

Community Food Project Profiles in Ohio

Seven Community Food Project grants have been awarded to groups in Ohio between 1997 and 2006. Four of the most recent projects, totaling \$877,293, are profiled below.

Toledo Area Ministries, Toledo

Grant awarded: \$25,000 in 2006 for 1-year period

The Toledo Community Food Assessment and Planning Project is improving links between local producers of food and local low-income consumers by identifying economic opportunities for local residents to process and distribute food. After conducting a community food assessment to identify the community's food needs and resources, the Ministries initiated a community food planning process to connect local growers with low-income consumers. The project facilitates dialogue between owners of neighborhood stores and local farmers, and helps inform the larger community about high-quality, locally-grown produce available through the farmers' market in downtown Toledo. In addition, the project works to identify new local opportunities for community residents in food production, food processing, food distribution, and food purchasing, and is helping to establish collaborative structures for the improvement of local food policies.

Appalachian Center for Economic Networks, Athens

Grants awarded: \$200,000 in 2003 for 2-year period; \$90,000 in 2005 for 1 year; \$94,000 in 2006 for 18 months.

The Appalachian Center has been awarded two community food project grants to enhance local food systems. They have worked to link local stakeholders by convening a local Food Congress, establishing food centers in rural communities, and helping to expand local and regional markets. Their FoodNet project builds food security by providing technical support for entrepreneurship activities such as gleaning, self-reliant processing and product development among low-income families in three small, rural communities. They have helped bring community kitchens up to commercial codes, and provided basic equipment so that the kitchens can offer food processing and training to low-income residents who would like to start small food businesses to supplement family income.

The Appalachian Center also received a 2006 grant to provide training and technical assistance to CFP applicants and grantees.

Ecological design Center, Oberlin

Grant awarded: \$268,293 in 2004 for 3-year period.

The City Fresh program consists of several major projects on Cleveland's near West-side. Community Food Centers improve residents' access to nutritious, locally-grown food by organizing two community food centers in the Clark Metro and Detroit Shoreway neighborhoods. Urban Community Supported Agriculture shares are sold at the centers, which also feature nutritious education and cooking demonstrations. In their Market Gardens program, City Fresh develops entrepreneurial opportunities for urban residents, helping them to access vacant urban land and training them to grow food for local markets. The project has developed new urban marketing opportunities for both rural

producers and emerging urban growers by coordinating with new community food centers and area restaurants, grocers, and institutions.

Greater Columbus Foodshed Project

Grant awarded: \$200,000 in 2002 for 3-year period

The Greater Columbus Foodshed Project has made great progress towards food security and local self-sufficiency for low-income communities in rural and urban Central Ohio. The project has established gardens with Head Start families. Reaching out to the broader community, they run a Beginning Farmer Program to teach interested inner city youth about farming opportunities, and conduct cooking classes with local garden produce. The CFP grant has also allowed the program to outfit a local Food Wagon to distribute educational materials and locally grown food to inner city neighborhoods, and transport youth to local farms. In the future, the Foodshed Project would like to establish a school garden project and a community kitchen to help locals develop products from food produced in their neighborhood.