

A stylized illustration featuring various flowers and butterflies. In the top left, there are pink flowers and green leaves. In the top right, there are white and purple flowers. In the center, there are three butterflies: one black and white, one yellow and orange, and one black and white. The text is in a bold, pink, sans-serif font.

# GRANT WRITING & NARRATIVE BUILDING FOR BIMPOC FARMERS

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**Lisa Freeman, MSW, MPA**  
Owner, Freeman Family Farm  
& Greenhouse

**Chris Murakami, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of  
Agroecology. Chatham University

# Introductions

Lisa Freeman, MSW, MPA  
Freeman Family Farms and  
Greenhouse

Christopher Murakami, PhD  
Assistant Professor of  
Agroecology  
Chatham University – Food  
Studies, Bio-Intensive,  
Regenerative Market Garden  
Project (BIRM)

Land Acknowledgement –  
Osage Nation,  
Haudenosaunee  
Confederacy  
(Seneca/Seneca Cayuga),  
Leni Lenape, Shawnee

Ancestor Acknowledgement





# Ongoing Priorities of BIRM

- Valuing Time
- Transparent Communication
- Self-Determination
- Acknowledge and share Power/Privilege
- Listen/Amplify
- Accountability
- Build Trust and Relationships







Photographs and Text by Søren Solkær



A young girl with two braids, wearing a tan sweater, stands in a cornfield with her hands raised. The background is filled with green corn leaves and stalks.

USDA SARE Partnership Grant  
Growing Growers: Community of  
Practice and Apprenticeship for  
Women, BIPOC, and LGBTQ+  
Farmers

Grant ONE22-425

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# Community of Practice Workshops

Growing Brassicas and Nightshades,  
Coordinating for Urban Ag Apprenticeships,  
**Grant Writing and Capacity Building**  
Supporting Farmer Wellness





# GRANT WRITING PROCESS



- **Program Alignment:** Does my/our work align with the funder's mission, goals, and stated grant priorities? Have they funded work similar to ours?
- **Qualifications**
- **Effort needed for the application:** How easily can I/we gather and write this application? Do we have many existing resources we can leverage for this submission?
- **Existing connections:** Have we engaged with this funder before? Do we have a working relationship?
- **Probability, risks, other considerations**





Resources and Links:

[CRAFT Demystifying Grant Funding](#)

[Growing Growers Sample Narrative](#)

[Sample Templates and Tools](#)

[NE SARE Grants](#) [Partnership Grant Open Call](#)

[NE SARE Dismantling Systemic Racism](#)



Introduction **5% COMPLETE**

- CRAFT Introduction (1:13)**
  - Welcome to CRAFT's Specialized Course: Demystifying Grant Funding (1:05)
  - Overview of Content (2:19)
- Tax-Exempt Status under 501(c)3**
- Employer Identification Number (2:05)
  - Incorporation in Pennsylvania (1:27)
  - Form 1023 (1:10)
  - Wrap Up**

**Types of Funders**

- Institutional & Individual Donors (1:05)
- Wrap Up**

### CRAFT Introduction



**CRAFT**  
AT CHATHAM UNIVERSITY



# DEMYSIFYING GRANT FUNDING

**Specialized Course**

learn more about finding funding opportunities, writing proposals, and managing grants

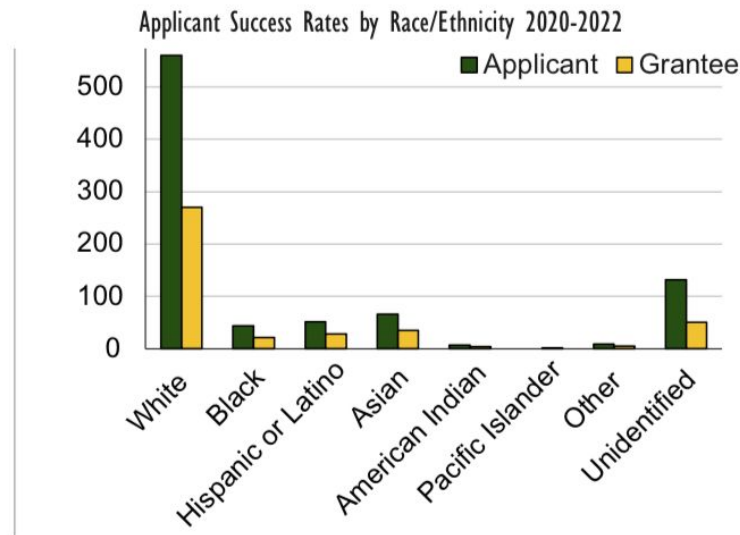
[www.craft.chatham.edu](http://www.craft.chatham.edu)

At the Center for Regional Agriculture, Food, & Transformation, or CRAFT, at Chatham University, our mission is to cultivate a more equitable, sustainable, and inclusive food system by providing practical support, research-based tools, and learning opportunities to farmers, food business owners, and food system visionaries. We seek to foster a transformative regional food system in Western Pennsylvania and beyond that recognizes the central role of food systems in our society



# Key Findings

**Key Finding #1** Northeast SARE is using a funding model that favors those with access to capital.



Our reimbursement funding model favors farmers and organizations who have access to capital and can afford to cover grant costs up front. Because of stark disparities in wealth by race (Aladangady and Forde, 2021), this requirement has the effect of privileging white applicants.

Northeast SARE sees this represented in our grantees, who are predominantly white (81%) and/or located at predominantly white organizations.

Responses from surveys, interviews, and focus groups conducted in the strategic planning process highlighted barriers communities of color face in accessing Northeast SARE grants.

Northeast SARE’s grant process has advantaged predominantly white institutions that already have the financial, human, and infrastructure resources necessary to apply for and manage grants.

## Barriers Reported by Grant Applicants



Northeast SARE grants take more than 20 hours to prepare

The grant submission process has limited accessibility: it is online only, English only, and has short application windows.



Those without grant writing experience or support are less likely to be awarded

The USDA definition of a farm used to determine eligibility has excluded food systems important to communities of color such as urban agriculture or tribal food sovereignty.







Example: Healthy Food  
Access Grants  
Sample JHF  
Sample Letter



# Can you see yourself on this list?

Organizations are encouraged to apply that provide services and support to populations experiencing disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality and/or morbidity as well as pregnant and postpartum individuals that have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to:

- Black or African American persons
- Hispanic or Latino persons
- LGBTQ populations
- People experiencing homelessness
- People who are medically underserved
- People with substance use disorder
- People who live in rural/sparsely populated areas
- People living in food deserts
- People with lower incomes and people experiencing poverty
- People and families of people who are incarcerated, detained or formerly incarcerated





People Fund Other People

Experiences – Success,  
Challenges, Resources





**WE DON'T  
WANT A F\*CKING  
FARM  
ON OUR STREET**

**LISA FREEMAN**



A stylized illustration featuring various flowers and butterflies. In the top left, there are pink flowers and green leaves. In the center, a monarch butterfly is shown in flight. To the right, there are large white and purple flowers, with another monarch butterfly flying nearby. The background is white.

# Questions: GRANT WRITING & NARRATIVE BUILDING FOR BIMPOC FARMERS

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