## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

## **AGRICULTURE**

## STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**Notice of Availability of Grant Funds and Application Deadline** 

Farmland Preservation, Nonprofit Acquisition Grant Program

**Take notice** that in compliance with N.J.A.C. 2:76-12, 13, 14, 15, and 16, the State Agriculture Development Committee announces the acceptance of applications under the following State Farmland Preservation Program.

- A. **Name of grant program**: Farmland Preservation, Nonprofit Acquisition Grant Program.
- B. **Purpose**: To provide a grant to private nonprofit organizations for up to 50 percent of the cost of acquisition of development easements on specific farms or up to 50 percent of the cost of acquisition of fee simple titles to specific farms from willing sellers.
- C. Amount of money available: The State Agriculture Development Committee shall establish an amount of the grant award for the Fiscal Year 2025 funding round and the maximum funding limit per farm, or per applicant, will be determined based on available funds and farm priorities. There is no minimum or maximum grant request amount. Any funding awarded by the State Agriculture Development Committee will be subject to approval by the Garden State Preservation Trust and the appropriations process.
- D. Organizations that may apply for funding under the program: A tax exempt nonprofit organization that is exempt from Federal taxation pursuant to section

- 501(c)(3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501 (c)(3), and which qualifies for a grant pursuant to the Garden State Preservation Trust Act, N.J.S.A. 13:8C-42, P.L. 1999, c.152.
- E. Qualifications needed by an applicant to be considered for funding: To qualify for grant consideration, the board of directors or governing body of the applying tax exempt nonprofit organization shall:
  - Demonstrate to the State Agriculture Development Committee that it qualifies as a nonprofit organization that is exempt from Federal taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), and which qualifies for a grant pursuant to the Garden State Preservation Trust Act, N.J.S.A. 13:8C-42, P.L. 1999, c.152;
  - 2. Demonstrate that it has the resources to match the grant requested;
  - 3. Acquire a development easement on farmland or acquire land in fee simple title to be permanently preserved for farmland preservation purposes pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-12, 13, 14, 15, and 16; and
  - 4. Agree to enter into a project agreement with the State Agriculture Development Committee in the event a project is approved by the State Agriculture Development Committee pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-16.1.
- F. Procedure for eligible organization to apply: All interested applicants can download an application at <a href="https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmpreserve/programs/nonprofit.html">https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmpreserve/programs/nonprofit.html</a>, or call (609) 984-2504 or email <a href="mailto:Stefanie.Miller@ag.nj.gov">Stefanie.Miller@ag.nj.gov</a> for an application package.

- G. Address to which applications must be submitted:

  Electronic submissions by email may be sent to <a href="mailto:Stefanie.Miller@ag.nj.gov">Stefanie.Miller@ag.nj.gov</a>.
- H. Deadline by which applications must be submitted: Completed applications must be received by the State Agriculture Development Committee on or before June 17, 2024.
- Date by which applicant shall be notified of approval or disapproval: It is anticipated that applications will be reviewed for preliminary approval September 26, 2024.