



Brighter Future Microgrants Program Application Form

The Brighter Future Microgrants Program (BFMP) will assist farmers in successfully launching, growing and sustaining farms in the face of forces impacting the food and agricultural system, including the COVID-19 pandemic, changing markets, severe weather and climate change. Grants are intended to leverage other resources and make a real difference for farmers to improve farm viability, access land, improve land security, facilitate farm transfers and increase resilience to climate change.

See BFMP Guidelines for eligibility requirements and a detailed program description. Farmers seeking a grant should submit a completed Brighter Future Microgrants Application Package to American Farmland Trust (AFT).

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning October 12, 2020. Applications may be submitted electronically to brighterfuture@farmland.org.

Please answer all the questions below and see the application checklist for additional requirements.

Privacy & Data Use

Your trust is important to the staff at American Farmland Trust. The information you provide on this survey will be protected and no personal information will be shared outside the organization without your permission.

Eligibility

The first couple questions will determine your eligibility to apply for the Brighter Futures Microgrant Program.

1. Was the total market value of agricultural products sold by your farm operation in 2019* more than \$1,000?
**Please note that we are only accepting applications from farm operations that have sold more than \$1,000 in agricultural products in 2019.*
 - a. Yes or No
 - b. (Disqualify if) No
2. **Target Region/Metropolitan Area-** Please select from the following eligible regions to identify where the farm is located.
 - a. What state is your farm located in?
 - i. Drop down of eligible states
 - ii. Disqualify if state is not listed
 - b. What county is your farm located in?
 - i. Drop down of eligible counties based on state list
 - ii. Disqualify if county is not listed

Applicant Information

3. Name of Applicant:
4. Phone Number:
5. Email:
6. Personal Mailing Address:
 - a. Line 1
 - b. Line 2
 - c. City
 - d. State
 - e. Zip Code
7. Farm Name (if applicable):
8. Farm Address (if different than personal address):
 - a. Line 1
 - b. Line 2
 - c. City
 - d. State
 - e. Zip Code
9. If your farm does not have a USPS address, please include its Section, Township or Range.
10. Which address would you prefer AFT uses for primary communication?
 - a. Personal Mailing Address
 - b. Farm Mailing Address
11. Do you own or lease farmland at this address?
 - a. If you lease, what year does your current lease extend to?
12. Farm Website (if applicable):
13. Grant Amount Requested [\$5,000 maximum]:

The BFMP project will place special emphasis on supporting farmers from underserved or underrepresented communities including farmers who identify as Black, persons of color, indigenous, and LGBTQIA+. At least 50% of available funds will be awarded to farmers from these communities and at least 50% of available funds will be awarded to female-identifying farmers. **The BFMP seeks to uplift, support, and amplify a wide range of farmers. Information will be used for internal use only.**

14. Gender:

- a. Female
- b. Male
- c. Non-binary
- d. Transgender
- e. Prefer Not to Answer

15. What is your race, ethnicity or cultural heritage? *Check all that apply. There is room to use your own language below.*

- a. White
- b. Black or African American
- c. Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin
- d. Indigenous/Native American
- e. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- f. Asian
- g. Other _____

16. Do you identify as being part of the LGBTQIA+ community?

- a. Yes
- b. No

17. Years involved in Operating a Farm:

- a. 10 Years or More
- b. Less Than 10 Years

18. Did you spend a majority (50 percent or more) of your worktime in farming or ranching in 2019?

- a. Yes
- b. No

19. Size of farm (total acres of land including cropland, pasture, woodland, and all other land):

- a. 0.1 to 1 acre
- b. 1 to 9 acres
- c. 10 to 49 acres
- d. 50 to 99 acres
- e. 100 to 499 acres
- f. 500 acres or more

20. What farm products did this farm operation produce, raise or grow in 2020? (Check all that apply).

- a. Dairy
- b. Vegetables
- c. Fruits, nuts or berries
- d. Field crops

- e. Greenhouse or nursery crops
- f. Cattle, hogs or other livestock
- g. Other _____

Your Farming Situation:

21. Tell us about your current farming status and land tenure situation (full-time, part-time, hobby/personal use, leasing land, managing a farm, etc.): (150-word max)
22. Please also describe your farming background and experiences. If you are not currently farming, please explain: (100-word max)

Proposed Use of Funds:

23. Please share the ways in which you specifically you are proposing to use BFMP funds and how it will address the barriers you describe above. Include in your description: (150-words max)
- a. Specific details about the equipment, infrastructure, or services that will be acquired
 - b. A description of the ways that the equipment, infrastructure, or services you are seeking will enhance your farming enterprise and aspirations.
24. What is your level of need with this project?
- a. The project will occur with or without BFMP assistance.
 - b. The project could occur without BFMP assistance but funds will significantly help.
 - c. The project would not be possible without BFMP assistance.

Project Cost

25. Please provide an estimate of total cost for your project or purchase:
26. If other funds are required, what is the source of other funds?

Timeline

All work supported by the grant must be completed within one year of the date of the award letter.

27. When do you expect that the project will be completed? (Month / Year): _____

28. If the project cannot be completed within one year, please explain why:

Join Us in Saving the Land That Sustains Us

All grant applicants will be signed-up for email updates and action opportunities from AFT, and will receive a complimentary one-year American Farmland Trust membership. If you do not wish to receive these updates and complimentary membership, please check the box below:

___ I do not wish to receive updates and a complimentary membership from AFT, but agree to be contacted about my grant application