FSMIP Cover page

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Applicant/Organization Name:

Contact First and Last Name:

Legal Mailing Address:

Project Site Address:

County:

Contact Phone Number:

Contact Email Address:

Unique Entity ID (UEI):

Project Title (no more than 10 words):

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE QUESTIONNAIRE**

For the purposes of this RFR, “Environmental Justice” is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental hazards and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment regardless of race, color, national origin, income, or English language proficiency. Environmental justice is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people and communities with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of energy, climate change, and environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of energy and environmental benefits and burdens.

While encouraged, the following questions are voluntary and will not impact eligibility. Answers to these questions help MDAR track progress towards the goals set forth in the [2021 Environmental Justice Policy](https://www.mass.gov/doc/environmental-justice-policy6242021-update/download), and [the 2022 Environmental Justice Strategy](https://www.mass.gov/doc/eea-environmental-justice-strategy-english/download), which require MDAR to a) report the amount of public funds used in Environmental Justice Communities, and b) track the number of new applicants for grant programs from Environmental Justice Communities and BIPOC Farmers. More information can be found in below. MDAR encourages stakeholders to provide feedback on the Environmental Justice Policy and Strategy, by visiting [mass.gov/environmental-justice](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/office-of-environmental-justice-equity-oeje).

Answers to the following questions are optional. This information will not in any way affect your eligibility for MDAR programs and is used for statistical purposes only.

1. Has the applicant applied for MDAR Funding Programs before this current application?

Yes  No  I don’t know

1. Has the applicant received funding from any MDAR Funding Programs?

Yes  No  I don’t know

**Questions 3-5 are for Farmer or Individual Applicants:**

1. Select one or more of the racial categories below:

American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous  Middle Eastern or North African

Asian/South Asian Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Black or African American White

Other:

*Please state with understanding that the races above may not be reflective of everyone.*

1. Select one or more of the ethnic categories below:

*Answers to the following questions are optional. This information will not in any way affect your eligibility for MDAR programs and is used for statistical purposes only.*

Not Hispanic or Latino Hispanic or Latino

Other:

*Please state with understanding that the races above may not be reflective of everyone.*

1. Is the applicant a Historically Underserved Farmer? Please check any of the following categories that apply based on these USDA definitions: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/underserved-farmers-ranchers>

*Please check any of the following categories that apply based on* [*these USDA definitions*](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/underserved-farmers-ranchers)*.*

Limited Resource Farmer

(With direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years. A [Self-Determination Tool](https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/) is available to the public and may be completed online.)

Socially Disadvantaged Farmer

(Individual or entity who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.)

Beginning Farmer

(Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years)

Veteran Farmer

(Serves in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Cast Guard, including the reserve component thereof; was released from service under conditions other than dishonorable; and has not operated a farm or ranch, or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years; or Who first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent 10-year period.)

N/A

**Question 6 is for Organization/Collective-Applicants**

1. For organizations, regardless of formal legal status, or other collective applicants – does the majority of your board membership, majority owner (or owners), majority of your leadership team, fall into one or more of these groups? MDAR has adapted USDA’s definition of [Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/underserved-farmers-ranchers) to allow organizations or entities representing multiple applicants to respond.

Limited Resource Farmer, Low-income Individuals, or Individuals with Lived Experience Relevant to the Organization’s Mission

Socially Disadvantaged Groups (American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous, Asian/South Asian, Black or African American, Middle Eastern or North African, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islands, Hispanic or Latino) Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
*Please state with understanding that the races and ethnicities above may not be reflective of everyone*

Beginning Farmers

Veteran Farmers

N/A

If you feel that this application did not allow you to fully explain the diversity of the applicant for this grant (whether you are applying as an individual or on behalf of an entity), please explain here:

If you have any input on these questions, please come [this feedback form](https://www.mass.gov/forms/mdar-ej-feedback-form). The review team will not see this information, and responses will not affect eligibility.