

Finding Funding and Assistance:

USDA sites:

- [USDA: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service](#): Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program, Fund for Rural America, Community Food Projects, Community Supported Agriculture and a variety of other funding programs are listed here. A must see.
 - [Hunger and Food Security](#)
 - [Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program](#)
- [USDA Office of Community Development](#)
Notices of Funding Availability - search by Department, grant deadline, and key words.
- [USDA: Food and Nutrition Service](#)
Lists grants for state agencies including Team Nutrition and Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP).
- [USDA: Rural Development](#)
Rural Business Enterprise Grants, Rural Business Opportunity Grants - focuses on funding for agricultural marketing and production innovations.

Other Organizations on the web

- [Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education](#)
For Farmers and Producers: Organized by region, funds new markets for farmers. Also funds multi-institutional, collaborative approaches including non-profit organizations, university staff and farmers.
- [American Community Food Service Association](#) The School Nutrition Association is a national, nonprofit professional organization representing more than 55,000 members who provide high-quality, low-cost meals to students across the country. Grants and awards available for its membership at <http://www.asfsa.org/Content.aspx?id=1528>
- [Food and Society Initiative of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#): Their goal is to support the creation and expansion of community-based food systems enterprises (CBEs) that are locally owned and controlled, environmentally sound, and promote good health. Grants for various categories listed.

Local Foundations

Important resources, not to be overlooked, are local foundations. Because they are local, they are interested in funding what's happening in their own backyard, and will often fund start-ups and special projects. A conversation with your local reference librarian should help turn up these sources.

You can also find a list of Ohio Community Foundations at <http://www.cof.org/locator/SearchResults.cfm?state=OH>

Local Governments

Some city agencies - such as those dealing with community development, anti-hunger programs and school and youth programs - may have funds available for special projects. Elected officials often have small pots of money they can distribute at their own discretion for projects in their districts.

State Agencies

In some states, the state health department may have funding available through the Nutrition Network. The following states have Nutrition Network programs:

National Churches

The major Protestant denominations, including Presbyterians, United Methodist, and United Church of Christ, have expressed interest in funding community food security projects. They tend to be very sophisticated and are looking for alternative approaches to traditional feeding programs. Local churches may also be interested in funding projects in the areas they serve.

Major Corporations and Corporate Foundations While national foundations tend to have large amounts of funding available, it is generally difficult to secure this funding. Good sources of information for these foundations are:

- The National Network of Grant makers - 1996 Directory - call 619-231-1348
- The periodical, "Chronicle of Philanthropy"
- Various foundation directories generally available in major libraries.
- <http://igrant.com/>
 - Corporate and community foundations listed by state or grant category with links on "How to write a Grant Proposal."
- [Foundation Center](#)

This website allows you to access and search the foundation center database for possible funding opportunities. Many grant directories are also made available. For a \$20 monthly fee you can access more detailed foundation information from their database.

Information from National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service and the Community Food Security Coalition