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# Funding Opportunities in Local Foods

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# Funding Opportunities in Local Foods

## **Abstract**

This study presents information about 31 federal, state and private grant programs that are available as funding sources for development of local food systems. The summary includes name of the program, general eligibility and deadlines, and website links for further details.

## **Disciplines**

Agribusiness | Agricultural and Resource Economics | Agricultural Economics

# 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](mailto: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?
<b>AFRI USDA grants</b>	Childhood Obesity Prevention Challenge Area- LOI due April		Yes	Yes	Yes
	Food Safety Challenge Area- LOI due February	<a href="http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri_program_deadline_dates.html">http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri_program_deadline_dates.html</a>			
	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				

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

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

		No	No	Yes
<b>Higher Education Challenge Grant Program</b>	<b>April</b>	<a href="http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/highereducationchallenge.cfm">http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/highereducationchallenge.cfm</a>		
<b>Hy-Vee One Step Community Garden Grants Program</b>	February	No	Yes	Yes
		<a href="http://www.hy-vee.com/company/sustainability/one-step.aspx">http://www.hy-vee.com/company/sustainability/one-step.aspx</a>		
<b>IDALS Specialty Crop Block Grant Program</b>	May	No	Yes	Yes
		<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/Horticulture_and_FarmersMarkets/specialtyCropGrant.asp">http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/Horticulture_and_FarmersMarkets/specialtyCropGrant.asp</a>		
<b>Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture</b>	July	No	Yes	Yes
		<a href="http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/grant">http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/grant</a>		
<b>National Gardening Association Kids Gardening Grants</b>	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
		<a href="http://grants.kidsgardening.org/">http://grants.kidsgardening.org/</a>		
<b>National Pork Board</b>	LOI due September	No	No	Yes
		<a href="http://www.pork.org/Research/499/ResearchRFP.aspx#.UMIAcKz4K3c">http://www.pork.org/Research/499/ResearchRFP.aspx#.UMIAcKz4K3c</a>		
<b>National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition</b>	Collection of Farm Bill grants, deadline depends on grant	Yes	Yes	Yes
		<a href="http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/farm-bill-programs-and-grants/">http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/farm-bill-programs-and-grants/</a>		



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

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

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

<b>USDA Rural Development Grant Program</b>	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		Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Wellmark Foundation Grants</b>	May		No	Yes	Yes
<b>Wells Fargo/ National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Environmental Solutions for Communities Grant Program</b>	December		No	Yes	Yes
<b>Whole Kids Foundation School Garden Grant Program</b>	October		No	No	Yes

[http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RD\\_Grants.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RD_Grants.html)

[http://www.wellmark.com/foundation/apply/apply\\_for\\_funding.htm](http://www.wellmark.com/foundation/apply/apply_for_funding.htm)

<http://www.nfwf.org/environmentalsolutions/Pages/2015rfp.aspx#.VCCnUhaOTNs>

<https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/schools/programs/school-garden-grant-program>