

Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC) publications are available through our Web site at <http://afsic.nal.usda.gov/publications>.

A complete list/printable order form of all AFSIC publications and format availability is available under AFSIC Publications at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/pubs/publist.pdf> (PDF | 30KB). Books, articles, and videocassettes cited in AFSIC publications are not available directly from AFSIC. For information on how to obtain these materials, please read NAL Document Delivery Information at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/nal-services/request-library-materials>.

Specific topics not covered by AFSIC publications and Web pages may be addressed, on request, by AFSIC reference staff through brief, complimentary database searches.

Community gardening or market gardening resources:

1) *Market Gardening: A Start-Up Guide*

By Janet Bachmann

ATTRA National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service, 2009

<https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=18>

2) *Community Gardening Toolkit*

University of Missouri Extension

<http://extension.missouri.edu/p/MP906>

3) *Starting a Community Garden*

American Community Gardening Association

1777 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43203-2040 USA

E-mail: info@communitygarden.org

Web: <http://www.communitygarden.org/learn/starting-a-community-garden.php>

4) *Community Garden*

<http://www.letsmove.gov/community-garden-checklist>

From the Let's Move initiative developed by the White House with input from the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Agriculture, Department of Education and Department of Interior.

5) *Starting a Community Garden*

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/vegetables/gardening/extension_community_gardenin_g.pdf

Clemson Cooperative Extension Service

The Indian Country Extension agent can provide an array of resources/contacts related to community gardening. Please visit

Indian Country Extension

<http://indiancountryextension.org/>

The Agricultural Marketing Resource Center (AgMRC) offers comprehensive *Directories and State Resources* to help you locate state/local agriculture, health, and government marketing contacts.

http://www.agmrc.org/directories_state_resources/

The following resources at NAL also might be helpful:

Community Food Systems:

1) *Community Food Systems*

USDA, NAL, Food and Nutrition Information Center

<http://fnic.nal.usda.gov/nutrition-assistance-programs/community-food-systems>

2) *Community Food Systems and Civic Agriculture*

USDA, NAL, Alternative Farming Systems Information Center

<http://afsic.nal.usda.gov/farms-and-community/community-food-systems-and-civic-agriculture>

FUNDING RESOURCES

Options for school and community gardens. Tribal and Native Americans should be able to apply for most of these programs:

- **USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) Specialty Crop Grants** – obtained through their State Department of Agriculture (USDA program) “Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)
Type: Block grants awarded directly to State departments of agriculture
Max award: Varies by state Big idea: States administer grant program to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, nursery crops, floriculture), including locally grown and consumed specialty crops.
Who can apply: State departments of agriculture award funds to a range of specialty crop stakeholders
Possibilities: This program supports a State's specialty crop funding priorities including statewide and local food systems, all of which must solely support specialty crops, including: School and community gardens;”
Use this link to locate your State Office:
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateJ&navID=StateContacts&rightNav1=StateContacts&topNav=&leftNav=&page=SCBGPStatePOCs&resultType=&acct=fvgrntprg>
- **USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS): Farm to School Grants Program:**
Max award: Planning, Implementation and Support Service grants are available from \$20,000 - \$100,000. Matching funds of 25% of the total project is required.
Big idea: To help schools source more foods locally and to provide complementary educational activities to students that emphasize food, farming, and nutrition.
Who can apply: Eligible schools, State and Local agencies, Indian Tribal Organizations, agricultural producers or groups of agricultural producers, and non-profit entities.
Possibilities: Applicants are planning programs to bring local or regionally produced foods into school cafeterias; hands-on learning activities such as school gardening, farm visits, and culinary classes; and the integration of food-related education into the regular, standards-based classroom curriculum.
Get more information: For more information on Farm to School grants:
http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S/f2_2013_grant_program.htm For all questions pertaining to the USDA Farm to School Grant Program, please contact us via email at farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov.”
- **USDA, Rural Development (RD), Community Facilities (CF) Programs:**
Type: Direct loans, guaranteed loans, and grants

Max award: Varies by project, applicant's financial feasibility, and community size

Big idea: The Community Facilities Program supports rural communities by providing loans and grants for the construction, acquisition, or renovation of community facilities or for the purchase of equipment for community facilities.

Who can apply: Public bodies, non-profit organizations and Federally-recognized Indian tribes are all eligible to apply for funds to finance essential community facilities in rural areas (defined as areas with no more than 20,000 residents).

Real example: In Wrangell, Alaska, an island community with limited access to fresh food, the Wrangell Medical Center received a Community Facilities grant of \$100,000 to purchase two greenhouses for a community garden.

Possibilities: Projects that support local and regional food systems that may qualify for CF funding include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Farmers markets (i.e. structures);
- School and community kitchens;
- Food banks, including refrigerators;
- Community gardens (i.e., purchase land; water source access) and noncommercial greenhouses;
- Refrigerated trucks.

Get more information: For more program information

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF_CF.html and to apply for any USDA Rural Development program contact your state or local office [here](#).”

- **USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA),**
 - Community Food Projects: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/communityfoodprojects.cfm>
“The [Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program \(CFPCGP\)](#) has since 1996 promoted self-sufficiency and food security in low-income communities through community food projects (CFP), Planning Projects and Training and Capacity Building projects (TCB). supporting local food systems – from urban gardening to local farms – that provide high-quality fresh foods, ideally with minimal adverse environmental impact. All proposed solutions must tie into community food needs.”
 - **Jane M. Clary**, National Program Leader
Unit: Division of Nutrition
Phone: (202) 720 – 3891 **Fax:** (202) 720 - 9366
Email: jclary@nifa.usda.gov
 - **People's Garden Grant Program (PGGP):**
<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/peoplesgarden.cfm> “The People's Garden Grant Program (PPGP) is designed to facilitate the creation of produce, recreation, and/or wildlife gardens in urban and rural areas, which will provide opportunities for science-based informal education. This program is a joint initiative supported by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Food and Nutrition Service, Forest Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service, in addition to NIFA. Successful applicants will provide micro-subgrant support to smaller local projects.”
 - **Thomas (Tom) Bewick**, National Program Leader
Unit: Division of Plant Systems-Production

Phone: (202) 401 – 3356 **Fax:** (202) 401 - 4888
Email: tbewick@nifa.usda.gov

- **USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service Community Gardens Page.**
Community Gardens:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/plantsanimals/plants/techpub/?&cid=stelprdb1044310> “Plant Materials Program addresses the challenge of USDA to establish Peoples Gardens by working with other NRCS staff and volunteers to establish community gardens on the Plant Materials Centers. These gardens produce food for local charitable groups and/or plants to educate and beautify the community.”

First Nations Development Institute

351 Coffman Street, Suite 200

Longmont, CO 80501

Contact: Sarah Dewees

303-774-7836

Grantmaking department: info@firstnations.org

<http://www.firstnations.org/NAFSI>

<http://www.firstnations.org/program-nativeamericanfoodsandhealth>

<http://www.firstnations.org/program-nativeamericanfoodsandhealth#sthash.Ov6WMuY.dpuf>

Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative: “The Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative (NAFSI) grant is intended to help tribes and Native communities build sustainable food systems such as community gardens, food banks, food pantries and/or other agricultural projects related to Native food-systems control. These 31 grants were made possible by the generous support of the AARP Foundation, The Christensen Fund, CHS Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Advocacy and Outreach, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Walmart Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.”

Native American Foods & Health: “First Nations Development Institute recognizes that accessing healthy food is a challenge for many Native American children and families. Without access to healthy food, a nutritious diet and good health are out of reach. To increase access to healthy food, we support tribes and Native communities as they build sustainable food systems that improve health, strengthen food security and increase the control over Native agriculture and food systems. First Nations provides this assistance in the form of financial and technical support, including training materials, to projects that address agriculture and food sectors in Native communities.”

Federal Loan Programs for Economic and Community Development throughout Indian Country and Alaska

<http://www.usda.gov/documents/federal-funding-matrix-indian-country.pdf>

For information contact:

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of Tribal Relations

Office of the Secretary

Office: 202-205-2249

Room 501-A, Whitten Building