

## **Community Food Project Profile in South Carolina**

### **Lowcountry Food Bank**

#### **Grant awarded: \$250,000 in 2005 for 3-year period**

South Carolina suffers from high rates of obesity and a range of corresponding health problems, including diabetes. The Growing Food Locally project has worked to sustain local agriculture and provide healthy food to emergency feeding centers, by guaranteeing the purchase of over 60 percent of local farmers' crops for distribution to 25 faith based, non-profit feeding programs. They initially recruited 10 farmers, mostly from Beaufort County, SC, to grow vegetables for the Food Bank year-round. The Food Bank buys farmers' food at an agreed-upon price, and helps the farmers to brand and sell their food at higher prices elsewhere. This system has enabled the Food Bank to guarantee a market for regional farmers, reducing their risk in expanding their operations. This project also distributes food to emergency food providers, and has trained them to provide cooking and nutrition classes to their recipients.