

Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership



TIE Grant Program Overview

Grant Description

The Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership is offering a new innovative funding program for farmers in Bristol, Plymouth and Norfolk counties. The goal of the TIE (Technology, Innovation, and Excellence) Grant program is to encourage farmers to trial new equipment, implement new systems, and address the challenges farmers collectively face. Farmers are best situated to come up with creative ideas for the problems they experience. By increasing the ability to create solutions locally we are able to increase local knowledge and capacity and resilience.

Farmers face significant challenges, both financially and with time commitments, and this SEMAMAP TIE grant funding program is intended to lower the economic barriers to **innovation**. By disseminating the results of these grant outcomes to the larger community, farmers will share knowledge and experience with other farmers throughout the area.

Goals & Guidelines

- Funds can be used for:
 - Materials
 - Consultants
 - Project costs
- Funds cannot be used for
 - Capital costs for buildings, greenhouses, etc.
 - Start a farm
 - Administrative costs that would be there without the project
- Duration
 - One year
- Award size
 - \$500 to \$3000

Who Can Apply

- Eligibility & geographical requirements
 - Active Farmers and Aquaculturists
 - Southeastern Massachusetts region - Bristol, Plymouth, Norfolk counties

What Can Be Funded

- Eligible topics and types of projects
 - Types of projects
 - Marketing, production, pest management, cover crops, composting, new crops, pollinators, new tools – improves profitability, increases innovation, sustainability
 - **Innovative, new ideas or new twist on old ideas**
 - Seeking *innovative* solutions that are of valuable to the region (transferable/applicable)
 - **Applicable to a range of farmers in our region**

What is Expected of Grantees

- What will happen if your project is funded
 - Reimbursable
- Project data & reporting
 - Collect data/information & prepare presentation of results.
 - Vine
 - Twilight
 - Ag & Food Conference
 - Summaries posted on SEMAP website
 - Collaboration with social media outreach on project.

Timeline

- Submissions, review, award announcements & release of funds
 - Application timeline
 - Due March 25th
 - Funding decisions made early/mid April
 - Decisions announced mid April
 - Contracts are signed, and all documents returned to SEMAP (expected mid March)
 - Funds will be released upon receipt of invoices
- Reporting
 - Final 2-page Project Summary due February 2019 **-or-** Workshop held at 2019 SEMAP Winter Conference
 - **-or-** 2019 Twilight Workshop scheduled

For further information contact:

Karen Schwalbe

(508) 524-2601

kschwalbe@semaponline.org

P.O. Box 80625

S. Dartmouth, MA 02748