



# Grants for Local Food and Farms

This is a list of funding opportunities for local food, sustainable agriculture, farmers markets, and farmers.

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## Federal Grants

[Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov/) is a searchable database for all federal grants. You can do a keyword search for "USDA" or "local food."

## USDA Grants

### USDA Rural Development

Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG and RBOG)

[Rural Business Development Grants in North Dakota](#)

[Rural Business Development Grants \(RBDG\) Factsheet](#)

**Deadline:** February 28, 2022

**Contact:** Nancy Wilkens, Business & Cooperative Programs Specialist, 701-530-2044

**Purpose:** RBDG is a competitive grant designed to support targeted technical assistance, training, and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas that have fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in gross revenues. Programmatic activities are separated into enterprise or opportunity type grant activities.

Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG)

[Value Added Producer Grants in North Dakota | Rural Development Fact Sheet](#)

**Deadline:** (Electronic applications: April 25, 2022, Paper applications postmarked by May 2, 2022)

**Eligibility:** Independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer- or rancher-cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures, as defined in the [program regulation](#), are eligible to apply for this program.

**Purpose:** The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of new products. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities and increase producer income.

## USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

### [Grants & Opportunities | Agricultural Marketing Service](#)

#### Farmers Market Promotion Program

##### [Farmers Market Promotion Program](#)

**Deadline:** May 16, 2022

**Eligibility:** Entities that are eligible to apply include:

- Agricultural businesses and cooperatives
  - Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks and associations
  - Food Councils
  - Economic development corporations
  - Local governments
  - Nonprofit and public benefit corporations
  - Producer networks or associations
  - Regional farmers' market authorities
  - Tribal governments

**Purpose:** The Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products by developing, coordinating, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, online sales or other direct producer-to-consumer (including direct producer-to-retail, direct producer-to-restaurant and direct producer-to-institutional marketing) market opportunities. A 10 % or a 25% match is required.

#### Local Food Promotion Program

##### [Local Food Promotion Program | Agricultural Marketing Service](#)

**Deadline:** May 16, 2022

**Eligibility:** (Same as Farmers Market Promotion Program)

**Purpose:** The Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer to consumer marketing to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. Grants can be used for the planning stages of establishing or expanding a local and regional food business enterprise or to improve or expand a food business that supports locally and regionally produced agricultural products and food system infrastructure by performing feasibility studies, market research, training and technical assistance for the business enterprise and/or for producers working with the business enterprise. A 10 % or a 25% match is required.

Eligible entities may apply if they support local and regional food business enterprises that process, distribute, aggregate, or store locally or regionally produced food products.

#### Regional Food Systems Partnerships

##### [Regional Food System Partnerships | Agricultural Marketing Service](#)

**Deadline:** May 16, 2022

**Eligibility:** Partnerships are eligible to apply to RFSP. A partnership is an agreement between one or more eligible entities and one or more eligible partners. Read pgs 10 and 11 of the [2021 RFP](#) for more info.

**Purpose:** The Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP) program supports partnerships that connect public and private resources to plan and develop local or regional food systems. The program focuses on strengthening the viability and resilience of regional food economies through collaboration and coordination.

## USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

### [Search for a Funding Opportunity | National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#)

#### Beginning Farmer Rancher Development Program

[Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program | National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#)

**Deadline:** March 24, 2022

**Eligibility:** Applications may only be submitted by a collaborative state, tribal, local, or regionally based network or partnership of qualified public and/or private entities. These collaborations may include the following entities: State Cooperative Extension Services; Federal, State, municipal or tribal agencies; community-based organizations (CBOs); nongovernmental organizations (NGOs); junior and four-year colleges or universities or foundations maintained by a college or university; and private for-profit organizations. Inclusions of beginning and/or non-beginning farmers and ranchers as part of the collaborative group is strongly encouraged.

**Purpose:** The primary goal of BFRDP is to help beginning farmers and ranchers in the United States and its territories enter and/or improve their successes in farming, ranching, and management of nonindustrial private forest lands, through support for projects that provide education, mentoring, and technical assistance to give beginning farmers and ranchers the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to make informed decisions for their operations, and enhance their sustainability. The term "farmer" is used in the broadest sense and may be interpreted to include agricultural farmers, ranchers, and non-industrial private forest owners and managers.

[Download RFA](#)

#### Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture

[Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture Program \(NLGCA\) | National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#)

#### Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants Program (SPECA)

[Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants Program \(SPECA\) | National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#)

**Deadline:** April 6, 2022

**Eligibility:** Applications may only be submitted by: (1) public secondary schools; (2) public or private nonprofit junior and community colleges; (3) institutions of higher education; or (4) nonprofit organizations. (Attach IRS 501(c)(3) status under R&R 'Other Project Information' Field 12 Other Attachments.)

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)


Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities – Building Markets and Investing in America's Climate-Smart Farmers, Ranchers & Forest Owners to Strengthen U.S. Rural and Agricultural Communities

[View Opportunity | GRANTS.GOV](#)

**Deadline:** April 8, 2022 (Pool 1), May 27, 2022 (Pool 2)

**Eligibility:** City or township governments, Special district governments, Native American tribal governments, State governments, Native American tribal organizations, Nonprofits, Public and State controlled institutions of higher education, Small businesses, County governments, Private institutions of higher education, For profit organizations other than small businesses

### USDA NRCS Conservation Collaboration Grants

 [NRCS Conservation Collaboration Grants 2022.pdf](#)

**Deadline:** April 1, 2022 10:59pm CDT

**Eligibility:** Eligibility for this opportunity is limited to the following entity types:

a. City or township governments; b. County governments; c. Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized); d. Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments); e. Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS (other than institutions of higher education); f. Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS (other than institutions of higher education); g. Private institutions of higher education; h. Public and State-controlled institutions of higher education; i. Special district governments; j. State governments

**Purpose:** The purpose of Conservation Collaboration Grant Agreements is to leverage NRCS and partner resources to:

1. Improve soil health.
2. Improve landscape performance in dealing with water quantity issues; either excess or inadequate, and downstream impacts.
3. Improve water quality.
4. Improve habitat for local wildlife species of concern.
5. Improve the environmental and economic performance of working agricultural lands.
6. Assist communities and groups to build and strengthen local food projects that provide healthy food and economic opportunities.

## State Grants

### ND Department of Agriculture

Ag Products Utilization Commission (APUC)

[Ag Products Utilization Commission \(APUC\) | North Dakota Department of Agriculture](#)

**Deadline: Quarterly,** Mar. 1/Apr. 1 2022; Jun. 1/Jul. 1, 2022; Sept. 1/Oct. 1, 2022

**Eligibility:** North Dakota companies that add value to North Dakota agriculture.

**Purpose:** Agricultural Products Utilization Commission (APUC) creates new wealth and employment opportunities through the development of new and expanded uses of North Dakota's agricultural products through a grant program. A maximum of 15

qualifying applicants present funding proposals on a quarterly basis for the following grant categories:

- Basic and Applied Research
- Marketing and Utilization
- Farm Diversification
- Technical Assistance
- Nature Based Agri-Tourism
- Prototype Development and Technology

#### Specialty Crop Block Grant

[Specialty Crop Block Grant Program | North Dakota Department of Agriculture](#)

**Deadline:** was Jan. 19, 2022

**Eligibility:**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as "fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture)."

## Foundation Grants

### National and Regional Foundations

This list of members of the Sustainable Ag and Food Systems Funders may be helpful.

[Members - Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems Funders](#)

#### Bush Foundation Community Innovation Grant

[Community Innovation Grants | Bush Foundation](#)

**Deadline:** applications accepted year-round

**Eligibility:** 501(c)(3) public charities or government entities (including schools) in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota or the 23 Native nations that share the same geography

**Purpose:** Community Innovation grants fund organizations to develop, test or spread great ideas to make the region better for everyone, and/or to inspire, equip and connect leaders to more effectively lead equitable change.

#### Clif Family Foundation

[Our Grants Programs](#)

**Deadlines:** February 1, June 1, and October 1

**Eligibility:** 501c3 nonprofit or fiscally sponsored by a 501c3

**Priority is given to applicants that:**

**Address two or more of our funding priorities at the same time:**

- Strengthen our food system
- Enhance equitable community health outcomes
- Safeguard our environment and natural resources

**Demonstrate strong community ties.**

**Operate within viable and clearly defined plans for positive change.**

Otto Bremer Trust

[Social Return - Otto Bremer Trust](#)

**Deadlines:** April 14, 2022; June 16, 2022; August 11, 2022

**Eligibility:** Grants are made only to organizations whose beneficiaries are residents of Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, or Wisconsin. Grants are generally restricted to organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and to governmental entities. OBT does not make grants to individuals. Please note that as a regulated financial institution, we will screen applications in accordance with the Bank Secrecy Act and file Suspicious Activity Reports when warranted.

The Otto Bremer Trust provides funding to support *critical assistance, health and well-being, and community engagement*.

## North Dakota Foundations

North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

[North Dakota Natural Resources Trust - Small Grant Program](#)

**Deadline:** Friday, April 8, 2022

**Eligibility:**

**Purpose:** The Trust is seeking grant proposals to assist in the implementation of our mission and the education and outreach elements identified in our Strategic Plan Statement of Need, as follows:

1. Public awareness and education on the values of wetlands, grasslands, and riparian areas; the importance of maintaining soil health and the interconnection with water quality and the overall health of our natural resources.
2. Public awareness and education on the importance of North Dakota natural resources.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Caring Foundation

[Caring Foundation | BCBSND](#)

[Spark Grants](#) - Letter of Intent due Feb. 15 or Aug. 15, Grant application due March 15 or Sept. 15

The Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota (BCBSND) Caring Foundation will provide a limited number of one-year grants annually of up to \$50,000 to North Dakota communities and organizations undertaking efforts to support health and community-based wellness and prevention. With the addition of our CaringforCommunities SPARK grants, our goal is to enhance collaborative efforts and community involvement that results in long-lasting change.

# Grants for Community and School Gardens

ND Dept. of Ag Community Orchard Project

<https://www.nd.gov/ndda/program-info/local-foods-initiative/community-orchard-project>

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture grant funds are available to begin a community or school orchard/garden project. Grants from \$500 to \$7,500 are available on a competitive basis.

Seed Money


[SeedMoney Garden Grants](#)


American Academy of Dermatology Association Shade Structure Grants

[Shade Structure grants](#)

# Grants for Farms and Businesses

## Resource Lists for Financing Small Farm Businesses

 [Local Foods Financial Assistance.pdf](#) , from Jill Haakenson, USDA Rural Development Beginning Farmer Program

 [Resources for Farm Beginnings Graduates.docx](#) from [FARRMS](#)

[Resources for Rural Entrepreneurs: A Guide to Planning, Adapting, and Growing Your Business](#) from USDA Rural Development

ND Farmers Market and Growers Association - New Vendor Grants

offers small grants of \$300 - \$500 for those selling at farmers markets. (Mini-grants, new vendor grants, youth group, youth vendor) Meadowlark Granary got a new vendor grant of \$300 to purchase a sturdy shade canopy and tables for their market booth.

[North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Association](#)

North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NC SARE) - Farmer and Rancher Grants

offers Farmer and Rancher Grants to fund on-farm research projects. They are two-year projects, up to \$9000 for an individual, up to \$27,000 for a group of more than two. Past ND projects include organic pest control for cabbage looper moths (Heart and Soil Farm) and variety trials for quinoa production (Glen Philbrick, Hiddendale Farm)

[Farmer Rancher Grant - SARE North Central](#)



View the 11/19/20 webinar on NC SARE Farmer Rancher grants at  
[www.farrms.org/webinars](http://www.farrms.org/webinars)

National Young Farmers Coalition  
Grant up to \$5000, due January 15, 2022  
[Young Farmer Grant Program](#)