



Mill City Farmers Market Charitable Fund

Next Stage Grant Program Hardship

The Mill City Farmers Market Charitable Fund (MCFM-CF) is committed to the success and sustainability of the local food economy. MCFM-CF designed the Next Stage Grant to provide funding to local, sustainable farmers and other food producers who experience hardship or are improving sustainable farming and business practices or growing toward the next stage of their local food businesses. This grant program is sustained through the generosity of the market community.

The Next Stage Grant program embodies MCFM-CF's commitment to building a healthy, local, sustainable and organic food economy and is rooted in our educational mission. The goal of this grant program is to help regenerative family farmers on the land, producing nourishing food for all.

Application Process:

This grant is meant to be easily accessible for busy, hardworking farmers and small business owners. MCFM-CF staff is available to answer your questions, help you complete the application and will provide translation if needed. For questions or assistance with your application, please email MCFM-CF's Executive Director, Martha Archer, at martha@millcityfarmersmarket.org.

Applicant Requirements:

- Farm or business must sell at one or more regional farmers markets. Preference will be given to applicants with a higher percentage of sales coming from direct-to-consumer sales.¹
- Farm or business must be located in Minnesota, western Wisconsin, or northern Iowa
- Farms and businesses must adhere to Mill City Farmers Market's [Sustainability Statement](#) or the project must aim to bring the farm or other business closer to meeting it.
- Not required to be a current vendor at the Mill City Farmers Market
- Farm or business must have been in operation for more than one year
- Current members of MCFM-CF's Next Stage Grant Program Selection Committee and their family² are not eligible to participate in the Next Stage Grant Program

Hardship Grant program uses can include (but are not limited to):

- Support farmer transition to organic, sustainable and regenerative farming techniques
- Help farm families stay on the land with training or continuing education related to capacity-building and sound business practices from professional service providers or qualified consultants (Other farmers or business owners, marketing specialists, web designers, etc.)
- Build and support resilient systems of regenerative agriculture in the face of climate change and increasing patterns of extreme weather
- Financial assistance because of a disaster or hardship due to crop loss, flooding, and/or weather related damage.

¹ Our goal is to focus on farms or businesses who do the majority of their business in direct-to-consumer sales, which are defined as goods sold directly to individuals, for example: farmers markets, CSAs and on-farm sales.

² "Family" for these purposes includes an applicant's spouse; siblings; children; grandchildren; great grandchildren; the spouses of siblings, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren; parents; grandparents; and other ancestors.

Grantee Expectations:

- MCFM-CF may ask grantees to contribute to future Next Stage Grants through grantee mentorship or serving on the grant review committee

Evaluation

MCFM-CF's Grant Review Committee (made up of MCFM-CF board members and staff, local farmers and food makers, former grant recipients and other local food community leaders) reviews grants based on the following criteria: project design, budget and transferability.

Grant Amount

Grants are typically between \$1,000 and \$7,000.

Timeline

- Application : Ongoing based on need
- Review Date: Ongoing
- Grant Award Date: Ongoing, as needed.



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Next Stage Grant Application

Name:

Business Title:

Farm/Business Name:

Farm/Business Address

Address Line 1: Line 2:

City: State: Zip Code:

Phone Number: - -

Email:

Short description of your farm or business:

Description of Hardship:

Total Request: \$

How will this grant help alleviate your hardship?

How many years have you been in business? What is your previous experience in this industry?

Where do you sell your products?

What percentage of your sales come from farmers markets?	%
From other direct marketing?	%
From wholesale or other outlets?	%
	=100%

What percentage of your gross household income from your most current tax return is from your farm or other business?

What percentage of labor do you contribute to your farm or other business? Who else contributes to the success of your farm or business?

Please list your sources of additional funding and whether or not they are secured or pending:

Total annual farm or business income (Please attached a copy of your business or personal tax return, or relevant schedules):

Application Instructions:

Application Checklist:

Completed Application

Attachments:

Business or Personal Tax Return

Completed W-9 <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf> (Note: This grant will result in taxable income to be reported on a 1099)

Email completed application to info@millcityfarmersmarket.org or mail completed application to:

Mill City Farmers Market Charitable Fund

c/o Martha Archer

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