



2019 FarmShare Fund Mini-Grant: Request for Proposals

Executive Summary: Food security means everyone has physical, social and economic access to fresh, nutritious food. We believe farmers should receive a fair price for their products, but for some of us, the cost and/or familiarity with local food are barriers. FarmShare Fund promotes a vibrant regional food system that is healthy for our communities, our farms and our environment by providing grants that create access to affordable local food for everyone.

The FarmShare Fund is made possible through donations, foundations and proceeds from ANCA's annual Bike the Barns farm-by-bike event.

Funding Description: The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) seeks proposals for grants ranging between \$250-\$1,500 that will address food insecurity for low-income populations with a focus on local food access, familiarity and cost while enhancing farm viability. Our goal is to encourage initiatives that benefit both our region's local farms and low-income families.

Eligible applicants include **local farmers, nonprofits, government agencies/departments, food banks, community groups, schools and producers/entrepreneurs** working on North Country local food access and food security projects.

Successful applications will accomplish one or more of the following:

- Create direct connections between farms and consumers
- Help provide CSA farm share subsidies for low-income households
- Support ANCA initiatives such as Farm to School, Food Hub Development and Agritourism
- Complement existing food access programs
- Provide education opportunities for local foods to low-income residents
- Increase the quantity and/or variety of local foods available to low-income communities

Eligible Counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Oswego, Saint Lawrence, Saratoga, Warren, Washington

**Please see the last page of this RFP for more information about the summit and examples of food security projects.

Applications are due no later than Monday, April 1, 2019. Please submit your application or any questions to Josh Bakelaar, jbakelaar@adirondack.org.

Application Guidelines: Competitive applications should include:



- **Contact:** A primary contact, name, e-mail address, job title, organization/business name and phone number
- **Farm(s)/Organization/Business Description:** Briefly describe your farm(s)/business/organization and the products, mission and/or services provided. (approx. 200 words)
- **Geography:** Describe the location where your project will be implemented.
- **Beneficiaries:** The names of the groups you plan to benefit such as farms, markets, schools, food hubs, food shelves, etc. and description of existing relationships.
- **Interest and/or Current Food Access Efforts:** A short narrative summary of your relevant current interest, efforts, projects and programs (approx. 200 words).
- **Plan:** A short narrative summary of what you plan to do, your project timeline and why it's important to food security. Describe how the funding will be used to address access to local food and impact local farms. Be sure to include any organizational and/or community partnerships (approx. 100-200 words).
- **Costs:** A list of itemized project costs noting mini-grant funds and any matching funds or in-kind investments.
- **Goals:** A short explanation of the anticipated outcomes of your project. How will this funding help you further your food security goals and how do you plan to continue those efforts after this funding is used? (200-400 words).
- **Reporting:** A commitment to submitting a brief report of how funds were utilized, project photos and any observed impacts on your food security goals including quantifiable metrics. Amount of food in pounds, number of farmers and households/families affected preferred.
- **Presenting:** A commitment to presenting at ANCA's Bike the Barns and/or the North Country Food Justice Summit events.

Scoring:

A panel of ANCA staff and North Country food and health organization representatives will award points for proposals based on the following scale, awarding available funds according to the performance of each proposal.

Farm(s)/Organization/Business Description, Beneficiaries and Current Efforts: 20 points

- The applicant demonstrates understanding of food security and the needs of their community.
- The applicant demonstrates a commitment to improving food security with the participation of local farms.

Plan: 20 Points

- The applicant will complete the project by January 2020.
- The applicant demonstrates that they have made a concrete and realistic plan for implementing the proposal.
- The applicant demonstrates a need for this funding.
- The applicant demonstrates knowledge of the local food system and barriers encountered by low-income households.
- The applicant has organizational and/or community partners.

Costs: 10 points

- The applicant demonstrates they have researched pricing for all materials, activities, services and project costs.
- Proposed costs are reasonable and necessary to the project proposed.

Goals: 20 points

- The applicant demonstrates that this project or purchase is part of a long-term plan to work towards attainable food security goals.

Reporting: 10 points

- The applicant commits to submitting a brief report summarizing the project impacts including photos as well as relevant metrics - amount of food in pounds, number of farmers and households/families affected - upon project completion.

Presenting: 10 points

- The applicant commits to presenting about their project at either ANCA's Bike the Barns event and/or the annual North Country Food Justice Summit.

**** Food Security Project Examples:**

- GardenShare (<http://www.gardenshare.org/>) implements several programs including bonus bucks and CSA cost-share assistance.
- Capital Roots (<https://www.capitalroots.org/>) addresses hunger and food security with a mobile market, veggie prescriptions and gleaning projects.
- Four Innovative Community Food Projects- <https://www.ecowatch.com/4-innovative-community-food-projects-empowering-low-income-residents-1881995837.html>
- Ideas from the North Country Food Justice Summit
 - CSA Cost-Share
 - Double Up Bucks for Farmers Markets
 - Farmers Market Tours
 - Cooking Classes
 - School-based Food Pantry
 - Backpack Programs
 - Food Shelf Infrastructure for Fresh Foods
 - Frozen Local Foods such as soups
 - CSA Shares for Food Shelves