



# Innovation in Urban Agriculture Entrepreneurial Fellowship

Supported by the USDA and City of Dubuque Hydroponics to Home Grant

## WHAT IS THE ENTREPRENEURIAL FELLOWSHIP?

The Innovation in Urban Agriculture Entrepreneurial Fellowship is a paid, 12-month, hands-on and classroom learning and professional development opportunity for City of Dubuque residents interested in starting a food-based business.

Fellowship participants will receive a monthly stipend; access to Iowa State Extension courses; an 8-week Entrepreneurship Skills program; and placement at one of the following sites for hands-on learning:

### CityGirl Farming and Prepared Meals

As part of the farm and kitchen team at City Girl Farming Prepared Meals, the fellowship participant will be involved in the farm and meal-prep management sides of the business. They will participate in planting, tending and harvesting as well as seasonal recipe selection and meal prep for our customers. As time allows, participants will also have an opportunity to shadow our founder and learn about running a business behind the scenes.

### Convivium Urban Farmstead

As part of the farm team at Convivium Urban Farmstead, the fellowship participant will be intimately involved in all aspects of the growing cycle - from garden planning, seed starts, planting, tending and harvesting our annual crops. They will work closely with our full-time farm manager. As time allows, participants will also assist in our harvest processing, which includes freezing, drying and canning our vegetables and fruits.

### ReEvolution Farms

As part of the ReEvolution Farms team, the fellowship participant will have the opportunity to experience all stages of hydroponic plant production; including; seeding, transplanting and harvesting, and the care and maintenance of the hydroponic systems. The participant will also have the opportunity to utilize our certified processing kitchen to learn about freeze drying as an added service and method for creating value added products.

At the conclusion of the fellowship, participants will be provided with an opportunity to showcase their business idea during a graduation celebration.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

This program is open to individuals residing in the city of Dubuque. Residents living in Dubuque's USDA identified food deserts or designated CDBG areas are encouraged to apply. See maps in the application link for details.

## HOW MUCH IS THE STIPEND?

Fellowship participants receive \$500 per month once 40 hours have been logged. The total cash value to each participant is \$6,000 over the 12-month fellowship period.

## WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

The fellowship runs from January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024. If selected, fellowship participants commit to 40 hours/month for 12 months and understand that this includes hands-on learning at their assigned site, virtual courses, and in-person training and development. A required orientation session will be held January 6, 2024. Hands-on learning will be scheduled individually, based on the needs of the site. Participants will be required to attend courses and in-person training offered by program partners. These dates have not been set, but advance notice will be provided.

## WHAT IS THE SELECTION PROCESS?

The online application will be available from October 1 - November 17, 2023. [Click here for the link to the application.](#) Applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed by the fellowship committee and top candidates will be invited to present a 5-minute pitch presentation and Q&A to the fellowship committee in early December. Selected fellows will be notified in mid December 2023. Fellowships begin January 1, 2024.

## APPLICATION TIPS



### APPLY EARLY:

Start well in advance to avoid any last-minute technical difficulties or connectivity problems. We do not accept applications after the deadline.



### SAVE AN OFFLINE COPY:

Read through the entire application form. Spend time offline composing your responses to the essay questions. When you are ready to submit, copy and paste your responses into the online form.



### BE YOURSELF:

The application is your chance to tell the committee about yourself: the values, attitudes and experiences that have made you the future entrepreneur you are today. Be authentic and share your unique vision in the application.



### QUESTIONS OR ACCOMMODATIONS:

If you have any questions about the application process or require a different application format, please contact the grant project manager.



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