



2026 Joint Legislative Hearing

Agriculture/Parks and Recreation Hearing on FY26-27 State Budget

9:30 AM January 27, 2026

TESTIMONY PREPARED BY:

NYC Mayor's Office of Urban Agriculture

Executive Summary: Budget Priorities for Resilient Food Systems and Climate Smart Urban Agriculture

The NYC Mayor's Office of Urban Agriculture (MOUA) applauds Governor Hochul for the FY 2026–27 Executive Budget which advances key investments that align with MOUA priorities such as support for farmers and farmland, urban agriculture, climate smart agriculture, and economic development opportunities within regional food systems.

MOUA recognizes a window of opportunity to further support hyperlocal food production with urban agriculture, strengthen farm viability throughout the state, boost innovation, and increase food access in New York communities from gardeners to small farmers and producers.

MOUA respectfully urges the Legislature to enact an FY 2026–27 budget that maintains the Executive Budget's strong baseline investments and includes improvements where needed:

- **Maintain \$25 million for the Farmland Protection program** within the \$425 million Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Over the past 30 years, this program has protected farmland and delivered strong regional economic returns which could potentially be extended to New York City and other cities across New York State.
- **Maintain \$1.5 million for the Farm to School Grant Program** to strengthen local food supply chains and expand markets for New York farmers. This program has helped to get fresh, locally grown food into NYC public schools. MOUA will be

NYC Mayor's Office of Urban Agriculture
253 Broadway 14th floor New York, NY 10007
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/agriculture/index.page>



Urban Agriculture

pursuing avenues to increase access to this opportunity for small NYC farmers and producers.

- **Maintain \$19.1 million for the Climate Resilient Farming Program** and \$18.65 million for Soil & Water Conservation Districts to deliver soil health, flood mitigation, and whole-farm climate planning. MOUA sees downstate opportunities for NYC in partnering with the Soil & Water Conservation District to deliver these benefits to New Yorkers.
- **MOUA recommends additional funding for urban agrivoltaics** research and feasibility pilot programs to be made available to cities across New York State.
- **MOUA recommends additional funding to bolster local food systems** by supporting hyperlocal and regional food production infrastructure to ensure that New York food systems are resilient and supportive of farmers, even in times of crisis. This could include funding for direct contracts for small farmers and producers, increasing economic opportunity while addressing food access and affordability.