

Community Food Project Profiles in Mississippi

Three CFP grants have been awarded to groups in Mississippi between 1997 and 2006. Below are profiles of two recent grants:

Mississippi Association of Cooperatives, Jackson

Grant awarded: \$113,500 in 2001 for 2 years

The 2001 project “Developing A Cooperative Community Food Security Network in Mississippi” has helped to promote sustainable food production and effective distribution in a food-insecure region. With CFP funding, the Association of Cooperatives worked to build food cooperative members’ financial and management skills while providing training and technology that improved their effectiveness as a network of cooperatives. This has helped the cooperatives to collaborate in selling produce, expanding their food marketing channels. To enhance the cooperatives’ production capacity, the project also established three demonstration sites where they hosted workshops on sustainable agriculture.

Mississippi Food Network, Jackson

Grant awarded: \$110,000 in 2000 for 2- year period

Mississippi Food Network’s “Growing a Greener Mississippi” project has helped to overcome cultural barriers to growing food in the African American community, where over 40% of residents live in poverty, and many suffer from serious diet-related diseases. With CFP funding, the organization recruited growers and provided seeds, training, and supplies to develop market gardens connected to the WIC Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program. They helped establish gardens in residents’ backyards and at community centers, and started several student-run market gardens, one of which has become integral to the Agricultural Science curriculum at a local high school.