

# 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.

October 2014

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*, NCRCD 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.

**Acknowledgments:** The Leopold Center was established by the 1987 Iowa Groundwater Protection Act as a research and education center at Iowa State University to develop sustainable agricultural practices that are both profitable and conserve natural resources. Find this publication by title on the Leopold Center website at: [www.leopold.iastate.edu/pubs](http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/pubs).

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach programs are available to all without regard to race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. veteran. Inquiries can be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity and Compliance, 3280 Beardshear Hall, (515) 294-7612.

## Suggested Grants:

| Grant Program           | Typical Due Date/<br>other info  | Website   | Producer<br>/grower<br>eligibility<br>? | Community/<br>nonprofit<br>eligibility? | Institution/<br>school<br>eligibility? |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| <b>AFRI USDA grants</b> | Childhood Obesity Prevention Challenge Area- LOI due April             | <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 Safety Challenge Area- LOI due February                           |   |   |   |  |
|                         | 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<br/>State and<br/>National Grant<br/>Competitions</b>                         | <b>Due date differs<br/>depending on state<br/>and/or national<br/>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<br/>Farmer and<br/>Rancher<br/>Competitive<br/>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<br/>Foundation<br/>Grassroots<br/>Organizing for<br/>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> |           |            |            |
|   |  |   |           |            |            |

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

|   |   |   |            |            |            |
|---|---|---|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Higher Education Challenge Grant Program</b>             | <b>April</b>  |   | <b>No</b>  | <b>No</b>  | <b>Yes</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>      | <b>February</b>   |   | <b>No</b>  | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Yes</b> |
|   |   | <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>             | <b>May</b>  |   | <b>No</b>  | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Yes</b> |
|   |   | <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>           | <b>July</b>   |   | <b>No</b>  | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Yes</b> |
|   |   | <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<br>Youth Garden Grant- December<br>Mantis Tiller Award Grant- March |   | <b>No</b>  | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Yes</b> |
|   |   | <a href="http://grants.kidsgardening.org/">http://grants.kidsgardening.org/</a>   |            |            |            |
| <b>National Pork Board</b>                                  | <b>LOI due September</b>  |   | <b>No</b>  | <b>No</b>  | <b>Yes</b> |
|   |   | <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>           | <b>Collection of Farm Bill grants, deadline depends on grant</b>  |   | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Yes</b> |
|   |   | <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<br>Partnership Grant- November<br>Research and Education-May<br>Professional Development Program- August<br>Graduate Student Grant- May<br>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_ssdp.html">http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_ssdp.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<br/>Fall: May pre-proposal deadline</b>                   |   | No  | No  | Yes |
|  |   | <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.<br>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 |
|   |   | <a href="http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RD_Grants.html">http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RD_Grants.html</a>   |     |     |     |
| <b>Wellmark Foundation Grants</b>   | May   |   | No  | Yes | Yes |
|   |   | <a href="http://www.wellmark.com/foundation/apply/apply_for_funding.htm">http://www.wellmark.com/foundation/apply/apply_for_funding.htm</a>                                     |     |     |     |
| <b>Wells Fargo/ National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Environmental Solutions for Communities Grant Program</b> | December  |   | No  | Yes | Yes |
|   |   | <a href="http://www.nfwf.org/environmentalsolutions/Pages/2015rfp.aspx#.VCCnUhaOTNs">http://www.nfwf.org/environmentalsolutions/Pages/2015rfp.aspx#.VCCnUhaOTNs</a>             |     |     |     |
| <b>Whole Kids Foundation School Garden Grant Program</b>  | October   |   | No  | No  | Yes |
|   |   | <a href="https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/schools/programs/school-garden-grant-program">https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/schools/programs/school-garden-grant-program</a> |     |     |     |