

Guide to Local and Regional Food Systems Grants

MISSION AREA AND AGENCY	Program Name	Who can apply?	Grant Amounts	Matching Requirements
FARM AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE SERVICE <i>Risk Management Agency</i>	Community Outreach and Assistance Partnership Program	Nonprofit, associations, etc.	Amount varies year to year, and grants range from \$5,000 to \$300,000	No matching required
MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS <i>Agricultural Marketing Service</i>	Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)	State dept of Ag, in partnership with organizations	Minimum awards to states are \$100,000	No matching required
	Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)	Nonprofits, growers associations, local governments, etc.	\$2,500 to \$100,000 total for up to 2 years	No matching required
	Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP)	State dept of Ag, in partnership with organizations	Amount varies, but average grants to organizations are \$50,000	Yes
RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMICS <i>National Institute of Food and Agriculture</i>	Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program (CFP)	Nonprofit, associations, etc	\$10,000 to \$300,000 for one to three years	Yes
	Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)	Universities, individual researchers or producers, etc.	Varies depending on the type of grant and the region (could be \$1,000 for a producer grant or \$350,000 for a research grant)	No individual organization matching required
RURAL DEVELOPMENT <i>Rural Business-Cooperative Service</i>	Value-Added Producer Grants (VAPG)	Individual producers, coops, organizations representing producers, etc.	Planning grants up to \$100,000 and operating grants up to \$300,000	Yes

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<i>Rural Business-Cooperative Service</i>	Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG)	Nonprofit, associations, etc.	No set maximum or minimum, but smaller grants are prioritized	No matching required
	Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG)	Nonprofit, associations, etc.	Up to \$250,000 for project periods up to 2-years	No matching required
	Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG)	Nonprofit, universities	1-year grants up to \$200,000	Yes
	Small Socially Disadvantaged Producer Grant (SSDPG)	Cooperatives or associations of coops.	Maximum grant of \$175,000	No matching required
	Community Facilities Grant (CF)	Local governments, non-profits, and tribes	Grant amounts vary , but average grants are around \$30,000	Yes
	Business and Industry Loan Program	Individual nonprofit, business, etc	Guaranteed loans go up to \$10 million with some special exceptions for loans up to \$25 million	Yes
	Outreach and Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (OASDFR, Section 2501)	Up to \$400,000 per year, up to 3 years	Up to \$400,000 per year, up to 3 years	No matching required



Adapted from the Guide to Federal Funding for Local and Regional Food Systems by the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition <http://sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/6.18-FINAL-Food-System-Funding-Guide2.pdf>.

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The grants below were awarded in Georgia and are examples of the type of projects that were successfully funded.

Community Outreach and Assistance Partnership Program (2010)

Who was awarded: Georgia Organics

Title of the Project: Growing Growers for the Good Food Movement: A Mentoring & Outreach Program for Underserved Local & Organic Farmers

Target Audience: Socially disadvantaged producers, Sustainable Producers, Organic Producers

Program is designed to:

1. Mentor 200 farmers through educational workshops, field days, conferences and the organization's year-long farmer-to-farmer mentoring program.
2. Market and educate farmers through the organization's two key communication tools: the Local Food Guide and web-based resources, networks and marketing directories.

Awarded: \$120,000

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (2011)

Who was awarded: Georgia Department of Agriculture

Target audience: Georgia citizens, fruit and vegetable producers in Georgia

Program is designed to: Raise awareness of Georgia organic fruits and vegetables by estimating the market demand for fresh and frozen organic fruits and vegetables in Georgia and the Southeast, surveying fruit and vegetable producers in Georgia to determine production potential within the State, and conducting workshops for current and potential organic producers to assist in minimizing risks and maximizing income potential.

Awarded: Portion of \$162,532.2

Farmers Market Promotion Program (2011)

Who was awarded: Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Newton, GA

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Program is designed to: Begin a new EBT project to create a regional food system in southwest Georgia that will increase access to healthy food for low-income communities and food deserts, substantially expand direct marketing of locally grown fresh produce and products prepared in the community food kitchen and food incubator, and strengthen management and evaluation practices to ensure maximum market effectiveness.

Awarded: \$59,024

Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (2011)

Who was awarded: Georgia Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

Program is designed to: Increase utilization of State-run, non-profit and community farmers' markets and to implement new marketing and distribution strategies to increase available supplies of locally grown produce to meet growing demand.

Awarded: \$55,373

Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program (2007)

Who was awarded: Union Mission, Inc., Savannah, GA

Title of the project: Planting Community for All: the Residential Gardening, Local Market, and Consciousness Raising Connection

Program is designed to: Assess how community stakeholders can connect with low-income Savannahians to increase food security and establish organized, sustainable delivery networks for fresh, local food through empowerment and partnership, urban redevelopment and entrepreneurialism, urban green space, and organic farming while preserving the tradition in the low-income community of patronizing truck farmers and neighborhood-based supports. The project will develop approaches, pilot activities, and evaluate participant response in three major interest areas: 1) participants growing their own produce; 2) the provision to participants of vouchers to local farmers' markets or 3FY 07 Community Food Projects Program Grantees free delivery to neighborhood access points; and 3) cooking classes featuring inexpensive, easy ways to prepare fresh foods in home kitchens.

Awarded: \$25,000 for 18 months

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Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (2011)

Who was awarded: Madison-Morgan Conservancy, GA

Title of the project: Farm to Market Alliance.,

Program designed to: Preserve the land by supporting farming and boosting local economies through agritourism and the local foods movement.

Awarded: \$10,000

Value-Added Producer Grants (2005)

Who was awarded: White Oak Pastures

Program designed to: Funds will be used to market, maintain, and ship grassfed cattle for expansion of White Oak Farms. Also to package one pound of vacuum-sealed premium lean grassfed ground beef.

Awarded: \$149,904

Rural Business Enterprise Grants (2011)

Who was awarded: Downtown Development Authority of the City of Tifton

Program designed to: Renovate the Tifton Terminal Railroad Museum and Farmer's Market.

Awarded: \$99,000

Rural Business Opportunity Grants (2004)

Who was awarded: Southwest GA United Power

Program designed to: Provide technical assistance.

Awarded: 50,000

Rural Cooperative Development Grant (2004)

Who was awarded: Golden Triangle RC&D

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Program designed to: Identify, develop, and provide training for new and existing cooperatives.

Awarded: \$266,816

Small Socially Disadvantaged Producer Grant (2007)

Who was awarded: Federation of Southern Coop

Awarded: \$175,000

Community Facilities Grant (2011)

Who was awarded: Technical College of Georgia

Program designed to: Training CIS students on CISCO networking equipment in Alma, GA.

Awarded: \$50,000.00

Business and Industry Loan Program (2011)

Who was awarded: RockWater, Inc.

Program designed to: Purchase the assets of the company formerly known as Peerless, to provide working capital and pay soft costs.

Awarded: \$3.4 million in conjunction with the First State Bank of Randolph County

Outreach and Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (2007)

Who was awarded: Federation of Southern Cooperatives

Program designed to: Strengthen the farm management and marketing skills of minority farmers in the southern region of the United States. The funding helped FSC to operate programs such as the Small Farm and Sustainable Agriculture Program, which helps farmers develop successful family farm businesses with technical assistance in farm management, setting farm goals, and financial analysis.

Awarded: \$299,723