

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURE: OPPORTUNITY FOR FLORIDIANS TO BOOST COMPOST AND REDUCE FOOD WASTE



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The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the availability of up to \$9.5 million for **Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR)** pilot projects for Fiscal Year 2023. These federally funded cooperative agreements support projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost and food waste reduction plans. They are part of USDA's broader efforts to support urban agriculture.

USDA's **Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP)** will accept applications until 11:59 pm ET on June 15, 2023. Projects should span two years, with a start date of December 1, 2023, and a completion date of December 1, 2025.

CFWR projects empower communities to reduce waste and support agricultural producers through increased access to compost to improve soil health in their operations.

CFWR grants will provide eligible entities, which includes local governments and local school districts, the financial support needed to create an infrastructure model that will:

- Generate compost;
- Increase access to compost for agricultural producers;
- Reduce reliance on and limit the use of fertilizer;
- Improve soil quality;
- Encourage waste management and permaculture business development;
- Increase rainwater absorption;
- Reduce municipal food waste; and
- Divert food waste from landfills.

OUAIP will prioritize projects that:

1. Anticipate or demonstrate economic benefits;
2. Incorporate plans to make compost easily accessible to farmers, including community gardeners;
3. Integrate other food waste strategies, including food recovery efforts; and
4. Collaborate with multiple partners.

Additional details are available in the [grants.gov notice](#).

As demonstrated by last year's awards, CFWR grants have the potential to offer great opportunities for Floridians. For example, Miami-Dade County was awarded a CFWR grant in 2022 and plans to use the funds to encourage a circular economy for food waste. The county will provide three local composting businesses assistance in scaling their services. In 2022, Florida's Hernando County was also awarded a CFWR grant, which will fund a project that will transform food waste into compost and make that compost available to local agricultural producers.

Preparing a grant application can be challenging. However, the challenge is much more manageable with the help of experienced grant-writing professionals. Given the opportunity presented by the new funding for CFWR grants, there has never been a more significant and more necessary time to take that challenge than now.

For more information regarding the CFWR grant opportunities, please visit the USDA's CFWR Cooperative Agreement webpage at <https://www.usda.gov/topics/urban/coop-agreements#2022-projects>, or contact the GrayRobinson national [Food Law Team](#) at 866.382.5132 or foodlaw@gray-robinson.com.

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