

Community Food Project Grantees in Illinois

Centro San Bonifacio (CSB), Chicago

Grant awarded: \$130,000 in 2001 for 3-year period.

Centro San Bonifacio founded the Colores de la Tierra (Colors of the Earth) project in 2001 to improve and sustain household income and community food access for Latino immigrant families in the West Town and Humboldt Park neighborhoods of Chicago. The program trains culturally sensitive “promotoras”, or community nutrition educators, to promote a better understanding of nutrition and the local food system. Promotoras teach urban gardening and food preservation techniques, promoting food self-reliance. The Colors of the Earth program was, at the end of three years, fully integrated into the grantee’s regular programming. CSB plans to implement the project each growing season, and to expand their operations through a new community garden.

Center for Neighborhood Technology, Chicago

Grant awarded: \$120,000 in 2002 for a 2-year period.

The Center for Neighborhood Technology’s Eco-Halal Consumer Cooperative Project aids both farmers and consumers by linking low-income farmers from the urban fringes of Chicago with existing Muslim markets in the Bridgeview section of the Southwest suburbs. The project has created a branded product of meat that is humanely and naturally raised, and Halal, in accordance with the dietary restrictions of the Muslim faith. In doing so, it provides a marketing opportunity for local retailers and farmers, helps to meet the dietary needs of the Muslim community, and supports high standards for humane treatment and natural farming techniques.

Illinois Stewardship Alliance (ISA), Rochester

Grant awarded: \$120,000 in 2003 for a 2-year period.

ISA is a citizen's organization that promotes a safe and nutritious food system, family farming, and healthy communities by advocating diverse, socially just, ecologically sustainable production and marketing practices. In 2003, the group used a CFP grant to establish an Illinois statewide Food Policy council (FPC) that brings together public and private interests to increase local marketing opportunities, foster local FPCs, and facilitate sustainable community food systems. The FPC holds statewide and regional meetings, identifies research priorities, and works to foster leadership development.

Seven Generations Ahead (SGA), Oak Park
Grant awarded: \$165,000 in 2005 for 3-year period

SGA's Fresh from the Farm program, funded by CFP, links rural producers and urban, low-income consumers, providing children and families with greater access to fresh, nutritious food and teaching them about healthy eating and the local food system. Serving a predominantly Latino student population, the project provides local food for school lunches, and helps teachers to develop and implement curriculum. The Fresh Farm Program also supports local employment and self-sufficiency by providing financial and business training to future farmers, particularly Latino immigrants.