

Economic Development through local and regional food systems in Wisconsin

Regional Projects/Meetings

The Wisconsin Local Food Network (WLFN) is continuing efforts to offer mini-grants to regional groups. This year's funding is made possible through UW-Extension's Program Innovation Fund, and is part of the comprehensive project titled *Economic Development through local and regional food systems in Wisconsin*.

Request for Applications

Regional Collaborative efforts: A portion of the funding for the *Economic Development through local and regional food systems in Wisconsin* project is available to help regional groups that are interested in developing measurement/tracking tools to evaluate the economic impact of their local food systems. The funds are limited and are intended to provide financial support for two things: 1) Measurement/tracking economic impact of local foods in your region and 2) To host a WLFN quarterly meeting in your region.

Who is eligible to apply?

Proposals will be accepted from individuals, groups, businesses and organizations involved in local food system work. Proposals should involve collaborations or partnerships in your region. Projects with broad reaching impacts will receive higher consideration. Projects should benefit the local food industry and/or the public rather than a single organization, institution, individual or commercial product. Successful proposals will show a desire and ability to improve collaboration with other regional local food system development projects throughout the state.

What kinds of projects could be funded?

All proposals must include plans for both of the following components:

- 1) Measurement/Tracking of the Economic Impact of a regional local food system.
 - a. Examples include but are not limited to: collaborating with other organizations in region to collect shared measurements – increased local food sales, increased jobs, etc.
- 2) Host WLFN Quarterly Meeting – (WLFN will provide agenda for a portion of the meeting)
 - a. Examples include but are not limited to: organize and host a regional food summit and incorporate WLFN, provide meeting space and outreach for WLFN, etc.

What project costs could be covered by these funds?

WLFN will provide \$2,000 to each successful regional initiative.

- A portion of the funding may be used for measuring economic development indicators, and
- A portion of the funding may be used to defray WLFN quarterly meeting costs.

These costs may include mileage reimbursement for attendees, meeting space rental, refreshments for the meeting, costs to include attendees via teleconference, etc.

When are proposals due?

The proposals are due by November 30, 2011 to Jane Hansen (see e-mail address below). Reviewers will strive to notify successful applicants by December 30, 2011.

What obligations come with funding?

- Representation at the 2012 Wisconsin Local Food Summit (Jan 26-27th at Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, WI)
- Hosting of one regional WLFN quarterly meeting in 2012. (April, July, or Oct)
 - Report on progress of measurement/tracking required.
- Submittal of final findings/measurements of economic development of regional local food system.
- All funded recipients will be invited to report on their findings at the 2013 Wisconsin Local Food Summit.

Application Process:

Proposals should be brief; no more than two pages, single-spaced, 12-point font.

Proposals should include the following sections:

- 1) Measurement/Tracking Economic Impact of regional local food system.
 - a. A brief description of the main objectives
 - b. Timeline of proposed activities
 - c. A description of the evaluation plan
- 2) Host WLFN Quarterly Meeting (WLFN will provide agenda for a portion of the meeting)
 - a. A brief description of proposed plan
 - b. Proposed quarter for meeting – April, July, or October
- 3) Admin and Budget
 - a. The project leader's name along with a list of other collaborators
 - b. A summary of how funds will be used

Proposals should be e-mailed to:

Jane Hansen, Wisconsin Local Food Network Coordinator, jane.hansen@ces.uwex.edu
Price County UW-Extension