

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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Prepared by Ahna Kruzic, Graduate Research Assistant for the Marketing and Food Systems Initiative, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, in collaboration with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. For more information contact MFSI Coordinator Craig Chase, (515) 294-1854, cchase@iastate.edu

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