

Grants & Funding

December 27th, 2016

School and Youth

1. **New! Core Partners for National Farm to School Network (NFSN)** **Purpose:** Funds partners to develop the NFSN and promote information sharing and policy development across national Farm to School and Early Childcare and Education projects. **Eligibility:** NFSN members (there is no cost to membership) who are 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations. **Funding:** \$4000 - \$12,000 grants. **Deadline:** January 26, 2017.
2. **School Fruit and Veggie Grants (Skoop and Chef Ann Foundation)** **Purpose:** Awards school projects that help kids learn about and eat more fruits and vegetables. Sponsored by Skoop and Chef Ann Foundation. **Eligibility:** Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. Schools with greater than 50% free and reduced eligible enrollment encouraged to apply. **Funding:** \$2500/school. **Deadline:** Available until funding is depleted.

Rural Development

1. **USDA Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP)** **Purpose:** Provides loans and grants to Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDO's) to provide microloans, training, and technical assistance to microloan borrowers and micro entrepreneurs. **Eligibility:** See website. **Funding:** Up to \$205,000 annually (with 15% matching); loans up to \$50,000-\$500,000 for MDOs; loans up to \$50,000 to ultimate recipients. **Deadline:** Rolling (applications will be considered for next Federal fiscal quarter).
2. **Rural Health Info Grants Database** **Purpose:** Compiles grants and opportunities for rural-based projects.
3. **Community Facilities Grant and Loan Program** **Purpose:** Provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities, including local food system facilities, in rural areas with populations under 20,000. **Funding:** Varies. **Eligibility:** Public bodies, community-based nonprofits, federally-recognized Tribes. Priority is given to small communities (populations of 5,500 or less) and low-income communities. **Deadline:** Rolling.
4. **Rural Business Development Grant** **Purpose:** Supports development of small rural businesses, including projects related to land acquisition/development, community economic development, and feasibility studies. **Funding:** \$10,000 to \$500,000. **Eligibility:** governments/authorities, nonprofits, universities, federally-recognized tribes, rural cooperatives. **Deadline:** Applications are accepted through local or state Rural Development offices once every year.

Food Systems and Food Security

1. **Developing Healthy Places** **Purpose:** Kresge Foundation seeks to fund nonprofit or government initiatives that build healthier and more equitable food systems, transportation infrastructure, and land use. **Eligibility:** Nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations, government entities. **Funding:** Varies. **Deadline:** Rolling.
2. **Jewel-Osco Community Grants** **Purpose:** Fund organizations promoting nutrition education, healthy eating, and local/sustainable conscientiousness. **Eligibility:** 501(c)3 organizations. **Deadline:** Rolling.
3. **Surdna Foundation/Sustainable Environment Grants** **Purpose:** Fund projects that develop regional food infrastructure, reduce barriers to access, strategize financing, or link organizations to more effectively advance regional food efforts. Preference is given to projects that address

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low-income communities of color and combine food supply efforts with infrastructure construction. **Eligibility:** Non-profit organizations. **Funding:** Need-based. **Deadline:** Rolling.

4. **The Good Food Fund in Michigan** **Purpose:** \$30 million to supply loans, grants, and new market tax credits for the Good Food Sector. This grant prioritizes enterprises that serve low and moderate-income food-insecure Michigan communities. Sponsored by Fair Food Network, Capital Impact Partners, Michigan State University Center for Regional Food, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation. **Funding:** Varies. **Eligibility:** Good Food enterprises in Michigan that promote the aims of the Fair Food Network. **Deadline:** Rolling.
5. **Grants for free Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Equipment to process SNAP Benefits (USDA and Farmers Market Coalition)** **Purpose:** Covers the cost of purchasing or renting SNAP EBT equipment for up to three years from a list of participating companies. **Eligibility:** Farmers Markets that have been authorized to accept SNAP benefits that do not already possess functioning EBT equipment; or have only possessed functioning EBT equipment before May 2, 2012. **Funding:** Covers the cost of purchasing/renting equipment. **Deadline:** Available until funds depleted.

Farmer, Rancher & Food

1. **USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** **Purpose:** Provides financial and technical assistance to help agricultural producers plan and implement conservation practices. Of primary interest is the funding of [high tunnels \(hoop houses\)](#), [assistance to conserve monarch butterfly habitats](#), and [support for producers who are transitioning to organic production](#). **Funding:** Varies. **Eligibility:** Agricultural producers. **Deadline:** January 20, 2017.
2. **New! Organic Transition Program (USDA-NIFA)** **Purpose:** Funds projects that assist farmers to transition to organic production. Priority funding is given to projects that focus on soil conservation, pollinator health, climate change mitigation, and development of tools for Cooperative Extension and education personnel. **Eligibility:** Land-Grant or Private Institutions of Higher Education. **Funding:** \$3.8 million. **Deadline:** March, 9, 2017.
3. **Organic Certification Cost Share Programs (USDA AMS)** **Purpose:** Helps cover organic certification-related expenses. **Eligibility:** Producers and handlers. **Funding:** Up to 75% of certification costs. **Deadline:** Check with state department of agriculture.
4. **Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Farmer Rancher Grant Program** **Purpose:** Funds projects that research sustainable solutions to farm management. **Funding:** up to \$7,500 for individual projects and up to \$22,500 for group projects. **Deadline:** Varies.
5. **Beginning Farmers Grants and Resources** **Purpose:** Provides financial and technical assistance to new or beginning farmers or ranchers. Priority is given to veterans, socially disadvantaged and women farmers or ranchers. **Eligibility:** See website. **Deadline:** See website.
6. **Illinois Annual Agriculture Loans** **Purpose:** Helps Illinois farmers pay annual start-up costs associated with seed, fertilizer, plants, crop insurance, and other expenses. Funding through the Ag Invest Annual interest rate reduction program from the Illinois Treasurer's Office. **Eligibility:** Please see website. **Deadline:** Rolling.
7. **Farm Storage Facility Loans** **Purpose:** Provides low-interest financing to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store or process agricultural products. Most recently, these loans made available funding for refrigerated vehicles. **Funding:** Up to \$500,000 per loan. **Eligibility:** Please see eligibility requirements [here](#). **Deadline:** Rolling.
8. **USDA Microloans (USDA FSA)** **Purpose:** USDA's Farm Service Agency provides financial assistance for small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm ownership or operations.

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Non-traditional farm operations can include truck farms, farms, direct marketing farmers, Community Supported Agriculture, restaurants and grocery stores, or those using hydroponic, aquaponic, organic, and/or vertical growing methods. **Eligibility:** Please see website. **Funding:** Maximum of \$50,000. **Deadline:** Rolling.

9. **USDA EZ Guarantee Loans (USDA FSA)** **Purpose:** USDA's Farm Service Agency has streamlined this loans process for smaller scale farms and urban producers. The program provides \$100,000 to help beginning, small underserved, and family farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland or finance agricultural operations. The USDA also added a new category of lenders, including microlenders. The USDA is accepting public comments until Jan 19, 2017. **Eligibility:** Please check with local FSA office. **Funding:** Up to \$100,000 loan. **Deadline:** Rolling.
10. **Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program** **Funding:** Varies. **Eligibility:** Land owners with greater than 40 acres of land in the State of Ohio. Land use must remain in agricultural production. **Deadline:** Rolling.

Environment

1. **New! Environmental Justice Small Grants Program** **Purpose:** Help vulnerable communities, specifically those with environmental or public health issues, understand and address the root causes. **Eligibility:** Tribal organizations, federally-recognized tribal governments or incorporated non-profit organizations. Emphasis is placed on underrepresented states and new applicants. **Funding:** Up to \$30,000. **Deadline:** January 31st, 2016.

Community

1. **New! Walmart Foundation Community Grants** **Purpose:** Fund community-based projects that focus on one or more of the foundations core areas: Hunger Relief & Healthy Eating, Sustainability, Women's Economic Empowerment or Opportunity. **Eligibility:** Varies (See website for details). **Funding:** Between \$250 and \$2,500. **Deadline:** December 31st, 2016.
2. **Economic Development Assistance Programs** **Purpose:** Provides financial assistance to projects that support: development and job creation in economically distressed areas. **Eligibility:** Tribal, state, local governments, educational institutions, non-profits with and without 501(c)(3) status. **Funding:** \$100K to \$3 million. **Deadline:** Rolling.
3. **Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program (Economic Development Administration)** **Purpose:** Provides financial and technical assistance to plan and implement EDA projects. **Eligibility:** Tribal, state, local governments, educational institutions, non-profits with and without 501(c)(3) status. **Funding:** up to \$300,000. **Deadline:** Rolling.