



Food:Land:Opportunity

Localizing the Chicago Foodshed

GRANTEES AND PROJECTS THROUGH Summer 2026

Land Access

TOTAL GRANTS: \$9,464,000

Basil's Harvest

- Regenerative Agriculture in the Heartland: Farm to National Guard
- Regenerative Agriculture through a Farm-to-Hospital Supply Chain

Black Oaks Center for Sustainable Renewable Living

- Healthy Food Hub
- Pembroke farmland restoration

The Conservation Fund

- Farms Fund
- Illinois Farmland Conservation Initiative
- Scaling Chicago/Midwest Revolving Capital Farms Fund

Delta Institute

- Accelerating regenerative livestock production and value chains in Illinois
- ReGenerate Illinois
- IDEA Farm Network

Delta Institute/Wallace Center

- Northern Illinois Grass Fed Beef Enterprise and Market Development

Farmers Rising

- Eat to Live Incubator Farm

Grow Greater Englewood

- Englewood Village Farms
- Urban Stewards

The Land Connection

- Advancing Farmland Access through Illinois Farmlink
- Land Access Solutions for Illinois' Next-Generation Farmers

The Land Conservancy of McHenry County

- Deepening our Roots with farmland access and farmer support
- Land Trusts, Land Access, and Local Food Project
- Making Connections: Getting Farmers on the Land in McHenry County
- Preserving land and local food opportunities with a local land trust

Liberty Prairie NFP

- Northeast Illinois FarmLink
- Statewide Land Access Project

Midwest Regenerative Agriculture Fund

- Illinois Regenerative Agriculture Initiative at University of Illinois (I-Regen)

NeighborSpace

- Englewood Land Access Project
- Implementing Actionable Land Access for Growing Food

- Productive Landscapes in Southern Cook County
- Urban Farm Enterprise Pathways Project

Openlands

- Land access for a sustainable grazing operation in McHenry County, Illinois
- Regional Food System Study: Phase 1

Supply Side Skills

TOTAL GRANTS: \$11,702,500

Academy for Global Citizenship

- Launching an Urban Farm in SW Chicago

Advocates for Urban Agriculture

- Technical Assistance and Certification Program for Urban Growers
- Community Resource Support to Chicago Area Growers and Producers
- Capacity Building And Mentorship for Urban Growers

Black Oaks Center for Sustainable Renewable Living

- Community Food Security: COVID-19

Chicago Botanic Garden

- Farm on Ogden Development

Faith In Place

- Faith Action for Sustainable Food and Communities
- Engaging Faith Communities to Advance the Local Food System

Good Food Catalyst

- General Operating Support
- Good Food Accelerator

Farmers Rising

- Cultivating Farmer Leadership and Strengthening Farmer Training Networks
- Fresh Picks Farmer Alliance
- Launching a Regenerative Livestock Incubator and Farmer Focused Training
- Routes to Farm Growers Networks
- Supporting Regenerative Farmers through Financial Education, Technical Assistance and Equipment Sharing

Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project

- Community Outreach and Education for Food workers

Green City Market

- GCM Delivered: Innovating Diverse Revenue Streams for Local Sustainable Growers
- Deepening Support for Local Farmers through Strategic Marketing
- Strengthening Green City Market's Farmer Support Program

Just Roots

- Technical Support for Urban Agriculture Projects on Chicago's Near South Side

Liberty Prairie NFP

- Celebrating and Supporting Midwestern Food and Farmers Year Round

McHenry County College

- Transformative Training and Education in McHenry County
- Pathways to Farm Business Viability
- Focus on Curriculum: Assessing and Enhancing the Entrepreneurial Agriculture Program

- Securing High Quality Education Experience for Rural and Urban Operations
- NeighborSpace
- Urban Agriculture Stewardship
- Plant Chicago
- Cultivating Local Circular Economies
- Star Farm
- Co-creating a Resilient Food System in Back of the Yards
- This Old Farm/ Elawa Farm Foundation
- Meat Processing Facility Network Development
- Top Box Foods
- Farm 2 Neighbor Program
- Urban Growers Collective
- Farmers for Chicago Training program
 - Green Era Urban Farm Campus and General Operations
 - Grower Apprenticeship Program
- Zumwalt Acres
- Regenerative Farming Education at Zumwalt Acres

Access to Capital

TOTAL GRANTS: \$10,432,000

Advocates for Urban Agriculture

- Capacity Building re-granting Program for Chicago Area Growers and Mentorship

Allies for Community Business

- Innovative Financing Initiative

Chicago Food Policy Action Council

- Metro Chicago Good Food Purchasing Initiative

Food Animal Concerns Trust

- Fund-a-Farmer Re-granting Program

Greenwood Archer Capital

- Innovative Financing Initiative

Growing Home, Inc.

- Farm Campus Expansion Project
- Social Enterprise Enhancement

Northern Illinois Food Bank

- Farm to Food Bank

Proofing Station

- Increasing Access to Impact Investment in the Food System

Seven Generations Ahead

- Advancing Food Scrap Composting and Reducing Wasted Food
- Dream Distributors Community Food Hub
- Good Food Partners Community Food Hub

Top Box Foods (Team Leverage)

- Food to Market Challenge Winner

Reducing Fragmentation

TOTAL GRANTS: \$4,395,000

Artisan Grain Collaborative

- Creating, Growing, and Sustaining the Upper Midwest Grain Value Chain

Elawa Farm Foundation

- Strengthening a Network of Northern Illinois Farmers

Farmers Rising

- Executive Director Search

Illinois Agri-Food Alliance

- Climate Coordination within the IL Agri-Food System
- Cross-Sector Convener around Climate Change
- General Operating Support

Illinois Environmental Council Education Fund

- Coalition Building to Remove Policy Barriers to Local Food Economy Growth
- Resilient Local Food Coalition Building and Education

Illinois Stewardship Alliance

- A Policy Roadmap for a Just Transition to Local Farming in Illinois
- Chicagoland Local Food Producer Organizing Drive
- Empowering Farmers, Eaters and Food System Leaders in the Chicago Foodshed
- Growing Chicagoland Farmer Leadership
- Launch an Annual Food & Farm System Conference
- Raising the Visibility and Voice for Local Food

Openlands

- Dialogues on the Future of Food and Farming

Collaborative Funds

TOTAL GRANTS: \$11,430,000

Austin Fresh

- Fresh Taste Collaborative Grant Fund in Chicago's Austin Neighborhood

Chicago Region Food System Fund

- Fresh Taste Collaborative and Participatory Food System Resiliency Fund

Fresh Taste Funder Collaborative

- General Operating Support

Illinois Food Movement Fund

- Fresh Taste Response Fund 2025

North Lawndale Fresh

- Fresh Taste Collaborative Grant Fund in Chicago's North Lawndale Neighborhood