operating a farm or ranch as a principal operator for more than 10 years): ☐ Yes ☐ No

Employment Data

Category	Number
Current Full-Time	
New Full-Time within 36 months	
Current Part-Time	
New Part-Time within 36 months	

Project Advisor (If applicable)

Advisor Name: _____

Title: _____

Institution Firm: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Attachments Checklist

Provide all attachments for application to be complete

- ☐ Commercial lender loan commitment letter/agreement and term sheet
- ☐ Brief description and history of your operation, including your experience as principal operator.
- ☐ Description of the Urban Ag project that includes the following information:
- ☐ Location of growing operation (neighborhood or community name and site address)
 - List of products to be grown
 - Growing methods to be used
 - Labor needs
 - Describe the markets for your product
 - How has the community been engaged in planning this project
 - Do you have the required licenses and permits

- How will the loan and grant funds be used

☐ Proposed business and marketing plan (if available)

☐ Proposed project budget/expense list

☐ Two years of federal tax returns (if available)

☐ Balance sheet (**template for the Balance Sheets is available on MARBIDCO's website**)

Note: MARBIDCO agrees to hold the Recipient's Application and Financial Reports in confidence to the extent reasonably permitted by Title 10, Subtitle 6 of the State Government Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*. Notwithstanding the foregoing, MARBIDCO shall not be obligated to maintain in confidence any information: 1) which was already known to MARBIDCO; or, 2) which is or comes into the public domain through no fault of MARBIDCO; or, 3) which is independently developed by MARBIDCO; or, 4) which comes to MARBIDCO from a third party which is not in violation of any obligation of confidentiality to Applicant or MARBIDCO.

Declarations

If answering "yes" to any of these questions, please provide an explanation on a separate sheet and attach.

1. Is the business or any of the top management personnel a party to any claim or lawsuit?

Yes No

2. Has the business or any of the top management personnel ever declared bankruptcy?

Yes No

3. Does the business or any of the management personnel owe any taxes for prior years?

Yes No

4. Have any managers or owners received a felony conviction? Yes No

Conflict of Interest and Ethics Certification

The applicant certifies compliance with the Maryland Public Ethics Law. The applicant affirms that to the best of their knowledge, no State official or employee—nor any qualifying relative (spouse, parent, child, brother, or sister) of a State official or employee—is employed by or has a financial interest in the applicant's business. Furthermore, no State official or employee has a financial interest in the proceeds of this loan or a financial interest in an entity that is negotiating or has entered a contract with the governmental unit.

Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691)

MARBIDCO does not discriminate in its lending practices. The Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA) and the laws of the State of Maryland strictly prohibit creditors from discriminating against credit applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age (provided the applicant has the capacity to enter into a binding contract), physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, because all or part of the applicant's income derives from any public assistance program, or because the applicant has in good faith exercised any right under the Consumer Credit Protection Act.

The Federal agency that administers compliance with the federal law concerning this creditor is the Federal Trade Commission, Equal Credit Opportunity, Washington, D.C. 20580.

Authority to Collect Personal Information

This notice is provided pursuant to § 4-501 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Code. The personal information requested on this application is intended to be used in processing your loan request. Failure to provide the information requested may result in your application not being processed or receiving full consideration. You have the right to inspect, amend, or correct this form.

MARBIDCO is a public agency and is subject to the Maryland Public Information Act. Please be advised that information contained in this form may be made available on the Internet via the agency's website and is subject to inspection or copying, in whole or in part, by the public and other governmental agencies, unless the information is explicitly protected from disclosure by federal or State law.

I authorize the disclosure of all information submitted in connection with this application to the financial institution agreeing to participate in the project financing.

I waive all claims against any financial institution agreeing to participate in the project financing or MARBIDCO.

I realize that if I do not comply with the aforementioned Certification, my loan can be called, terminated or repayments accelerated.

I authorize MARBIDCO to obtain any additional financial information concerning me from any source which MARBIDCO reasonably requires in order to determine whether to make the requested loan, including credit histories, credit reports, and credit scores.

Certification

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Maryland that the information provided in this application, including all statements, representations, and accompanying documents, is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I understand and acknowledge that submitting false, misleading, or intentionally incomplete information is a violation of State law. I agree that any such misrepresentation may result in the immediate denial of this application, the immediate acceleration and demand for repayment of any loan funds already disbursed, and referral to the appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution for fraud and/or perjury.

Signatures

Applicant Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Electronic signatures, including PDF or emailed signatures, are considered original.

How did you hear about this MARBIDCO financial program?

☐ Search Engine (Google, Bing, etc.)

☐ Social media

☐ Recommended by a friend

☐ Event table or exhibit

☐ MARBIDCO newsletter

☐ Advertisement

☐ Other (specify): _____

☐ Referred by (Enter name/ organization/ state agency): _____