



Alumni Grant Program

Depending on how well your budget is articulated, committee members may elect to award partial grants in order to enable more alumni to benefit from the program. Grants are awarded during 3 cycles this year. This year's deadlines are:

- February 1st, 2020 - 4 grants available for up to \$750
- ***NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY*** April 20, 2020 - up to 3 grants available for \$1,000 - \$2,000 *focus on individual or organizational professional and leadership development
- July 26, 2020- 4 grants available for up to \$750

Eligible Projects:

Spring 2020 / Fall 2020 Grant Cycle:

Service Project: We will consider funding service projects and events in your community that promote health and wellness. Preference will be given to applicants who welcome the participation of fellow FoodCorps alumni and FoodCorps partners to attend events.

- Examples of Service Project Grants: Hosting an MLK Day of Service event to build a school garden, hosting a community meal or putting on an event to raise awareness about cooking nutritious meals at home. Interested in teaching a gardening or cooking class in your community? A FoodCorps Alumni grant would be a great way to help fund starter materials you may need for your class.

Seed Funding: We will consider providing seed money for a new project such as a food-related business venture or nonprofit organization.

- Examples of Seed Funding Grants: Start-up funds for a school compost non-profit or a food education program geared to engage parents. Creative? Film and edit a mini-documentary or record a webinar series. Interested in starting a business? Use these funds as seed money to get your food/agriculture business off of the ground.

Professional Development: We will consider funding your registration and travel to a conference or training of *your choosing*. Below is a list of recommended trainings & events. We will prioritize funding at least 1 grant proposal per cycle to attend trainings from each of the categories below:

- Example conference opportunities:
 - [MOSES](#)
 - [Southern SAWG](#)
 - [National Food Policy Conference](#)
 - [People of the Global Majority ONE Conference](#)
 - [School Nutrition Association Annual Conference](#)
- Other professional development ideas: Interested in attending a workshop to develop your skills? Need a certification for your job? Utilizing these funds to attend a workshop in your area of choice to help develop your skills and keep your best practices up to date. Some trainings can include:
 - Food safety training and certifications
 - Master Gardener certifications
 - Teacher certifications

Spring 2020 Grant Cycle:

Capacity Building-Focused: For this additional funding cycle, we will consider investments into personal - or organizational - professional development and/or leadership development as priority areas of interest. Preference will be given to creative applications that are focused on funding requests that build long-term capacity in an individual and/or their place of occupation.

Examples of such projects could include:

- Seed funding to establish a learning community in your town or city (i.e. School Garden Network, Food Justice Learning Circle, and more).
- Fees to cover professional development training at your organization, school, or place of business.
- Certificate programs with a train the trainer end goal (i.e. Permaculture Certification that the applicant will then train other colleagues on in their community).
- Model development (i.e. piloting an advocacy day around school food and nutrition in your city or state and developing a toolkit for use by other practitioners).

Successful application will be:

- **Interconnected:** the application speaks to how colleagues, peers, and community will be impacted by the ripple effects of this grant.
- **Innovative:** the application demonstrates that grant funding will result in something new, and is not covering the cost of fees or other financial responsibilities associated with programs the applicant is already engaged with. To clarify, grad school and GRE fees are not competitive requests, as we are inspired by new and novel models that can result from this grant.
- **Sustainable:** the application clearly communicates the long-term impact of the grant funding.

- **Precise:** the application breaks out how the funding will be used, including projected costs, timeline and project vision. We aren't looking for broad strokes, we want as many details needed to understand why your application is important.

Project Stipulations:

- Funds may not be used to compensate for applicant or other individual's time (ie. you can't pay yourself or others for their time with the funds)
- Grants may not be used to fund current service site activities if you happen to work at your former service site
- Funds can not go towards alcoholic beverages
- Personal food costs may not exceed \$50 total in one day.
- You may only be awarded a FoodCorps Alumni Grant one time per year
- Members of the review committee are not permitted to submit applications

How will projects be evaluated?

- Alignment with [FoodCorps' mission and values](#)
- Demonstrated passion for project
- Clear Outcomes
- Complete and detailed budget and timeline
- Overall potential to make an impact on the applicant, their community, or FoodCorps
- Some priority will be given to projects that include other members of the FoodCorps Community (alumni, service sites, etc.) or to proposals that include our recommended professional development opportunities.

Implement project:

- During your project we ask that you wear your FoodCorps t-shirt. If you don't have yours anymore, we'll send you another!
- Funding will be granted on a reimbursement basis. You must save all receipts from expenses associated with the project proposal in order to receive funds. If you have are unable to take on the up front costs of the grant funding, please e-mail Jenetta (jenetta.hargrove@foodcorps.org) and she will work out another solution for you.
- Document your project with photos, gather quotes from participants, and do what you can to help yourself write a report that gives a full picture of the day's events.

Follow-up:

- Please take at least 3 photos documenting this event and send them along with your grant report.
- Be prepared to write-up of a narrative of no more than 200 words detailing how the project went, what you were able to learn or accomplish, and the impact it had on the community or on yourself. Awardees will select a minimum of one of the reporting measures that align best with their project. This will involve permitting Alumni Council subcommittees to share information about the use of your grant in social media and other communications.

- [Download and fill out this reimbursement form](#) and send it to jenetta.hargrove@foodcorps.org with itemized receipts and maps with mileage for transportation costs. Please do not fill out as a Google Spreadsheet. *Reimbursement requests must be submitted within 60 days of purchase!*
- Once all follow-up materials have been received, we will process your reimbursements.

TO APPLY:

- [Apply Here](#) If you ever lose track of it, it will be posted in the headlines on [FoodCorps Connect](#).
- Your application will be reviewed by a panel of Alumni Council members. We try to review applications and have responses back to you by one month after the due date.