

Community Food Project Profiles in Iowa

In Iowa, one organization received two CFP grants between 1997 and 2006, totaling \$253,600.

Practical Farmers of Iowa, Ames, IA

Grants awarded: \$135,600 in 1997 for 3 years; \$118,000 in 2003 for 3 years

With a CFP grant, this community-based organization implemented “Digging Deeper: Des Moines Area Community Food Project” to increase food security in low-income neighborhoods in Des Moines. They established urban gardens, orchards and edible landscapes, and assisted two established community gardens in developing marketing and business plans. In six low-income neighborhoods, the project’s contribution to urban agriculture and small business planning has created jobs, established local enterprises, and increased communities’ access to fresh foods. One branch of the project has engaged over 100 students and volunteers at King Elementary School in planting and maintaining a garden that covers much of the school's campus, with plans to increase the number and variety of beds to incorporate orchards, vegetables, flowers and a butterfly garden. Beyond introducing students to healthy foods, this project incorporates lessons about ecological balance, agriculture and the current status of farming in Iowa.