

RICHARD A. BALL Commissioner

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** March 14, 2016

Governor

**To:** Entities Interested in Farmland Protection Implementation Activities

Re: Request for Proposals for Round 14 Farmland Protection Implementation Projects

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets is pleased to announce the availability of funding for the Round 14 Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Program. This statewide program supports locally-led farmland protection efforts and this grant opportunity is offering \$26 million in state assistance.

## Eligible applicants include:

- counties with state-approved agricultural and farmland protection plans;
- municipalities that have adopted a local farmland protection plan;
- soil and water conservation districts; and
- not-for-profit conservation organizations (referred to as "land trusts").

For this grant opportunity, only implementation projects that result in perpetual conservation easements are eligible for funding, regardless of whether that transaction is for the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), or the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), or the donation of the full value of development rights.

All proposals must be submitted through the New York State <u>Grants Gateway portal</u> by 4:30 p.m., June 13, 2016.

Thank you for your interest in farmland protection in New York State.