



## **USDA Establishing New Urban Service Center in Minneapolis-St. Paul**

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**SAINT PAUL, MINN., August 1, 2023-** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is opening 17 new Urban Service Centers in the next year including one in Minneapolis-St. Paul investing in new partnerships to support urban agriculture.

"Providing urban agricultural producers with the same level of support as all farmers and ranchers is key to equitable USDA assistance," said Whitney Place, Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director in Minnesota. "Through local level partnerships, USDA will learn how to expand our networks, infrastructure and services to urban producers as they strengthen resilient local food systems and nutrition access for all communities."

### **Urban Service Centers**

The Urban Service Centers will be staffed by FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees and will offer farm loan, conservation, disaster assistance and risk management programs. USDA works with agricultural producers through a network of more than 2,300 Service Centers nationwide and the new Urban Service Centers will strengthen services to urban agricultural producers.

Urban Service Centers are also home to Urban County Committees, which help with the local administration of FSA programs.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul Urban Service Center is currently located at 375 Jackson Street, Suite 400, St. Paul, MN 55101. The current team member is Kajsa Beatty, Urban Agriculture County Executive Director.

### **Support for Urban Agriculture**

To help strengthen Urban Service Centers and Urban County Committees, USDA is investing American Rescue Plan funds into partnerships with community-based organizations. This is part of USDA's broad support for urban agriculture and innovative production.

FSA has awarded cooperative agreements to organizations located in cities where USDA is opening Urban Service Centers or will have an urban county committee, including Renewing the Countryside in Minneapolis-St. Paul. Through outreach, engagement, education, research and technical assistance, Renewing the Countryside, and other community-based organizations and stakeholders, will work to

improve the coordination and effectiveness of USDA programs and services for urban and innovative producers and help mitigate economic disruptions by funding projects designed to increase equity in urban food systems.

## More Information

The new cooperative agreements and Urban Service Center is part of USDA's broader USDA investment in urban agriculture in Minneapolis-St. Paul. Other efforts include:

- [Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production competitive grants](#), including one to the Urban Roots MN to increase community engagement and improve program quality of its Market Garden, including use of climate-smart practices.
- Partnering with Project Sweetie Pie in Minneapolis, which operates multiple community gardens, to grow the [People's Garden initiative](#).

To learn more about Urban Service Centers, [download our fact sheet](#) or [visit our Urban Service Center webpage](#). Visit [farmers.gov/urban](http://farmers.gov/urban) for more information on programs and services for urban producers. for more information on programs and services for urban producers.

This Urban Service Center in Minneapolis-St. Paul was announced last week [by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Deputy Secretary Xochitl Torres Small](#) as part of a significant investment in urban agriculture. The announcement included a total of 10 new urban county committees and 17 new Urban Service Centers. Locations with new Urban Service Centers include:

- Albuquerque, N.M.
- Atlanta, Ga.
- Chicago, Ill.
- Cleveland, Ohio
- Dallas, Texas
- Detroit, Mich.
- Grand Rapids, Mich.
- Los Angeles, Calif.
- Oakland, Calif.
- New Orleans, La.
- New York, N.Y.

- Philadelphia, Pa.
- Phoenix, Ariz.
- Portland, Ore.
- Richmond, Va.
- St. Louis, Mo.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov)???

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