

Announcement! 2025 Growing Equity Award Recipients

We're pleased to announce the 15 recipients of our 2025 [Growing Equity](#) Awards! In February, we opened a request for applications to urban farms and agriculture organizations to help build capacity and secure the viability of urban agriculture in San Diego County. Our program objectives aim to: promote community food and health, increase access to public funding for urban agriculture, invest in [California Climate Investment Priority Populations](#), and organize and amplify urban farmers as agents of change, land stewards, and community leaders. We received 43 complete applications with funding requests totaling over \$1.6M. We're able to award a total of \$270,000, with funds from the [California Department of Food & Agriculture's Urban Agriculture Program](#) and a contribution from [San Diego Foundation](#). 100% of our funded projects are located in or directly serving California Climate Investment Priority Populations. Our application review committee was unanimously impressed by our award cohort's commitment and impact on local agriculture, community, climate, and health. We look forward to the year ahead with our 2025 Growing Equity cohort as we collectively work towards greener pathways. In solidarity and appreciation (and with tons of enthusiasm!), we salute you, urban farmers!

Awardee	Type	Location	Funding	Project
Arif Urban Agrarian Collective (AUAC)	Non-profit organization	City Heights San Diego	\$10,000	AUAC is rooted in the cultural heritage and farming expertise of its founding farmers, immigrant women from East Africa. AUAC will grow food, tend a fruit orchard, and offer farm education and skill-building opportunities to community members at the Peace Garden in City Heights.
BeeWorthy Farms	Farm business	Encinitas	\$10,000	BeeWorthy Farms is a certified organic flower and herb farm operating on public school district-owned land and led by seasoned urban farmer, Cat Henning. BeeWorthy will expand their medicinal herbal community education efforts.
Footprint Farm	Farm business	Southeastern San Diego	\$10,000	Footprint Farm grows seasonal produce on a church's property and is led by seasoned urban farmer, Kristin Kvernland. Footprint will co-create a health ministry garden plot for congregation members to learn to grow food. They will also increase production capacity to sell to

				low-income customers as a producer member of Foodshed Cooperative.
Garden 31	Non-profit organization	Vista	\$10,000	Garden 31 offers farming education and career apprenticeship, serving opportunity youth, formerly incarcerated, and justice-impacted individuals. Garden 31 will expand their apprenticeship to combat recidivism rates among youth and young adults. They will also increase production capacity to serve more clients with disabilities and low-income families.
Golden Eagle Farm	Tribal organization	Mesa Grande Tribal Reservation	\$10,000	Golden Eagle Farm, operated by the Mesa Grande Business Development Corporation, organically produces fruits, vegetables, and herbs for sale to Tribal members, local schools, and the surrounding community. They will invest in water infrastructure to improve their irrigation efficiency and climate resilience.
Grow Eco Farm	Farm business	Ramona	\$10,000	Grow Eco Farm regeneratively grows a variety of fruits and vegetables available through their own CSA and Foodshed Cooperative. They will invest in infrastructure and staffing to increase crop production, mitigate climate impacts, and continue building healthy soils.
Hukama Produce	Farm business	Ramona	\$50,000	Hukama Produce is a family-owned farm led by seasoned farmer, Byron Nkhoma. Hukama grows leafy greens, mixed vegetables, and herbs. Produce is sold via multiple market channels including Foodshed Cooperative, +Box, and farmers' markets. They will invest in farm infrastructure to increase production and climate resilience. Hukama will also offer farm education and training through Farm 2 School and Farm Incubator partnerships.

Hutano Produce	Farm business	Ramona	\$10,000	Hutano Produce, led by seasoned farmer Tina Chitura, sells mixed vegetables to Foodshed Cooperative and farmers' markets. They will invest in equipment and market channel development to produce more food for a CSA and Food is Medicine initiative.
Indigenous Regeneration	Tribal organization	Valley Center	\$50,000	Indigenous Regeneration operates Paradise Tribal Farm which integrates climate-resilient agriculture, native plant restoration, and hands-on education to support local food systems. Indigenous Regeneration will establish a farm internship program for Tribal youth, conduct monthly workshops, expand seed saving initiatives, and build on community partnerships.
Inecui	Agriculture business	City Heights San Diego	\$10,000	Inecui is a flower shop co-located at the esteemed City Farmers Nursery. Led by seasoned flower farmers, Cris Juárez and Diana Echeverría, Inecui offers only locally grown flowers from farmers using regenerative practices. Inecui will build a curriculum for cut flower farming and floral design workshops. They will also increase cold storage capacity to aggregate and sell more local flowers, renewing a thriving local flower market.
Kind Folk Farm	Farm business	El Cajon	\$10,000	Kind Folk Farm is a diversified vegetable, herb, and mushroom farm led by seasoned urban farmer, Ayzsha Smith. Kind Folk grows 25+ crops annually, operating their own 40+ household CSA and wholesale channels. They will increase field production capacity and expand climate smart growing practices.
La Chispa Farm	Farm business	Ramona	\$10,000	La Chispa Farm, led by seasoned urban farmer Jose Alcarez, produces vegetables, seeds, and flowers. They sell to low-income households as a

				producer member of Foodshed Cooperative and offer their own CSA and farm stand. La Chispa will invest in their market channel development and cooperative practices with nearby farms.
Psalter Farm Flowers	Farm business	Mid-City San Diego	\$10,000	Psalter Farm Flowers, led by seasoned flower farmer Rachel Nafis, grows and sells specialty cut flowers through a CSA, local flower shops, and florists. They will increase flower production across growing sites and offer sustainable flower gardening workshops, to emphasize the ecosystem and social benefits of flowers in densely populated urban neighborhoods.
Seeds @ City Urban Farm	Public education institution	Downtown San Diego	\$50,000	Seeds@City Urban Farm is a production farm and outdoor laboratory for San Diego City College's Sustainable Agriculture Program. They offer the only accredited public institution urban agriculture program in the region. They run a farm stand and donate food grown to an on-campus pantry. Seeds will offer farm internships, improve the farm stand, and extend their impact on student food security.
World Beat Center	Non-profit organization	South San Diego	\$10,000	World Beat Center farms a quarter acre plot at the Tijuana River Valley Community Garden. They cultivate nutrient-dense, culturally-significant heirloom crops and teach sustainable farming workshops. They will create a sliding-scale priced farm stand in the South Bay and grow food for their cafe in Balboa Park.

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