

SARE Grant Advising

2026 SARE Lunch & Learn webinar series

[Example](#)

[Group 1](#)

[Group 2](#)

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 5](#)



Join this session to gain skills for helping people write SARE grant proposals. You'll begin by asking people about their grant ideas. After learning how SARE funds innovation by farmers, educators & researchers, you'll go to a breakout room to role play in groups of 3 or 4. Each group will have people in these roles: farm educator, note-taker and one or two grantwriters. You'll discuss the proposal and then share ways to improve this process.

Which SARE Grant might be a good fit for your ideas?

[North Central SARE](#)

- € [Farmer Rancher Grants](#) – Up to \$15,000 for 1 farm or \$30,000 for two+ farms to design and lead research, demonstration, and education projects in sustainable farm practices. (Due December)
- € [Research & Education Grants](#) - \$10,000 to \$250,000 for on-farm research, farmer education and other projects that “explore and promote environmentally sound, profitable, and socially responsible food and/or fiber systems.” (Pre-proposals due October)
- € [Partnership Grants](#) – Up to \$50,000 for farm educators and agriculture professionals who partner with 3 or more farmers to research, demonstrate, educate or collaborate on issues important to sustainable farming. (Due October)
- € [Youth Educator Grants](#) – Up to \$6,000 for projects that teach youth about sustainable agriculture and careers in sustainable agriculture. (Due November)
- € [Professional Development Grants](#) – Up to \$120,000 for “training agricultural educators, using farmers as educators and addressing emerging issues in the farm community” (Due April)
- € [Graduate Student Grants](#) – Up to \$15,000 for Masters’ and PhD students at accredited colleges & universities to “address sustainable agriculture issues” in the North Central region (Due April)

[Michigan SARE](#)

- € [Michigan SARE Mini-Grant](#) – Up to \$1,500 to organize a conference or workshop addressing environmental, social and financial sustainability for Michigan or regional farmers and educators
- € [Michigan SARE Farmer Forum](#) – \$6,000 to host and record an event featuring SARE grantees – email Sarah Zeiler at szeiler@msu.edu for more information

[Tribal SARE for Michigan and Wisconsin:](#)

- € [Tribal SARE Mini Grants for MI and WI](#) – up to \$5,000 for food sovereignty related activities such as field days, farm tours, workshops, etc.
- € [Tribal SARE Professional Development Travel Grants for MI and WI](#) up to \$500 in travel costs for Tribal farm educators and sustainable agriculture professionals supporting Tribal communities
- € Other:

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In breakout rooms: discuss a proposal idea using the worksheet below

- Roles: (1) Grant advisor, (1) note taker and (1 or 2) grant writers
- Start on the worksheet (you won't have time for the whole thing!)
- After breakout rooms, you can suggest worksheet improvements

Example

<u>Grant idea and goals:</u> Short description		
<p><u>Grant Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • 		
<p><u>Sustainability: Show how this grant idea is good for all three pillars of sustainability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental = natural resources, soil, water, wildlife, pollinators, etc. • Social = Farmer quality of life and community wellness • Financial = Economic viability and profitability 		
<u>What grant could fund this work?</u>	<u>Max funding amount</u>	<u>When is the proposal due?</u>
<p><u>Potential Grant Partners</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Far • • • • 	<p><u>Budget: General dollar amount or needs list</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • 	
<p>Open RFP or NOFO and scroll through the information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights • Allowable Expenses • Review Criteria • Proposal Sections (note that outreach and evaluation are often areas for improvement) • Budget and budget justification • SARE Grant Management System at https://projects.sare.org/ 		

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Questions?

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Group 1

Grant idea and goals: Short description

What type(s) of forage are best to use in the field for producing hay? Project will look at intermediate wheat grass for grazing option in MI.

Grant Activities

- Outreach - show and share data with public
- Events to showcase intermediate wheat grass (2-3 over course of project)
- Test forage quality
- Host quarterly advisory council meetings; include forage council

Sustainability: Show how this grant idea is good for all three pillars of sustainability

- Environmental = natural resources, soil, water, wildlife, pollinators, etc.

Mixture of forages would include legumes, pollinators and blend would be selected to improve soil health and control for erosion, decrease water pollution

- Social = Farmer quality of life and community wellness
- Financial = Economic viability and profitability

Better forage variety will produce better quality hay and higher yield

What grant could fund this work?

Partnership grant

Max funding amount

When is the proposal due?

Potential Grant Partners

- MSUE
- Farmer (has been farming for 40 yrs)
- Conservation district
- Local seed company
- Farm Bureau

Budget: General dollar amount or needs list

- \$20,000 seed
-
-
-
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Open RFP or NOFO and scroll through the information:

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Questions?

- Roles: (1) Grant advisor, (1) note taker and (1 or 2) grant writers
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Group 2

<p>Grant idea and goals: Short description No till v tilling in vegetable production Production angle Marketing business angle</p>		
<p>Grant Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field demonstrations - strip of tilled, strip of not tilled in same vegetable • Soil and water (for field runoff) tests before and after • Measure yield, inputs used • Sell at different price points and measure consumer perceptions 		
<p>Sustainability: Show how this grant idea is good for all three pillars of sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental = natural resources, soil, water, wildlife, pollinators, etc. Tilled soils are more likely for erosion and water runoff. No-till aligns with more regenerative ag practices. • Social = Farmer quality of life and community wellness Ditches kept cleaner – improves community. Carbon footprint – impacts the whole community. Advertise regenerative ag - especially if selling direct to consumer. • Financial = Economic viability and profitability Could you get more revenue when marketing as no-till. Could you get more yield? 		
<p>What grant could fund this work? Partnership</p>	<p>Max funding amount \$50,000</p>	<p>When is the proposal due? October</p>
<p>Potential Grant Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • 	<p>Budget: General dollar amount or needs list</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • 	
<p>Open RFP or NOFO and scroll through the information:</p>		

<https://northcentral.sare.org/grants/> | Sarah Fronczak froncza3@msu.edu
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/misare/> | Katie Brandt brandtk7@msu.edu

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2026 SARE Lunch & Learn webinar series

- Highlights
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Questions?

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Group 3

Grant idea and goals: Short description

Training for Extension educators and government personnel on pollinator health topics. Topics covered are pesticide use, agrivoltaics, etc.

Grant Activities

- Two in-person inservice.
- Four webinars.

Sustainability: Show how this grant idea is good for all three pillars of sustainability

- Environmental = natural resources, soil, water, wildlife, pollinators, etc.
 - Increased forage and habitat for pollinators, decreased pesticide exposure and toxicity to bees
 - Audiences: Extension Educators, Farm Service Agency
 - Supporting wild bee populations
- Social = Farmer quality of life and community wellness
 - Improved or increased produce through bee pollination
 - Improved risk management for beekeepers through training FSA for ELAP for honey bee losses
- Financial = Economic viability and profitability
 - Increased honey yields for beekeepers
 - Improved honey bee colony survival

What grant could fund this work?

Max funding amount

When is the proposal due?

<https://northcentral.sare.org/grants/>

| Sarah Fronczak froncza3@msu.edu

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| Katie Brandt brandtk7@msu.edu

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PDP			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • 	
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Questions?			

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Group 4

<u>Grant idea and goals:</u> Short description
<u>Grant Activities</u>
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2026 SARE Lunch & Learn webinar series

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<p>Questions?</p>		

- Roles: (1) Grant advisor, (1) note taker and (1 or 2) grant writers
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Group 5

<p><u>Grant idea and goals:</u> Short description</p>
<p><u>Grant Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • •
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