

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FARM TO FOOD

The Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF), in cooperation with the Michigan Economic Development CorporationSM (MEDC), administers the economic and community development portions of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. CDBG is a federal grant program utilizing funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The community development portion of Michigan's CDBG Program has a special focus on downtown development includes special funding initiatives in traditional downtowns for Downtown Infrastructure, Façade Improvement, and Signature Buildings.

Grants are available for communities seeking to construct, rehabilitate, acquire, expand or improve a facility for the support of a three- or four-season farmers market. Awarded funds must be used for the construction, expansion, acquisition, or improvements of new or existing farmers markets that will be and are located in low- and moderate-income communities or will lead to job retention or creation in non low and moderate income communities. It is expected that the structures could be used for additional community activities. Funds associated with this program are available in a competitive round held in the spring of each year.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Small cities, townships, and villages of less than 50,000 in population, and counties with a population of 200,000 or less are generally eligible to apply for grants under the Michigan CDBG Program. There are over 1,600 eligible general purpose local governments and these are referred to as **non-entitlement jurisdictions**.

Under the Michigan CDBG Program, all Farm to Food projects must meet the following national objective and the corresponding statutorily mandated requirements to be considered for funding:

- The activities will benefit persons of low- and moderate income, as defined by Section 104(b)(3) of the Housing and Community Development Act and 24 CFR 570.483

GRANT DETAILS

Screening Guidelines

Farmers market grants will be expected to meet the following criteria:

- **National Objective** — Proposed projects are expected to meet the national objective of either benefiting a population of individuals of whom at least 51% reside in low- to moderate-income households or projects that will result in the creation of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs of which at least 51% of the created jobs will be held by low to moderate-income persons. Preference will be given to projects with job creation commitments.
- **Project Viability** — The community must be able to demonstrate the potential demand in the community to warrant a permanent structure to house a multi-season farmer's market creation or expansion.
- **Financial Viability** — The community will be expected to demonstrate the financial viability of an expanded market and show that there are sufficient management abilities and skills and resources available to operate and maintain the facility.
- **Minimum Local Participation** — Proposed projects are expected to have local government funding for the construction and operation of the market. Funding priority will be given to projects where local funding for construction activities is 15% or more of the total construction costs.

Maximum Grant Amount

The maximum grant amount shall not exceed \$750,000.

Compliance

All jobs must be created within two years and be maintained until grant is closed. Projects must be bid out according to the Davis Bacon Act (interior and exterior) and community must complete an environmental review of the entire project. To maintain eligibility **do not** sign any contracts related to any portion of the project, including match eligible and ineligible activities.

CONTACT

To receive consideration for Farm to Food CDBG funding, initial contact should be made with the **Community Assistance Team member** assigned to your territory. For more information, contact Katharine Czarnecki at 517 241-4950 or at czarneckik@michigan.org.