

# FY 07 Community Food Projects Program Grantees

## **I. Training and Technical Assistance Grants**

### **Comprehensive Capacity Building and Networking in Support of Community Food Projects in the Southwest**

Farm to Table  
Santa Fe, NM

Funded at \$65,473 for 1 year

The project will increase the number of, effectiveness of, and connections between community food system projects in the Four Corners states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Tribal communities by building upon the existing training and networking capacity of the Southwest Marketing Network through the provision of training and technical assistance, website, annual conference, newsletter, and collaborations that provide comprehensive assistance in planning and implementing community food projects in the region. Project activities will help local groups build coalitions, develop links between low-income community members and local food systems, attract local producers and food businesses, plan effective projects well before a funding deadline looms, successfully carry out these projects.

### **Northwest Food Links: A Network of Community-Based Groups Providing Training and Technical Assistance Services**

Institute for Washington's Future  
Seattle, WA

Funded at \$ 96,418.00 two years

The Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) project will organize a Food Links Network to develop collaborative Community Food Projects and joint action on food policy that will support the development of more fundable community food programs to serve low-income people in the Northwest, particularly in Latino and Native American communities. The project focuses will include planning and development, grant writing, food policy, and building partnerships and collaborative projects.

### **Community Food Projects Learning Communities: Shared Experiences, Stronger Programs**

Community Food Security Coalition  
Venice, CA

Funded at \$213,284 for two years

This project will provide an integrated package of T&TA programs that will strengthen the capacity of CFP grantees and applicants to understand which practices are effective and to create innovative and successful projects. Project activities will include: peer-to-

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peer learning among grantees and applicants; building grantees' and applicants' understanding of effective practices and approaches in community food security practice; increasing grantees' ability to design and implement effective outcome-based program evaluations; strengthening grantees' and applicants' capacity to assess the impacts of their projects; and building the capacity of emerging and existing community food security (CFS) leaders.

### **Expanding Successful, Innovative Strategies for Building Community Food Security in the South – A Training and Technical Assistance Project**

Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group  
Fredericksburg, TX

Funded at \$124,825 for one year

The project will increase the rate of adoption and dissemination of successful, innovative strategies for improving community food security in the South by increasing networking, mentoring, and shared training opportunities among Southern community food security leaders.

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### **II. Planning Grants**

#### **Pajaro Valley Produce & Protein Planning Project**

Second Harvest Food Bank Serving Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties  
Watsonville, CA

Funded at \$15,165 for one year

The project aims to promote community food security by researching means to use local food processing and agricultural and fishing resources to get more affordable local produce and seafood to low-income residents of the Pajaro Valley in California by developing alternative marketing structures. The project will collaborate with food processors, local agricultural donors, anti-hunger organizations, and farm groups to develop a plan for a partnership between the food bank and local food processing plants seeking new markets to utilize their production capability, leading to an enhanced year-round supply of produce and seafood for local emergency food providers.

#### **Feed the Need**

Central Wisconsin Community Action Council, Inc.  
Wisconsin Dells, WI

Funded at \$20,000 for one year

The project is an open-ended community food planning project for the Village of Necedah with two phases: (1) a comprehensive Community Food Assessment (CFA), which will include a Household Food Security Survey and focus groups, and (2) a highly participatory Community Food Planning Process. A project Advisory Council will also be formed to set goals, explore solutions, develop strategies, and make recommendations based on the results of our CFA to increase long-term food security and expand economic opportunities for both the economically disadvantaged and the agricultural sector.

#### **Planting Community for All: the Residential Gardening, Local Market, and Consciousness Raising Connection**

Union Mission, Inc.  
Savannah, GA

Funded at \$25,000 for 18 months

The project will assess how community stakeholders can connect with low-income Savannahians to increase food security and establish organized, sustainable delivery networks for fresh, local food through empowerment and partnership, urban redevelopment and entrepreneurialism, urban green space, and organic farming while preserving the tradition in the low-income community of patronizing truck farmers and neighborhood-based supports. The project will develop approaches, pilot activities, and evaluate participant response in three major interest areas: 1) participants growing their own produce; 2) the provision to participants of vouchers to local farmers' markets or

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free delivery to neighborhood access points; and 3) cooking classes featuring inexpensive, easy ways to prepare fresh foods in home kitchens.

### **Bitterroot Valley Food System Assessment and Planning**

Sustainable Living Systems  
Victor, MT

Funded at \$25,000 for 18 months

To assess current food security in the Bitterroot Valley and design a more sustainable, local food supply system that fosters the economic health of communities and farms, the social and physical health of local citizens, and the environmental health of the Valley. Actions will include an assessment of a broad range of the community's food related assets, opportunities, needs, and challenges, particularly in regard to local production and processing of food and its distribution to those in the community who need it or want it along with a plan to improve self-reliance and sustainability.

### **North Olympic Community Food Security Project**

Olympic Community Action Programs  
Port Townsend, WA

Funded \$25,000 for one year

To conduct a multifaceted project on the North Olympic Peninsula that will include the formation of a regional community food security coalition and initiate an assessment of the Peninsula's food security. The assessment will focus on the affordability and availability of essential food, emergency nutrition needs, the cost and limitations of transportation as they pertain to the regional food system, local commercial agricultural production, home gardening and harvesting, emergency preparedness, impacts on individual health, and the potential for job training and placement within the food sector. The project will use retail venue field research, focus groups, interviews, surveys, and existing demographic and economic information.

### **African-American Mutual-Benefit Food, Nutrition and Health System Plan**

The Corporation for Economic Opportunity  
Columbia, SC

Funded at \$25,000 for one year

Develop a comprehensive approach to plan for long-term solutions that help ensure food security and improved economic conditions for targeted low-income communities in Columbia by linking food production and consumption and involving low-income farmers and residents. The project will establish a comprehensive and integrated food system – the African-American Mutual-Benefit Food, Nutrition and Health System (FNHS) – involving and benefiting low-income African-American communities and black, limited-resource farmers in the region.

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### **A Participatory Planning Process towards Improving Markets for Locally-Grown Food in Six Primarily Rural Counties in Eastern South Dakota**

Dakota Rural Action  
Brookings, SD

Funded at \$15,165 for 18 months

The project will target six counties – Codington, Deuel, Brookings, Hamlin, Kingsbury, and Beadle – in rural and sparsely populated Eastern South Dakota to identify opportunities, obstacles, and key concerns around improving markets for locally-grown foods and develop a plan that allows community groups, agencies, and residents to use the information gathered to improve local markets. Project activities will include community assessments, discussions with community contacts in each county, creation of a Rural Community Foods Planning Team, analysis of information gathered, and facilitation of a planning workshop.

### **Merced County Community Nutrition Assessment Project**

Merced County Community Action Board  
Merced, CA

Funded at \$25,000 for one year

The project will conduct a county-wide community food planning assessment using a community-driven approach to assess the food security in local communities, including a thorough inventory of small farms to determine the challenges they face and explore potential opportunities for linking them with low-income communities. Low-income residents will be surveyed to determine the challenges related to applying for food stamps and to identify barriers to getting healthy food. The project will also examine grocery stores to assess the availability of fresh produce, schools to learn about their nutrition policies and gardening activities, and local food pantries to evaluate their impact on food security. The assessment will look at local food production, processing, and distribution.

### **Mountain Food Security Project**

Plumas Rural Services  
Quincy, CA

Funded at \$25,000 for one year

The project will focus on Lassen and Plumas Counties in rural northeastern California, where a comprehensive community food security assessment of the economic, social, and environmental aspects of the food system will be conducted in order to increase understanding of food access and nutrition issues faced by low-income individuals and families within the region, and strengthen the community's ability to respond to these issues. The project will engage in food system mapping, conducting surveys, focus

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groups, and community forums, and host a regional food security summit to present assessment findings and initiate next steps.

### **Columbia Gorge Food System Planning Project**

Columbia Gorge Earth Center  
Hood River, OR

Funded at \$25,000 for one year

The project will engage in community food planning intended to support local farmers and increase access to locally grown food for all residents. The project will address Hood River County's food system, engaging low-income residents in an assessment workshop and in gathering information to determine the barriers they face in accessing healthy, local food, and in increasing their self-reliance through growing their own food and cooking, preserving, and selling any excess via local, direct food markets. Once barriers are determined, the project will initiate a planning process to create a plan with prioritized implementation steps for activities that will move the County toward improved food security.

### **Sustainable Lives**

Adventures in Learning  
Lander, WY

Funded at \$24,670 for two years

The project will coordinate community members in Fremont County to identify causes and envision solutions surrounding food insecurity in this poor, extremely rural county that encompasses the Wind River Indian Reservation. A Steering Committee of community stakeholders will oversee a county food needs assessment, a resource inventory, and focus groups of food insecure residents and professionals who work with low-income people to develop food resource plans that increase food self-reliance.

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### **III. Community Food Projects**

#### **Strengthening Urban Production and Rural Linkages to Meet Food Needs**

United Community Centers, Inc./East New York Farms!  
Brooklyn, NY

Funded at \$268,046 for three years

To increase and diversify urban food production, increase connections between urban consumers and rural farmers, and increase consumer purchasing power by providing urban and rural-grown produce to Brooklyn, operating a farmers' market, developing new urban farms, training immigrant and urban growers to produce hard-to-find ethnic crops, increasing redemptions in the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), and initiating a new food cooperative.

#### **From Ground to Town**

Loyola University New Orleans  
New Orleans, LA

Funded at \$48,335 for one year

The project will assist the University's [marketumbrella.org](http://marketumbrella.org) in increasing local farmers' and fishers' capacity to better serve newly organized charter schools and university dining services, as well as piloting a "moveable market" in the post-Katrina Greater New Orleans economy. The project will also: develop a digital portal for the purchase and delivery of fresh, local products; address the needs of food producers to diversify their production and customer service schedules; aid food services in purchasing healthy, locally-grown products; and create animated public spaces and investment in urban deserts.

#### **APC Growing Youth Food Security Project**

Alameda Point Collaborative  
Alameda, CA

Funded at \$154,890 for two years

The project will transform a large, supportive housing community located on a decommissioned naval base from a "food desert" to an oasis that produces and distributes a significant portion of its own food. The project will implement key recommendations of a recent resident-conducted Community Food Assessment and promote the establishment of a Food Policy Council. Activities will support a cadre of youth and adult resident leaders to improve access to food through improved transportation and establishment a community supported agriculture (CSA) model to distribute produce from an expanded garden operation as well as bulk purchases and donations.

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### **Food Promotora Program for Colonia Communities**

Dona Ana County Colonias Development Council  
Las Cruces, NM

Funded at \$193,435 for two years

The Food and Garden Promotora Project will address food insecurity in rural areas by increasing local food production capacity through gardening and micro-enterprise opportunities. Through a promotora community-based outreach approach, the project will holistically address residents' needs in the communities of Rincón, Anthony, and Chaparral and increase access to fresh produce, raise family income, and involve youth in gardening activities.

### **Growing Grassroots Food Systems in the Capital District**

Hunger Action Network of New York State  
Albany, NY

FY 2007 grantee funded at \$283,168 for three years

The project will seek to build the foundation of a sustainable, regional, grassroots-based food system within and surrounding the Capital District region through developing a food packaging and processing business – Hamilton Hill Food Processors – in Schenectady to provide affordable produce and employment and economic development opportunities. In addition, the project will make connections between farmers and low-income neighborhoods and open up markets for the area's small farms, including convenience stores.

### **Cultivating Good Food for Good Health in Green Country**

Oklahoma Sustainability Network  
Tulsa, OK

Funded at \$299,996 for three years

The project will undertake a variety of activities in several locations with both neighborhood and state level partners to improve food security. The project will utilize school and community-based gardens; Food Stamp, WIC, and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs; seminars, training sessions, and conference tracks for farmers, gardeners and consumers; as well as seeking to establish a Beginning Farmer Program in Oklahoma. The project will also support Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaigns and promote consumption of fresh, locally-produced food.

### **The Community Fresh Food Initiative**

Tabor Community Services  
Lancaster, PA

Funded at \$159,554 for two years

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The will increase community food security through: strengthening community residents' knowledge of urban agriculture; increasing local capacity to grow produce through farmer/gardener development, including youth programs; strengthen neighborhood grocery stores and restaurants by increasing their capacity to offer fresh local produce and bring food to them; developing a local, seasonal, cost-competitive fresh foods distribution network; share market research results and strategies; support local farmers and producers; and expand Eastern Market, a provider of fresh, locally-grown produce, to create local business opportunities.

### **Buffalo Grown**

Massachusetts Avenue Project, Inc.  
Buffalo, NY

FY07 grantee funded at \$298,500 for three years

The organization's Growing Green program trains low-income youth ages 12-18 in sustainable urban agriculture, food systems, micro-enterprise, and community leadership and creates linkages between different food system stakeholders. Buffalo Grown will extend the work that Growing Green has begun by improving access to and consumption of healthy, locally produced food options in Buffalo Schools, creating new markets for local farmers to supply the Buffalo School District, increasing access to fresh, affordable food in neighborhoods, providing income generating opportunities to low-income youth and creating a broad community network of food system stakeholders to plan and promote local food system development.

### **Local Food Systems, Wealth, and Nutrition**

White Earth Land Recovery Project  
Callaway, MN

Funded at \$150,000 for two years

The project will seek to strengthen local food systems and regional food economies by emphasizing traditional cultural knowledge of ecosystems, agriculture, food preparation, feasting, and medicines as key to the integrity of the Native culture and the protection of biodiversity and land stewardship. The project will help to maintain traditional and heirloom foods, promote food as medicine, and work to build a new economy based on the sustainability of integrated and organic indigenous agricultural systems.

### **Engaging Urban Communities in Philadelphia in Creating a Healthier Local Food System**

The Food Trust  
Philadelphia, PA

Funded at \$179,950 for two years

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The project will involve residents in the low-income neighborhoods of central North Philadelphia surrounding Progress Plaza (the nation's first African-American-owned shopping center) in improving their access to healthy, locally grown foods, increasing their ability to shop for and prepare nutritious meals and snacks, and expanding opportunities for food-related entrepreneurship and employment. Core components of the project will include a new Fresh Grocer supermarket, a Community Healthy Foods Council, and connections between local food retailers and regional farmers for increased sales of local farm products at farmers' markets and food stores.

### **San Pasqual Academy's Agriculture Enterprise Program: Dragon's Garden of Eden**

New Alternatives, Inc.  
San Diego, CA

Funded at \$299,640 for three years

To expand an existing community garden – the Dragon's Garden of Eden – into a 20-acre, youth-run, sustainable agriculture enterprise that is financially self-sufficient and provides fresh, organic produce to San Pasqual Academy residents, other low-income community members, restaurants, and local shoppers. The project will help foster youth at San Pasqual Academy to: get more fresh organic produce in their diet, leading to improved health and reduced obesity; obtain work readiness skills, knowledge, and skills in the areas of agriculture, natural resources, and business; and increase interactions among the students and the neighboring community.

### **Soil to Table Community Food Project**

Rural Resources, Inc.  
Greeneville, TN

Funded at \$298,611 for three years

This project will work extensively with low-income children, teens, and families, teaching them to raise and prepare their own food through cooking schools, gardening projects, and educational activities for low-income children in after-school programs. Teens and their family members will be offered business and leadership training and micro-loans to develop home based businesses and entrepreneurial skills. The project will also publish and distribute cookbooks, operate a Mobile Market, teach children about food security, form a Food Security Task Force, and start a project Advisory Council.

### **Full Circle Farms: A Neighborhood-Serving Organic Food System for Oakland's San Antonio Neighborhood Schools**

East Bay Asian Youth Center  
Oakland, CA

Funded at \$145,200 for three years

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This project will establish Full Circle Farms as a sustainable neighborhood-serving organic food system dedicated to transforming Oakland's San Antonio neighborhood schools into healthy food environments for children by increasing the number of neighborhood residents who regularly purchase and consume fresh organic foods, initiating school-based produce stands, increasing the daily customer base at the school-based snack bar at the middle school, and increasing gross farm sales revenues through production, distribution, and policy advocacy operations.

**Halal and Tayyib: Healthy foods of the past step into certified foods of the future**  
Dunn County Economic Development Corporation  
Menomonie, WI

Funded at \$241,500 for three years

The project will aid the low-income Somali refugee community in Barron, Wisconsin, by developing an infrastructure between local producers and the new Somali refugees to serve not only the halal food and entrepreneurial employment needs of the rapidly growing immigrant community but also to provide sustainable authentic, ethnic alternatives for the high end specialty food market searching for new food options. The project will offer basic and specialized business start-up training for refugees and training, assistance, and other opportunities for local farmers.

**Toward a Vibrant Food System: Faith Communities and Low-Income Leadership**  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon  
Portland, OR

Funded at \$253,269 for three years

To link land, parking lots, and commercial grade kitchens together in an innovative model to increase food and economic security for small farmers and low-income families in Benton County so as to confront hunger and poverty through community kitchens, community gardens, farmers' markets, and micro-enterprise development.

**Schoolyard CSA Garden Initiative**  
Calypso Farm and Ecology Center  
Ester, AK

Funded at \$93,172 for three years

The project will expand the Schoolyard Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Garden Initiative into the urban sectors of Fairbanks through new and ongoing elementary school CSA gardens, with garden creation at each school location led by a Garden Committee comprised of teachers, students, parents, and neighborhood residents. The project will include home gardening workshops, a hands-on learning environments for teachers and students, and middle and high school student-operated CSA production gardens.

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### **Navajo Nation Traditional Agriculture Outreach**

Developing Innovations in Navajo Education, Inc.  
Winslow, AZ

Funded at \$299,700 for three years

Project goal: The project will seek to meet the expressed needs of seven chapter houses located in the Western and Fort Defiance Agencies of the Navajo Nation for sustainable agricultural development, business development skill training, and value-added food production and marketing support. The project communities, all within northern Arizona, range from Flagstaff to the Hopi Nation. The project will leverage chapter house capital resources, Navajo Nation and U.S. government resources, universities, and expertise from a variety of other highly experienced non-profit agriculture and business development assistance organizations to help achieve long-term sustainable food system goals, agriculturally-based economic opportunities, and high quality foods for local consumption.

### **Saco Valley Food Connections**

Rippling Waters Farm  
Steep Falls, ME

Funded at \$244,756 for three years

Project goal: The project will serve residents living in five semi-rural communities that are part of Maine's largest school administrative district by linking producers and consumers in a common effort to grow organic produce for the School Lunch Program, CSA and the Senior Farm Share program, and low-income people served by local food pantries. The community's agricultural capacity will be upgraded through infrastructure improvements at the farm and school and community gardening sites, which will engage at least 750 residents and provide an additional 20,000 pounds of food annually for the emergency food system, among other activities.