

GOOD FARM FUND

FARM GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Good Farm Fund:

Our mission is to provide direct support to small farms and ranches in Mendocino and Lake Counties and increase local food security for all members of our region. The Good Farm Fund has two branches: the Farm Grant Program and the Farmers Market EBT/Food Stamp Match program. The Good Farm Fund Farm Grant program distributes grants directly to small local farms & ranches to fund specific projects. As our organization grows, we hope to offer larger grants.

Farm Grant Program:

The goal of the Farm Grant Program is to help small farms & ranches in Mendocino and Lake Counties succeed and increase participation in our community's food system. Strong candidates will clearly demonstrate financial need and will pursue projects that impact the capacity and effectiveness of their farm business while utilizing environmentally friendly practices, maximizing food production for local consumption, and increasing local food security.

Winter 2018 Grant:

The Good Farm Fund's Winter 2018 grants will distribute up to a total of \$40,000 to local farms and ranches, who can then apply for grants in two tiers. Tier 1 is \$500-\$3,000. Tier 2 is from \$3,000- \$5,000. Tier 2 applicants will be required to complete an in-person interview with the farm grant committee. The application process opens **September 12, 2018**. In addition the Good Farm Fund may collaborate with the Ukiah Natural Co-op (UNFC) to supplement our grant funding with interest free UNFC loan funds ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to substitute for or augment our grant funding. UNCF loan funds would be subject to an 3% annual administrative fee, Should applicants have projects that require more than \$10,000 in total funding, UNFC loan funding is an additional option that will be considered. Applications are due on **October 15**. Awardees will be notified by phone and email when a decision has been made in late November.

Application Process:

Applications can be submitted online, or printed and mailed. Completed applications should be postmarked by **October 15** and mailed to: Attn: Joel Sojnila North Coast Opportunities 413 N. State St. Ukiah CA 95482

Tier 2 applicants are should reserve time on **October 28** for a possible interview by the loan gant committee. If you are not able to attend an interview on that date, please indicate that on your grant application. As soon an the initial grant review process has been completed you will be contacted to set a specific time for your interview, if needed.

Grant recipients are determined by the Farm Grant Committee, a group comprised of experienced local farmers from mendocino or Lake County, local food security advocates, and a representative of North Coast Opportunities (NCO), the Good Farm Funds fiscal sponsor. The Farm Grant committee reviews all applications during a given grant cycle and decides which of the projects receive funding. Any

committee member who has an economic interest or tie to an applicant will recuse themselves for that application decision (occasional purchasing does not apply).

Applicant Requirements:

Applicants must have decision-making power in farm or ranch operations. The applicant must provide a Certified Producer Certificate, Lease Agreement, Invoices or other supporting documents indicating legal involvement in the farm. Applicants must have managed a commercial food farm/ranch operation for at least one year in Mendocino or Lake County, or worked on commercial food farms/ranches in Mendocino or Lake County for at least three years. Temporary workers such as interns can not apply.

Farm: The farm or ranch for which the money will be used must have a foundation of commercial food production.

Land: Applicants are not required to own land or machinery to apply. They should, however, show a dedication to farming and/or a contribution to the Mendocino and Lake County food system.

Crops: Grant money cannot be used to purchase and/or propagate genetically engineered crops.

Grant Recipients: As a grant recipient, you will be expected to document your project including receipts, photos and a brief report after the project has been implemented. Grant recipients will need to present publicly about their project at an approved forum in 2019. Photographs and descriptions of completed projects will be featured on the Good Farm Fund website and marketing materials. If my application receives funding from the Good Farm Fund, I agree to provide the Good Farm Fund with a **Six Month Progress Report** No later than **June 4, 2019** and a **Final Report** no later than **October 10, 2019**. Funding for consecutive year recipients will be dependent on the six month progress and final report from previous year.

Farmers who have received grants may be eligible to serve on the Farmer Grant Committee in the following year grant cycle.

If for any reason you no longer have use for the materials and/or equipment provided for the intended purpose in the next 5 years, you agree to notify us and, if requested, return the materials and/or equipment funded by your grant so we can place it with another farm or ranch that can find it beneficial in achieving the grant's intended purpose. Should you cease to produce food for the Mendocino and/or Lake County area in the next 5 years you agree that ownership of materials and equipment purchased with your grant funds may revert to the Good Farm Fund at the option of the Good Farm Fund.

Grants cannot be used to fund:

- Utilities
- Fuel

Applications will be graded by the committee on a 100 point scale:

30 points Impact of Project on the Farm Business:

Guidelines: Strongest Applications will increase the capacity and/or efficiency of the farm business, demonstrating one or more of the following: increased annual revenue, decreased inputs such as time or labor, increased food production, increased financial stability of the businesses.

20 points Impact of Project on Greater Community

Guidelines: Will this create or expand a local food access point or significantly enrich a local market? Does this enrich our local farming community through increased education/awareness of local food or sustainable farming practices?

10 points Demonstration of Financial Need

Guidelines: Strongest applications will demonstrate current financial need, with an explanation of how the award project will help reach the goal of a successful, economically stable farm business, and show that the Good Farm Fund is the best funding source for this proposal.

10 points Commitment to Environmentally Beneficial Farming Practices

10 points Clear Description of Project, Goals and Timeline

20 points Farming Experience To Date & Professional References

Key dates for Grant Applicants	
Application published (2018 grant cycle opens)	9/12/18
Application deadline	10/15/18
Interviews (Tier 2)	10/28/18
Grant recipients notified by phone/email	11/26/18
Grant recipients announced at Winter Feast	12/4/18
Checks Mailed	12/7/18
First six month report due	6/4/19
Final report due	10/10/19

Upcoming Event Dates (Grant applicants are encouraged to attend)	
Second Annual Mendocino County Homebrew Festival	11/3/18
Good Farm Fund's Winter Feast	12/4/18