



A R K A N S A S
community foundation

ACCESS TO LOCAL FOODS GRANT
(Application Open Oct 28 – Nov 22, 2024)

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE ACCESS TO LOCAL FOODS GRANT?

As part of our commitment to reducing food insecurity and increasing access to healthy food for Arkansas communities, Arkansas Community Foundation has established the Access to Local Foods grant opportunity.

WHAT WILL THE ACCESS TO LOCAL FOODS GRANT FUND BE USED FOR?

Arkansas Community Foundation is seeking proposals for projects that will increase access to locally grown and produced foods and/or strengthen the local food ecosystem in Arkansas, including:

- Programs that support Arkansas farmers/gardeners/growers working to provide fresh produce to **food desert*** communities in Arkansas.
- Programs that operate or pilot innovative strategies to aggregate crops and/or connect local farmers/growers to distribution or retail markets.
- Programs that support local food ecosystems and collaboration among farmers/growers, technical assistance providers, co-ops, and others involved in food production and distribution (could include learning cohorts).

***FOOD DESERT DEFINITION AND MAP**

As defined by the Arkansas Governor's Food Desert Working Group, a community is a food desert or low food access location if residents must travel more than one mile in an urban setting or more than 10 miles in a rural setting to obtain a selection of fresh, nutritious food.

According to Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, food deserts can be defined as those geographic areas where community members have few to no convenient options for obtaining affordable or healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables. These areas may lack supermarkets and grocery stores but may have high numbers of convenience stores and corner stores that do not stock many healthy foods. In addition, existing supermarkets are located far from where people live.

To help determine if your organization is serving a food desert community, the [USDA Food Access Research Atlas](#) may be helpful. The Atlas provides a searchable map of Low Income/Low Access communities, the terminology USDA now uses for "food desert". Information about the Atlas can be found at <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/>.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE FOR THESE GRANTS?

- 501c3 public charities (and organizations that are treated as such under IRS regulation, including schools, churches, hospitals, and government entities) are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be based in Arkansas or have a significant on-the-ground presence working in Arkansas. All geographic areas of the state are eligible.

FUNDING RANGE

This is a competitive grant cycle, with eight 1-year grant awards of \$15,000 each available.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- Programs that address needs of small farmers/growers working to provide fresh produce in food desert communities in Arkansas, including transportation of product, technical education, equipment or supply needs, or other production or geographic barriers.
- Proposals that show evidence of partnership and/or how your program connects to a broader ecosystem of local food production and access.

- Project personnel (staff or key volunteers) who have experience with food production, farming, food business marketing or other local food systems skills and experience.

WHAT WE'RE NOT LOOKING FOR

- Community gardening programs that are primarily focused on teaching gardening skills or offering a place for neighbors to garden for their own personal use. While these programs are important, this grant opportunity is more focused on increasing wider community access to locally grown food, either through bringing more food to market or significant distribution to people experiencing food insecurity.
- PK-12 school gardens that are primarily for educational purposes rather than significant food production.

I AM A NONPROFIT, HOW CAN I APPLY?

To complete an application, visit <https://www.ARCFgrant.com> to access our online application portal. Applications will be accepted beginning October 28, 2024, and the deadline to submit an application is 11:59pm Central Time on November 22, 2024.

INFO/CONTACTS:

- Those interested can also visit www.arcf.org/food for more info and the link to apply.
- For questions regarding this grant opportunity and eligibility requirements, please contact Annetta Tirey at atirey@arcf.org.
- For questions/technical issues regarding the online application portal, please contact Jane Jones at jjones@arcf.org.
- For other general questions or to speak to someone, call 501-372-1116.

To receive updates about future funding opportunities, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, or [sign up for our nonprofit newsletter here](#).