**Fostering Rural/Urban Connections in Southeastern Wisconsin**

**Application for Seed Money for 2024**

SE Counties: Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Walworth, Waukesha,

Washington, Ozaukee, Jefferson and Dodge

When we plant seeds, we have faith that a crop will be forthcoming. Food, Faith and Farming Network is

offering Seed Money for new initiatives that foster rural/urban connections in Southeastern Wisconsin and address the issues raised in our fall 2022 Rural Listening/Networking Sessions. While we recommend applying for projects that address priority issues listed below, other worthy initiatives will be considered. *Please be aware that we will not fund projects for more than two consecutive years.* *You are welcome to reapply for a* ***new*** *initiative anytime after you received your first grant.*

In addition to evaluating whether a project meets our mission and priorities, we will consider these criteria: Does it: 1) address a significant community issue; 2) outline an innovative solution to confronting the issue; 3) build a network of individuals/groups to collaborate on the issue and 4) demonstrate energy and commitment to achieve the stated goals?

**Priority Issues:**

* Educating rural and urban consumers on sources of local food
* Informing consumers of benefits of local and sustainably produced food
* Involving urban youth in urban agriculture and food preparation programs
* Connecting farmers with rural and urban food deserts
* Identifying and providing quality, culturally appropriate foods to urban consumers
* Addressing nutritional needs of school-age youth, seniors, economically disadvantaged
* Supporting affordable access to land and equipment for young aspiring farmers
* Mentoring and providing educational resources for start-up farmers
* Initiating and developing slaughtering facilities for small scale meat animal farmers
* Addressing disappearing farms and competition from industrial farms
* Reducing environmental impacts of pesticides and monoculture farming
* Reducing food waste through education and creation of composting programs
* Creating a shared forum for discussing and addressing food system issues and
* Fostering trusting relationships between rural and urban people

**Expectations of Project:** Aligns with mission of the Network, addresses one or more of our prioritized areas, is supported by a network of interested parties, has clearly defined actions and outcomes, and informs the network of project progress. **Expectations of Network**: Provides seed money to advance projects, serves as a sounding board for projects, provides input on networking possibilities, publicizes projects on our website, and provides help in publicizing projects.

**Size of available Seed Money project funding:** Maximum of $1500

**Email Completed Application to:** [foodfaithandfarmingnetwork@gmail.com](foodfaithandfarmingnetwork%40gmail.com)

**Deadline**: February 21, 2024

**Awardees notified:** March 17, 2024

**Questions may be directed to:** foodfaithandfarmingnetwork@gmail.com