

Kane County Farm Recovery & Resiliency Project

Draft Agriculture Assistance Proposal for ARPA Funding

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Project Summary

Kane County Farmer Recovery and Resiliency Grants

Purpose

A competitive grants program to provide food producing farms with operating funds to aid economic recovery and support local food system resiliency.

Eligibility

Food growers operating as business entities or non-profit organizations.

Award Amounts

\$10,000 - \$25,000



Areas of Need



Ag. Census - Vegetable production in Kane County experienced a contraction between 2017 and 2022 - total acreage in production fell by 49%

2021 Survey - 68% of growers reported pandemic-related revenue losses.

Ag. Census - Continued decline in the number of small acreage farms (1 to 49 acres)

2021 Survey - 44% of farmers reported experiencing increased costs resulting from supply chain disruptions, COVID mitigation measures, and modification of sales methods (e.g. online ordering, delivery, contactless pickup)

2022 KC & ILFMA Survey - Local farmers have experienced heightened staffing and volunteer shortages.

Background

- Kane County & the Growing for Kane team has successfully managed a series of farmer assistance mini-grant programs since 2021.
- While recipient farmers were appreciative and effectively utilized the grants to address recovery and operational needs - they also expressed that the relatively low award amounts (ranging between \$1K and \$3K) did not allow for the types of on-farm improvements / investments that would provide sustained benefits.

Farmer Recovery & Resiliency Grant Program

A competitive grant program designed to address a range of needs and operating expenses. Eligible expenses may include but not be limited to:

- Material inputs
- Labor and farm contractual services
- Technical trainings
- Permit fees
- Light equipment and machinery
- Sales and marketing expenses

Capital expenditures
to be capped at
\$5,000 per unit

Project Goals



Up to 35 food-growing farm operators will receive assistance to support the recovery and resiliency of their operations



At least 50% of the awardees will be enabled to increase their scale of production and/or sell their products through new markets



At least 25% of the awardees will be enabled to make long-term infrastructure investments through the offset of operating expenses

Budget Summary

Description	Cost
Project Manager (contractual) 15-20 month contract of 15 hours per week at \$150 per hour	\$108,000
Grant Disbursements Up to 35 grantees with awards ranging \$10,000 - \$25,000	\$755,000
TOTAL	\$863,000

Tentative Project Timeline

