

Community Food Project Grantees in Maine

Nine CFP grants were awarded to organizations in Maine between 1996 and 2006, totaling \$1,397,925. Three of these projects are profiled below.

Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Portland

Grant awarded: \$200,000 in 2003 for a 3-year period.

Many new immigrants in Maine have experience with farming, but lack the tools to transfer their knowledge to a new setting. Most immigrants also lack access to land, credit, and capital. Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) has drawn on its experience working with immigrants, small businesses, and farmers to develop the New American Sustainable Agriculture Project (NASAP). The project has taught more than 40 immigrant farmers how to apply their existing farming skills to a new climate and to develop small businesses. CEI received a Community Food Project grant in the second year of the project and used the funding to expand its first incubator farm, start a second site, and broaden the project as a whole.

Unity Barn Raisers, Unity

Grant awarded: \$260,906 in 2004 for a 3-year period.

Since 1996, Unity Barn Raisers has worked on community improvement through the renovation of downtown buildings, the construction of an active community center and four miles of walking trails, and the provision of substantial support to both local businesses and low-income community members. With a 2004 CFP grant, they established the Serving More Needs Locally project to work towards an environmentally and economically sustainable local food system. The project includes new brokering and processing ventures, including a grain mill and a bread baking company that create opportunities for local farms and unemployed residents. The project is also coordinating local growers to help provide healthful, fresh food to local food banks.

Cultivating Community, Portland

Grants awarded: \$43,019 in 2002 for 3 years; \$190,000 in 2005 for 3 years.

In 2002, Cultivating Community used their CFP grant to establish a project that engages diverse youth and community members in growing food for local low-income families. Annually, the project gives paid work experience in sustainable agriculture to twelve youth, and provides over \$20,000 of locally grown produce to the local emergency food system. The project also teaches sustainable agriculture to the public through community and school gardens. With their 2005 CFP grant, Cultivating Community will build upon this work with an innovative and unique barter-based community supported agriculture (CSA) project. By replacing one-way models of charity conventionally employed in the emergency food system with reciprocal, mutually supportive exchanges, the barter-based CSA represents a strategy for strengthening the community and ensuring access to high-quality locally grown food over the long term while easing hunger in the short term.