

Community Greenhouse Grant RFA#: ARD.2026.Greenhouse2 April 30, 2026 Written Question and Answer Summary

Questions About Greenhouse Design or Requirements

Q. Can additional material be considered for the Community Greenhouse Grant? I understand glass or polycarbonate to be preferred because of their ability to withstand snow load & wind, and I am interested in using a material called SolaWrap, which I believe is comparable to glass or poly.

A. No, The RFA Overview Section paragraph *F Unallowable Costs* states that “flexible poly or plastic covered greenhouses” are not allowable for this grant program. According to the online description of SolaWrap: “The SolaWrap Greenhouse Covering is a unique, durable greenhouse **plastic** that utilizes impact-resistant air bubbles and features an R-Value of 1.7. With 83% light transparency, the SolaWrap is a lightweight, **flexible material** that can be rolled up into sidewall curtains.”

The RFA definition of “durable greenhouse” provided in Appendix A only includes structures covered with rigid polycarbonate sheets or glass.

Please consider reviewing the NRCS High Tunnel EQIP grant for a possible funding source. Here are two websites that may be helpful:

<https://www.farmersfriend.com/learn/nrcs-high-tunnel-grant>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-high-tunnel-initiative>

Questions About Grant Funding

Q. Is this grant only reimbursement-based? If awarded, how likely is a funding advance for expenses?

A. The RFA Overview Section paragraph *G Grant Spending Timeframe* states that “No grant purchases or activities are permitted until a contract is finalized. Expenditures outside of the contract term will not be reimbursed,” and “Recipients may request an advance for expenses associated with the purchase and installation of a durable greenhouse as outlined in the contract.”

The contract will have a provision that will likely indicate that recipients may request up to 25% of funding allocated for installation costs as an advance payment, with no subsequent installation payment available until those associated with the advance have been completed and documents. The contract will likely have the same provision to allow for up to 25% of funding allocated for the purchase of the greenhouse to be requested to be paid in advance of the purchase being completed, with the same provision that all money received as an advance must be documented as completed before additional payments may be disbursed. The contract offered to selected recipients will provide the exact payment provisions allowable for this grant.

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Questions About the Application Process

Q. What is the application deadline?

A. Applications are due by May 22, 2026, 12:00 noon EST

Q. Are there character or word count limits on the questions in the online form?

A. No.

Q. Can you offer flexibility on the ability to apply indirect costs to this project in this case?

A. No. The RFA Overview Section paragraph *F Unallowable Costs* states that “expenses not directly associated with the purchase, siting, installation, and operation of a durable greenhouse by an eligible entity are unallowable. Unallowable costs include, but are not limited to: Indirect costs and overhead expenses.