



Underserved, Value-Added, and Regional Food Systems Grants Fact Sheet

Proposals Due by 5:00 p.m., October 29, 2024

MDARD's value added and regional food systems grant aims to promote the expansion of value-added agriculture production, processing, develop food systems, healthy food access, and underserved business development within the state to enhance Michigan's food and agriculture industry. MDARD will accept proposals that are intended to establish, retain, expand, attract and/or develop value-added agricultural processing and underserved development in Michigan; expand or develop regional food systems; or expand access to healthy food, including farm markets, flower markets, urban & rural agriculture, and hoop houses.

FUNDING AREAS:

- Value added food processing and agro-tourism
 - Innovation and equipment
 - Feasibility studies; that lead to jobs/investment
 - Outreach, education, and training
- Food hub development
- Food access and education, including access to fresh/nutritional foods
- Urban Agriculture
- Farm markets, flower markets, and hoop houses

GRANT CRITERIA:

- Maximum amount = \$100,000
- A 30% match required
- 15% reduced match for underserved self-certification
- 18-month cycle

PROJECT REVIEW:

- A well-defined and focused project
- Overall impact of the project on the food and agriculture industry in Michigan
- Measurable outcomes
- Capacity building/grower connection/increase in supply of locally available products
- Amount of product sourced and produced in Michigan
- The amount of match provided
- The long-term sustainability of the project
- The short-term and long-term impact, including jobs and investments in Michigan

All communications and inquiries can be sent to mda-grants@michigan.gov.
michigan.gov/mdardgrants