



National Institute of Food and Agriculture

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grant Support Technical Assistance Workshop

BIOENERGY, CLIMATE, AND ENVIRONMENT  
FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUSTAINABILITY  
YOUTH, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY  
FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

# NIFA

## Opportunities for Community based Organizations

INVESTING IN SCIENCE | SECURING OUR FUTURE | [WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV](http://WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV)

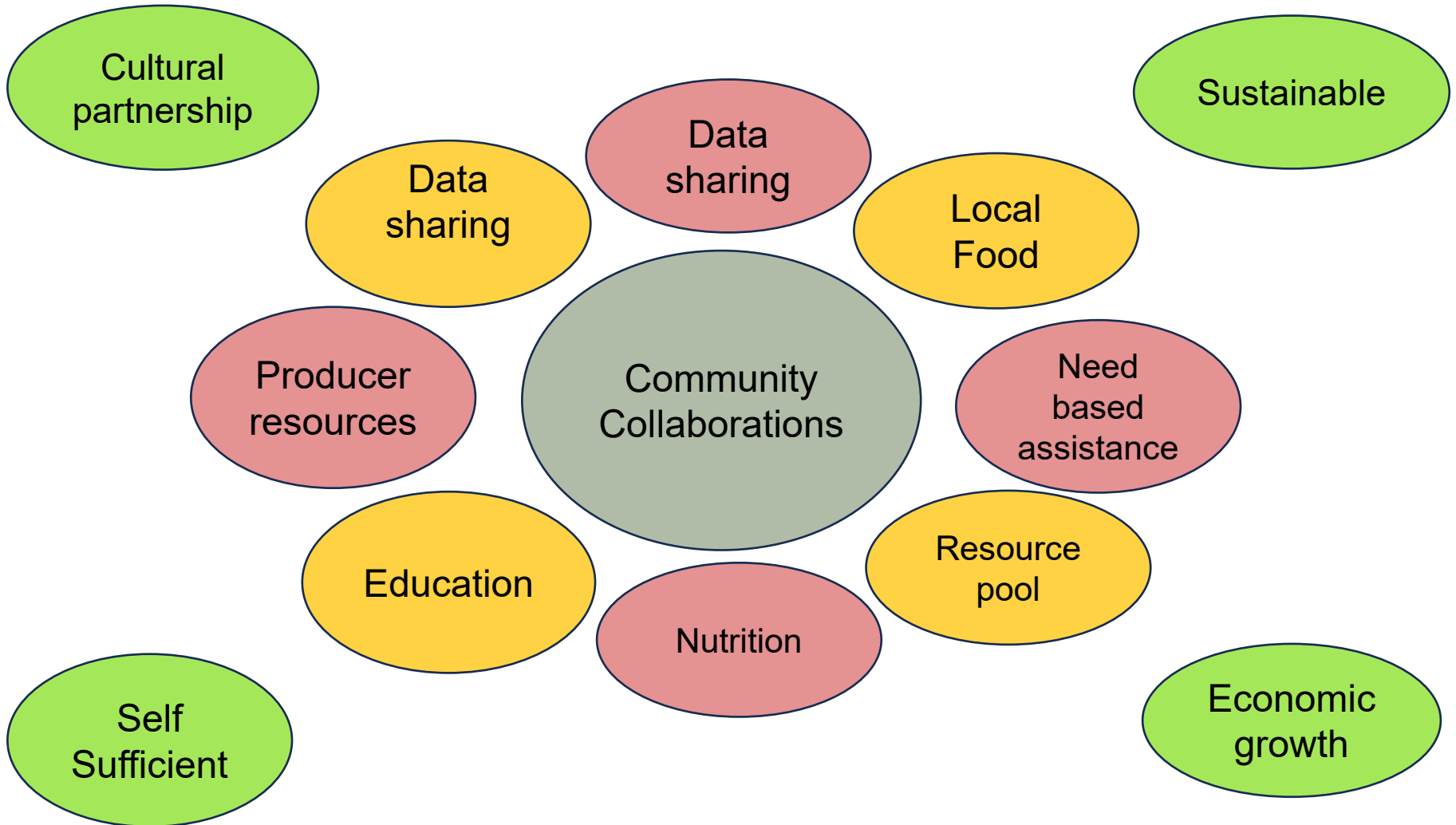
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Jodi Williams  
Cassandra Huey

**Community based organizations**



**Community growth and development**





# Programs

- Food Safety Outreach Program (FSOP)
- Bioproduct Pilot Program (BPP)
- Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)
- Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program
- Food and Agriculture Service-Learning Program
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)
- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)



# Food Safety Outreach Program

Provide customized food safety education to specific audiences affected by the guidelines established under FSMA

## Priorities

- Maintain and continue to provide Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) related training, education, outreach to the programs target audience
- Projects focus on the development or the expansion of food safety education and outreach programs that address the needs of a specialized audience of small and mid-sized producers, processors, and merchant wholesalers

## Focus

- Sustainability
- Community Outreach
- Collaborative Education and Training
- Targeted audience
- Limited Eligibility
- Behavior Change
- Adoption
- Expand Market Access



# Bioproduct Pilot Program

Advance development of cost-competitive bioproducts with environmental benefits compared to incumbent products

## Priorities

- Bioproduct development and production scale-up
- Cost savings relative to other commonly used materials
- Greenhouse gas emission reductions and other environmental and climate benefits relative to other commonly used materials
- Landfill quantity and waste management cost reductions, including life-cycle and longevity-extending or longevity-reducing characteristics relative to other commonly used materials

## Focus

- Technoeconomic analysis
- Environmental benefit analysis
- Commercialization
- Industrial standards
- Market impact
- .....and more



# Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program

Increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by USDA SNAP/NAP participants

## Priorities

- Direct-to-consumer sales marketing
- Designing and implementing successful nutrition incentive programs that connect SNAP/NAP participants and agricultural producers
- Locally or regionally produced and fresh fruits and vegetables
- Provides services to underserved and high-need communities
- Coordination with multiple stakeholders
- Innovative/promising strategies for improving program goals
- Diversity in providers (stores, markets.....)

## Focus

- Track Purchase
- Use of established purchase standards
- Data collection
- Program evaluation
- Market impact
- Cultural food preference
- .....and more



# Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program

- Bring together stakeholders from distinct parts of the food system
- Foster understanding of national food security trends and how they might improve local food systems

## Priorities

- Meet the food needs of low-income individuals through food distribution
- community participation in federal outreach efforts
- Increase the self-reliance of communities
- Promote comprehensive responses to local food, food access, farm, and nutrition issues
- Meet specific state, local, or neighborhood food and agricultural needs
  - Equipment needs
  - Planning for long-term solutions
  - Innovative marketing activities benefitting agricultural producers and low-income consumers

## Focus

- Improving food access
- Self reliance
- Commercialization
- Industrial standards
- Market impact
- .....and more



# Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

Program encourages applications from Community Based and Non-Governmental Organizations and helps to launch or sustain the training needs of underserved socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers

## Priority

Grants to organizations to support beginning farmers and ranchers

- Training
- Mentoring and Experiential Learning
- Technical assistance initiatives

## Focus

- Farm management
- Succession strategies
- Entrepreneurship/business training
- Financial and risk management
- Diversification/marketing strategies
- Curriculum development
- Mentoring/apprenticeships/ internships
- Farm financial benchmarking
- Farm safety/food safety
- Climate smart agriculture strategies
- .....and more





# Food and Agriculture Service-Learning Program

Increase knowledge of agriculture and improve the nutritional health of children

## Priority

Partnership among food system stakeholders

- increase the capacity for food, garden, and nutrition education within host organizations or entities, such as school cafeterias and classrooms
- foster higher levels of community engagement between farms and school systems
- increase access to school meals for underserved children
- improve quality and decrease food loss and waste through student, school, and community engagement.

## Focus

- Skill development in students
  - Leadership
  - Communication
  - Professionalism
  - Ethics
  - Organization
- Mentoring for careers in food and agriculture
- .... and more



# Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

## NIFA's flagship Program

Six Priority areas, multiple program areas under each

### Priorities

Research, Education, and Extension grants to improve rural economies, increase food production, stimulate the bioeconomy, mitigate impacts of climate variability, address water availability issues, ensure food safety and security, enhance human nutrition, and train the next generation of the agricultural workforce.

Overview of AFRI is covered separately



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# Examples of Funded Projects



# Example 1

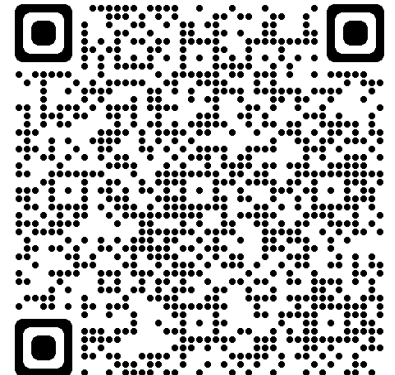
**Program:** BFRDP

**Project Title:** New Roots For Refugees Farm Program  
Expansion

**Institution:** Catholic Charities Of Northeast Kansas

**Funding Amount:** \$ 524,980

**Project Period:** 2021-2024





# Project Details – Example 1

## Objectives

- Removal of Barriers to Marketing
- Adapted and Improved Agricultural Skills
- Farm & Financial Management
- Graduate Support, Networking, & Business Expansion

## Expected Outcomes

- 80% of farmers have improved language proficiency
- 80% of farmers have improved marketing and communication skills
- 85% of farmers in training have increased knowledge of organic farming practices
- 100% of farmers understand the requirements of program participation
- 90% of farmers improve their production management skills
- 100% of refugee farmers have experience selling their produce through multiple sales channels
- 100% of graduates have their own logo and branding



## Example 2

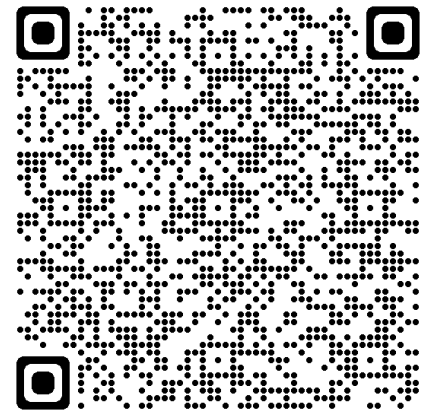
**Program:** FASLP

**Project Title:** Creating a Regional Infrastructure for On-Farm Agricultural Education for Socially Disadvantaged Youth

**Institution:** Ourspace World, INC.

**Funding Amount:** \$ 215,327

**Project Period:** 2021-2024





# Project Details – Example 2

## Objectives

- To enhance awareness, knowledge, and skills in K-12 Black youth around culturally-centered agricultural practices, food systems, and nutrition
- To enhance capacity for socially disadvantaged small-scale Black farmers to host groups of Black youth for on-farm experiential educational experiences.

## Expected Outcomes

- Change in Knowledge
  - At least 75% of youth participating in on-farm experiential learning sessions during the project period will report increased knowledge related to agriculture
- Change in Action
  - 4 or more socially disadvantaged farmers (host sites) will increase their capacity to host on-farm experiential education opportunities for youth
  - In the year following the completion of the project, the regional infrastructure will facilitate at least 10 on-farm experiential learning sessions at no fewer than 2 new farm host sites, targeting 50 socially disadvantaged youth not previously reached during the project period, at least 25 of whom are in traditional school settings.



# Example 3

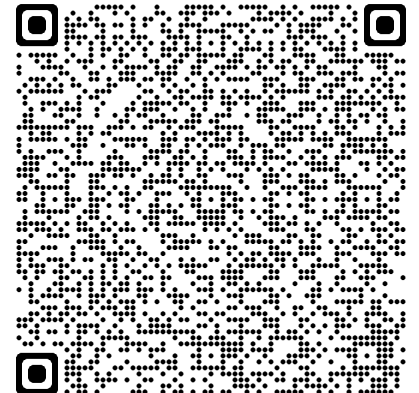
**Program:** GusNIP

**Project Title:** Healthy Food for Healthy Communities: Food and food preparation education for underserved communities and measuring the effects prescription produce has in reducing health disparities

**Institution:** Community Action Duluth

**Funding Amount:** \$ 454,662

**Project Period:** 2023-2026







# Project Details – Example 3

## Objectives

- Improving participants' dietary health through increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables
- Reducing participants' individual and household food insecurity
- Reducing participants' healthcare use and associated costs

## Expected Outcomes

- **Change in Knowledge**
  - Increased knowledge among our participants on how to cook and enjoy fruits and vegetables
  - Increased understanding of the impact of nutrition incentive programs on participant's health
  - Improved food access programs led by CAD
- **Change in Action**
  - Increased screening for food insecurity by healthcare professionals
  - Increased consumption of fruits and vegetables
  - Increased visitation of the markets
- **Change in Condition**
  - Reduction in participants' diet-related health conditions, healthcare utilization, and associated healthcare costs
  - Increased interest among funders and other partners in produce prescription work



# Example 4

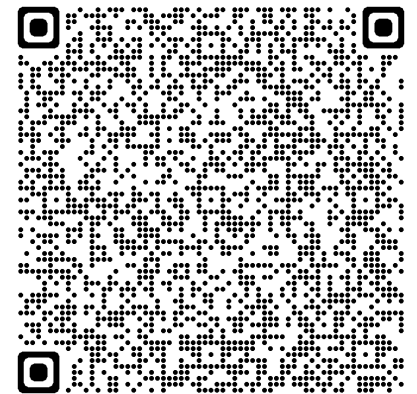
**Program:** Community Food Projects Program

**Project Title:** A collaborative urban renewal effort to advance neighborhood revitalization and expand agricultural production and food distribution in a low-income, low-access food desert

**Institution:** Chrysalis Center Inc (CCI)

**Funding Amount:** \$ 35,000

**Project Period:** 2023-2024





# Project Details – Example 4

## Objectives

- Develop authentic participation in the Food Hub by people and community leaders to unearth issues and reveal strategies to promote food security.
- Assess how people currently access all components of CCI's Food Hub and identify strategies for increased outreach and engagement.
- Fully examine each Food Hub component in terms of operations and impact in the community measured by key benchmarks.
- Create a five-year business plan for the Food Hub to strategically identify optimal levels of investment to ensure a sustainable food system.

## Expected Outcomes

- Increase food production and distribution to serve residents and support CCI social enterprise initiatives.
- Effective gardening and nutrition classes specifically how many classes were held, the % of people successfully growing food, % of people analyzing food levels, the number of internships developed to facilitate these classes.
- Effective community engagement and authentic participation in the Food Hub by people and community leaders to unearth issues and reveal strategies to promote food security.



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<https://www.usda.gov/non-discrimination-statement>

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- USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

# Questions???

## Panelists

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Rebekah Hanson

Please put your questions in the Q and A Box

Questions/comments/feedback: [AdminOpsTeam.NIFA@usda.gov](mailto:AdminOpsTeam.NIFA@usda.gov)  
Subject line: Grant Support Technical Assistance Workshop:2024