

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN LOCAL FOODS

As local food systems continue to develop, a primary concern for stakeholders is access to capital. The good news is, there are funding options available from both Federal and non-Federal sources – regardless of whether you are a producer, institution, community, or nonprofit. Though not intended to be an exhaustive list, the included resources can help get you started.

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Resources to help you fund your local food initiative:

Your local extension office can provide assistance to you – especially with educational needs/components to your local foods project. They have classes in food safety, preserving, business development, and more. Find your Iowa extension office here:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/content/county-offices>

Read about best practices for funding local food systems:

Best Practices of Various Funding Support for Sustainable Local food Systems in Midwest Communities, NCRCRD Publication, August 2014

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/valueaddedag/sites/www.extension.iastate.edu/files/valueaddedag/bestpractices.pdf>

Need help grant-writing? Visit Iowa State University Cooperative Extension's website for resources:

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/AGDM/wholefarm/html/c5-06.html>

Thinking outside the box can pay off. For example, crowdsourcing can be a fun alternative way to raise money for your initiative with little fundraising infrastructure – especially for a project that focuses on community engagement. Take a look at IndieGoGo (<https://www.indiegogo.com/>) and Barnraiser (<https://www.barnraiser.us/>), two crowdsourcing platforms, to see how other farms, community projects, non-profits, and small businesses are raising funds through crowdsourcing.

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Suggested Grants:

Grant Program	Typical Due Date/ other info	Website	Producer /grower eligibility ?	Community/ nonprofit eligibility?	Institution/ school eligibility?
AFRI USDA grants	Childhood Obesity Prevention Challenge Area- LOI due April		Yes	Yes	Yes
	Food Safety Challenge Area- LOI due February	http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri_program_deadline_dates.html			
	Food Security Challenge Area- LOI due March				
	Water for Agriculture Challenge Area- LOI due April				
	Fellowships Grant Program- LOI due December				
	Foundational Program- LOI due Feb or March depending on specific grant				

AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competitions	Due date differs depending on state and/or national program	State:	No	Yes	Yes
		http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/contact-us/state-service-commissions			
		National:			
		http://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities			
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Competitive Grant Program	June LOI deadline		No	Yes	Yes
		http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/bfrdp/bfrdp_synopsis.html			
Ben & Jerry's Foundation Grassroots Organizing for Social Change	March and October pre-proposal deadlines		No	Yes	No
		http://benandjerrysfoundation.org/the-grassroots-organizing-for-social-change-program/			

Center for Produce Safety Grants	March		No	No	Yes
		https://cps.ucdavis.edu/grant_opportunities.php			
Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program	March		No	Yes	No
		http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/communityfoodprojects.cfm			
Farm Aid Grants Program	August		No	Yes	No
		http://www.farmaid.org/site/c.qII5lhNVJsE/b.2723745/k.9953/Grant_Guidelines.htm			
Farm to School Grants Program	April		No	Yes	Yes
		http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/2014-training-and-event-grant-state-awards			
Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program	Farmers' Market Promotion Program- June Local Food Promotion Program- June		Yes	Yes	No
		http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/FMP			
Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program	June		No	No	Yes
		http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/FSMIP			
Frontera Farmer Foundation Grant	March		Yes	No	No
		http://www.rickbayless.com/foundation/2014-grant-application/			

			No	No	Yes
Higher Education Challenge Grant Program	April				
		http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/highereducationchallenge.cfm			
Hy-Vee One Step Community Garden Grants Program	February		No	Yes	Yes
		http://www.hy-vee.com/company/sustainability/one-step.aspx			
IDALS Specialty Crop Block Grant Program	May		No	Yes	Yes
		http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/Horticulture_and_FarmersMarkets/specialtyCropGrant.asp			
Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture	July		No	Yes	Yes
		http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/grant			
National Gardening Association Kids Gardening Grants	Jamba Juice “It’s All About the Fruits and Veggies” Garden Grant- October Youth Garden Grant- December Mantis Tiller Award Grant- March		No	Yes	Yes
		http://grants.kidsgardening.org/			
National Pork Board	LOI due September		No	No	Yes
		http://www.pork.org/Research/499/ResearchRFP.aspx#.UMIAcKz4K3c			
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition	Collection of Farm Bill grants, deadline depends on grant		Yes	Yes	Yes
		http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/farm-bill-programs-and-grants/			

North American Strawberry Growers Association	December		No	No	Yes	http://www.nasga.org/n-american-strawberry-growers-invite-research.htm
North Central Risk Management Education Center	Pre-Proposal December		No	Yes	Yes	http://www.ncrme.org/Grants/index.html
North Central SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education)	Farmer Rancher- November Partnership Grant- November Research and Education- May Professional Development Program- August Graduate Student Grant- May Youth Educator- November		Yes	Yes	Yes	http://www.northcentralsare.org/Grants/Our-Grant-Programs
Pilot Project for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables	September		No	No	Yes	http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateN&page=CPDPilotProjectUnprocessedFV
Rural Community Development Initiative	November		Yes	Yes	Yes	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/had-rcdi_grants.html

RWJF Culture of Health Prize	September		No	Yes	No
		http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/roadmaps/prize			
Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants Program (SPECA)	April		No	Yes	Yes
		http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/sec_challenge.html			
Small Business Innovation Research Grant	October		Yes	No	No
		http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/sbir.cfm			
Small socially disadvantaged producer grant	October		No	No	Yes
		http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_ssdpg.html			
Sow it Forward Garden Grants Program	Mini-grants, October		No	Yes	Yes
		http://kgi.org/grants			

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association	Spring: November pre-proposal deadline Fall: May pre-proposal deadline		No	No	Yes
		http://www.uspoultry.org/research/			
USDA Know Your Farmer Know Your Food	Great website with additional programs for stakeholder groups, listing of applicable grant programs		Yes	Yes	Yes
		http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=KYF_GRANT			
USDA NIFA Community Foods Projects Competitive Grants Program	March		No	No	Yes
		http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/communityfoodprojects.cfm			

			Yes	Yes	Yes
USDA Rural Development Grant Program	Varies depending on specific grant, check site for details; generally apply through state Rural Development office. Examples of grants: Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RPEG) Program; Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) Program; Small Socially-Disadvantaged Producer Grant; Value-Added Producer Grants; Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RD_Grants.html			
Wellmark Foundation Grants	May	http://www.wellmark.com/foundation/apply/apply_for_funding.htm	No	Yes	Yes
Wells Fargo/National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Environmental Solutions for Communities Grant Program	December	http://www.nfwf.org/environmentalsolutions/Pages/2015rfp.aspx#.VCCnUhaOTNs	No	Yes	Yes
Whole Kids Foundation School Garden Grant Program	October	https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/schools/programs/school-garden-grant-program	No	No	Yes