

Webinar Transcript: T.I.M.E. Inc. Urban Innovative Agriculture Community- Based Organization Funding Opportunity Webinar

Date: Monday, March 18, 2024

Time: 12:00 PM ET

Duration: 1 hour

Presenter: To Improve Mississippi Economics (T.I.M.E. Inc.)

Funding Opportunity Link: <https://toimprovems.org/time-urban-ag-cbo-fund>

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William Cruz_Farm Service Agency: welcome everyone to the Farm Service Agency and To Improve Mississippi Economics (TIME) webinar. My name is William Cruz, Grant Management Specialist for the Farm Service Agency, Urban Agriculture program, the Farm Service Agency in partnership with the To Improve Mississippi Economics will be present today the "Innovative Agriculture Community Based Organization" funding opportunity. Let me introduce Miss Linda.

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Linda Cronin_Farm Service Agency: Hi! Good morning, everyone. We're so happy that you've joined us today in this historic time, where we're doing some amazing work. The Urban Agriculture program focuses on urban agricultural producers. So today we'll be talking about the urban innovative Agricultural Community Based Organization Fund. FSA Is investing forty (\$40) million dollars of funding from the American Rescue Plan. TIME has partnered with us to support the growth of urban committees in ten pile locations while increasing the capacity of local agencies and community-based organizations to assist urban producers in their States. Basically, what that means is, we are very deeply committed to making sure that we are supporting you and the important work that you're doing every day on the ground to help expand urban agriculture. Urban Agriculture provide many opportunities to build community to increase access to fresh food, economic development, and all kinds of other benefits. We're really honored and privileged to have the opportunity to be here and to work with all of you. Thank you for being here. And with that I'm going to turn it over to Dr. Howell, who's the acting senior advisor for the administrator of the Farm Service Agency.

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Ronald Howell: Good afternoon, everyone. And it's an indeed and pleasure to be able to join you today. I'm excited to be here and engage with each one of you today about this new, exciting, innovative, and creative RFP to cultivate policy recommendations and changes to support our work around urban agriculture as a part of the Administration's efforts. I look forward to hearing the engagement today. Thank you, Linda, and I'm looking forward to seeing what results from the RFP. Submissions. Thank you.

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William Cruz_Farm Service Agency: Thank you, Dr. Howell. I'm going to introduce our partner from "To Improve Mississippi Economics" better known TIME. Her name is Dr. Cindy Elliot. welcome, Dr. Cindy!

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Cindy Ayers Elliott, TIME.ORG: Good morning! Thank you so much. I'm Cindy Elliot, CEO of TIME organization, and we're very excited to be in partnership with FSA and USDA to help build this urban community. I'm so excited to be here, and the work that we've done to get here. So we are excited to meet everyone. Thanks. Thank you. Everyone for being here with us. We hope we'll be able to answer all the necessary questions that you might have; but if not, we will make sure we get the answers for you. Today we will talk a little about TIME, proposal deadlines, the scope of work, grant writing tools, SAM registration, and other questions that you might have. We're here to see how we can help and be a partner to advance Urban Ag throughout the us.

This partnership with USDA services with FSA to support the access uh for urban farmers to get into more of the programs and the policies, as well as what would be coming soon. For stakeholders we want to make sure that the education and everything you need will be made available to you. We hope to hear from you soon. This will consist of ten states for urban cities and one tribal to develop the national urban performance demonstration program that can serve as models for the State to increase the equity and urban farm system by expanding USDA services, outreach for commercial farmers through education and research. We also want to increase the supply chain for more resilience in our food system, as relates to sustainability and long-term viability in our urban farm operation.

So here are the great states and cities that we will be a part of this effort:

Boston, Massachusetts. We're coming to the east coast soon. Columbia, South Carolina, Denver, Colorado. We're going West Houston, Texas. We're going way West Jackson, Mississippi, which is where we're located south will be here. Kansas City, Missouri. We're coming your way, Las Vegas. We will be there, Little Rock, Arkansas, Memphis, Tennessee, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, We're East West North and south, and our travel location to be determined. We're excited about these eleven areas, these ten cities, and we're just related that we have an opportunity to find and to work with the great organizations that's in the cities States.

The deadline, for submitting the proposal is April 10th 2024 the tenth eastern times. We'll be looking at this to get in by Eastern. So, if you're in a central time zone, you know we're one hour behind. The estimate funding floor, and for this opportunity We're putting it five hundred thousand, and the Max at eight hundred and ninety-five thousand. So, we're hoping that you will look at this closely to you, Don't, have this opportunity and to meet, of course, all the criteria. The funding floor is five hundred thousand (\$500,000.00) and the ceiling is eight hundred and ninety-five thousand (\$895,000.00). The projects will range from two or three years in duration. It's up to you to decide how long it will take for you to implement.

We will be awarding April through May. Financial training is available we included the website here. You need to be registered in SAM and request a UEI Number which may take several weeks. This funding is only available in cities that we do have listed. Organizations are encouraged to only submit one proposal for consideration. Now you can partner if there's only one hand agent that's coming in to us, and we hope you consider looking at your community to do that.

Non-profits, having a 501 C(3) status, also nonprofits that do not have a 501 C(3) Or other than an institution of higher education, public and State controlled institution of higher learning, higher

education, special district in government and State governments. These are the entities that will be eligible to apply.

Applications will undergo on Administration Review to ensure that this proposal aligns with the goals outline in this announcement. The non-federal entities intended to select, after allowing applications to correct efficiencies or a mission of this application. So, this is listed again on our site for application Review. The Technical Review Board will conduct a multi-faced review process in which staff panel will make recommendations to the deciding officials.

The following standards must be considered for the award: Your financial favorability, which will include your quality of management there's no match with this funding the historical performance. If the applicant has previously paid the Federal financial assistant award. The application must meet all the requirements listed in this RFP. Again, the financial stability, the historical performance, and there is no match for this funding.

If you're in these cities in these States, we're very excited to work with farmers throughout the urban area and to help build a sustainability. I'm Cindy Elliot the CEO for time. I got a great team that would be working with you.

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William Cruz_Farm Service Agency: Thank you very much. At this time let me reintroduce Mrs. Linda Cronin to talk about Why, those cities were selected.

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Linda Cronin_Farm Service Agency: Good morning again, everyone. It's nice to be here with you today. These investments will be bolstering other FSA investment efforts that we're doing within those communities. And that's why those cities are listed. These cities were all selected, based on location and need.

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William Cruz_Farm Service Agency: Thank you very much. Ah, this point I'm going to open the floor for question. We're still good at time and the Webinar is scheduled to one. We're here to support and answer any questions.