

Appalachian Foodshed Project

Community Food Security Enhancement Grants Request for Application: Questions & Answers

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RFA and Application Form: <http://www.appalachianfoodshedproject.org/enhancementgrants.html>

A collaboration between NC State University, Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, and Community Stakeholders. Funded by a 2011 USDA NIFA-AFRI Grant (Award No. 2011-68004-30079)

Important Dates

Application Deadline: April 7, 2014 (EST)

Award Decisions: Week of April 21, 2014

Funds Available: May 1st – May 15th

Project Completion: October 1, 2015

Project Final Report/Invoices Due: Nov. 1, 2015



GOALS—PRIORITIES—EMPHASIS AREA

SUPPORT LOCAL & REGIONAL EFFORTS TO
ENHANCE COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY

Overall Goal of Community Food Security Enhancement Grants

The Appalachian Foodshed Project (AFP) is offering community stakeholders in West Virginia, western North Carolina, and southwest Virginia the opportunity to request funds for the purpose of supporting local and/or regional efforts to enhance community food security.

Priorities and Expectations

- Priority given to applications that aim to *enhance the collaborative efforts* in a community and build on work that is already happening in the region.
- Encourage applicants to seek matching funds to support their proposals; however, proposals will first be reviewed on merit and alignment with RFA objectives and specific state goals.
- Recipients will be expected to share outcomes with the larger AFP community.

AFP—Community Food Security includes:

- Ensuring healthy food is accessible/available to all community members
- Empowering local communities to determine where and how to focus work for food system change
- Cultivating ecologically/financially sustainable agriculture
- Balancing food security & farm security
- Engaging youth & young people
- Fostering a healthier community
- Working for justice & equity

• North Carolina

Increase availability & accessibility of safe, local, nutritious & culturally appropriate foods for all people in **Western NC** by:

- Increasing the bridging & bonding of food system networks to connect available resources for all.
 - Elements to consider include: Education and policy initiatives, health and nutrition, youth and vulnerable population involvement.
- Connecting farmers & growers to food insecure populations in economically viable manners.
 - Strategies : Farmers selling seconds; gleaning; getting people to the markets & markets to the people; community gardens.
- **Target area:** A rural and urban project & projects in Buncombe, Cherokee, Graham, Mitchell, Macon, Madison, Swain & Yancey counties.

- **Virginia**

- Southwest Virginia is interested in projects that increase local food access-availability and expand a market for local farmers.
- Some elements to consider include: education and policy initiatives, health and nutrition programs, youth involvement, and service providers and end users.

- **West Virginia**

Seeks projects that improve community food security by promoting consumption, production or marketing of fresh locally grown foods, especially as meets the needs of low-income or other populations vulnerable to food insecurity.

Areas of Emphasis

Justice and Fairness

- Provides food for all
- Reveals, challenges, and dismantles injustice in the food system
- Creates just food system structures and cares for food system workers
- Ensures that public institutions and local businesses support a just community food system

STRONG COMMUNITIES

- Improves equity and responds to community food needs
- Contributes to healthy neighborhoods
- Builds diverse and collaborative relationships, trust, and reciprocity
- Supports civic participation, political empowerment, and local leadership

VIBRANT FARMS

- Supports local, sustainable family farms to thrive and be economically viable
- Protects and cares for farmers and farm-workers
- Honors stories of food and farm legacy through community voices
- Respects farm animals

HEALTHY PEOPLE

- Provides healthy food for all
- Ensures the health and well-being of all people, inclusive of race and class
- Connects people and the food system, from field to fork
- Connects people and land to promote health and wellness

SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEMS

- Sustains and grows a healthy environment
- Promotes an ecological ethic
- Enhances biodiversity
- Promotes agricultural and food distribution practices that mitigate climate change

THRIVING LOCAL ECONOMIES

- Creates local jobs and builds long-term economic vitality within the food system
- Builds local wealth
- Promotes sustainable development while strengthening local food systems
- Includes infrastructure that supports community and environmental health

Successful applications will include more than one and illustrate the integration of these measures in the proposed project.

Abi-Nader et al., (2009). *Whole Measures for Community Food Systems: Values-Based Planning and Evaluation*. Available: www.wholecommunities.org.

Who can apply?

- Community organizations, individuals, and/or groups working around issues of health, nutrition, community development, agriculture, food access, environmental sustainability, etc.
- Appalachian areas of WV, VA and NC.
- Expressed interest in the Appalachian Foodshed Project's priority to enhance community food systems and community food security.
- Priority given to applicants that previously participated in AFP activity since 2011

What types of projects are eligible?

Funds Available

- \$ 18,000.00 per state
- 5/1/2014 – 10/1/2015

Funds will support

- Expenses directly related to the project such as travel funds (domestic travel only)
- Labor costs
- Project related materials

Funds will NOT support

- Refer to RFA page 4 (Per USDA NIFA Funding Restrictions)

How will the proposals be evaluated?

1. Target Locality
2. Relevancy
3. Technical Merit
4. Achievability
5. Qualifications of applicant(s)
6. Adequacy of Plans for Collaboration/Management

How to Apply & Submit?

- Complete the application form & submit no later than **5:00 PM on April 7, 2014**
- Submission specifics:
 - Email Address: afp@vt.edu
 - Application form & any supporting documents should be compiled and saved as ONE PDF FILE.
 - Name PDF file: “organization name”_AFP-CFSEG_APRIL2014.pdf

Refer to Page 4 of RFA for more details

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Address questions about this RFA

General RFA & Virginia Questions

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North Carolina Questions

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West Virginia Questions

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RFA Content & Parameters

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Susan Clark, Project Director, Virginia Tech (VA)
Kelly Crane, WV Farmers Market Association and SAGE-Sustainable Agriculture
Entrepreneurs (WV)
Jessica Crum, Graduate Student, West Virginia University (WV)
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Questions?

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