

FY16 Promise Zone Benefits from Partnering Agencies

Agency: United States
Department of Agriculture

Program with PZ Benefits:
Community Food Projects Competitive
Grant Program

Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFP)

Website: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/cfp/cfp.html>

Benefit Type: Competitive Grants

Eligible Communities: Urban, Rural, Tribal

Application Deadline: Applications are due November 30, 2015

Funding Amount: Projects are funded from \$10,000 to \$400,000 and up to 48 months (\$500,000 for the T&TA award) . All grants require a dollar-for-dollar match in resources.

Benefits to Promise Zone: Applicants are encouraged to seek and create partnerships with a range of organizations and agencies, including Promise Zone lead applicant organizations. NIFA encourages long-term planning activities, and multi-system, interagency approaches with collaborations from multiple stakeholders. Promise Zone projects and implementation partners should be well-positioned to meet this criterion.

Eligible Applicants: Public food program service providers, tribal organizations, or private nonprofit entities, including gleaners, meeting the following four requirements are eligible to receive a CFP , PP grant: (1) have experience in the area of (i) community food work, particularly concerning small and medium-size farms, including the provision of food to people in low-income communities and the development of new markets in low-income communities for agricultural producers; (ii) job training and business development activities for food-related activities in low-income communities; or (iii) efforts to reduce food insecurity in the community, including food distribution, improving access to services, or coordinating services and programs; (2) demonstrate competency to implement a project, provide fiscal accountability, collect data, and prepare reports and other necessary documentation; (3) demonstrate a willingness to share information with researchers, evaluators, practitioners, and other interested parties, including a plan for dissemination of results; and (4) collaborate with 1 or more local partner organizations to achieve at least 1 hunger-free communities goal. See <http://ric.nal.usda.gov/10583> for more information about hunger-free communities goals.

Program Description: The primary goals of the Community Food Projects program are to (1) meet the food needs of low-income individuals; (2) increase the food self-reliance of low-income communities; (3) promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm and nutrition issues; and (4) meet specific state, local or neighborhood food and agricultural needs, including needs relating to infrastructure improvement and development, planning for long-term solutions and the creation of innovative marketing activities that mutually benefit agricultural producers and low-income consumers.

Since 2009, NIFA has provided more than \$28 million to 154 Community Food Project awards in 48 states to help communities improve access to healthy, local food. Past projects include *Philadelphia Green*, which supports small-scale growers in their efforts to bring fresh, locally grown produce to the Philadelphia metro area, and *RootDown LA*, which is engaging Los Angeles-area youth in community gardens.