FUNDING ALTERNATIVES

- Grants (including reimbursements and forgivable loans)
- Debt/Loans
- Equity/Investment
FUNDING ALTERNATIVES

GRANTS
Source: New York State/Empire State Development

Program: New Farmer Grant Fund

Description: $15,000 - $50,000 for early stage farmers

Uses/cost share: Machinery, equipment, construction, expansion, purchase of supplies with 50% match required.

Criteria/requirements: Demonstrate “innovative agricultural techniques.” Business plan, tax returns, budget, commitment of matching funds.

Deadline: January 28, 2015

Website: www.esd.ny.gov/BusinessPrograms/NewFarmersGrantFund.html
Source: New York State/ESD/various programs

Program: Consolidated Funding Application Process

Description: Single entry point for access to economic development funding in New York State.

Uses/cost share: Project “gap” funding, typically 20% of project

Criteria/requirements: Job creation, must be consistent with regional council strategic plan. Requires completion of online application, project budget, tax returns.

Deadline: Summer of 2015 (TBD)

Website: www.RegionalCouncils.NY.Gov
Source: Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)

Program: Farmer Grants

Description: Up to $15,000 for commercial producers that have an innovative idea they want to test.

Uses/cost share: Time, project materials, consulting fees, rent

Criteria/requirements: Funds new sustainable production and marketing practices. Requires technical advisor, budget with justification.

Deadline: December 2, 2014

Website: www.NESARE.org
Source: USDA Farmers Markets and Local Food Marketing

Program: Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP)

Description: Planning ($5 - $25,000) and implementation ($25 - $100,000) grants for establishing or expanding local or regional food business enterprises (intermediaries).

Uses/cost share: Personnel, supplies, equipment, indirect costs. Requires 25% matching funds.

Criteria/requirements: Submission via Grants.gov website.

Deadline: TBD for 2015

Website: www.ams.usda.gov/AM Sv1.0/fmpp
Source: USDA Farmers Markets and Local Food Marketing

Program: Farmers Market Promotion Program (LFPP)

Description: $15 - $100,000 for direct producer to consumer opportunities (farmers markets, roadside stands, CSA’s).

Uses/cost share: Personnel, supplies, equipment, indirect costs. No match required.

Criteria/requirements: Must benefit more than one farmer. Submission via Grants.gov website.

Deadline: TBD for 2015

Website: www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/fmpp
Source: USDA

Program: Value-Added Producer Grants (VAPG)

Description: Grants for planning (up to $75,000) or working capital (up to $200,000) to help producers develop value-added activities.

Uses/cost share: Not for capital expenses. Requires 50% match.

Criteria/requirements: Priorities for beginning farmer, small/family farms, disadvantaged farmers.

Deadline: TBD for 2015

Website: www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_vapg.html
Other USDA Programs:

• **Organic Certification Cost Share**: Reimburses up to 75%/$750 for cost of organic certification.
  

• **Transition Incentive Program**: Incentives for retired/retiring farmers to rent or sell conservation land to new or disadvantaged farmers.
  

• **Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)**:  
  
  www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/organicagricultureresearchandextensioninitiative.cfm
Other Grant Programs:

- **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR):** Government-wide program providing up to $150,000 for innovative research.
  
  www.sbir.gov

- **Wallace Center Food Hub Development Grant:** Funding to support food hubs.
  
  www.wallacecenter.org/strengtheninglocalfoodsystems/
FUNDING ALTERNATIVES

LOANS
USDA/FSA Loan Programs:

- Farm Operating Loans and Microloans

- Farm Ownership Loans

- Emergency Farm Loans

- Guaranteed Farm Loans

- Transitioning Farms from Retiring Farmers
USDA/FSA Loan Programs (continued):

- Minority and Women Farmers and Ranchers
  www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=sdl

- Beginning Farmers and Ranchers
  www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=bfl

- Loan Guarantees for Non-Production Ag Businesses
  www.rurdev.usda.gov/SupportDocuments/OR_BCP_BI_Agribusiness.pdf

- Farm Storage Facility Loans

- Rural Youth Loans
  www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=ryl
Local Loan Programs:

- **Community Capital NY**: small business loans
  www.CommunityCapitalNY.org

- **Farm Credit East**: farm loans and ag financial services
  www.FarmCreditEast.com

- **Rudolf Steiner Foundation**: mortgage, construction and equipment loans for larger food and ag businesses
  www.RSFSocialFinance.org

- **Hudson River Ventures**: Loans to innovative ventures and start-ups, including ag and food businesses
  www.HudsonRiverVentures.com
Sources of Equity/Investor Funding:

- **Slow Money**: www.SlowMoneyNYC.org
- **Foodshed Investors NY**: www.slowmoneynyc.org/nyc-lion.html
- **Local Farms Fund**: www.LocalFarmsFund.com
REFERENCES FOR FUNDING

USDA - Building Sustainable Farms, Ranches and Communities:
www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Building-Sustainable-Farms-Ranches-and-Communities

Leopold Center – Funding Opportunities in Local Foods:
www.leopold.iastate.edu/pubs-and-papers/2014-10-funding-opportunities-local-foods

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition:
www.sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/farm-bill-programs-and-grants/
HOW WE CAN HELP

• Business Plans
• Technical Assistance
• Connections to customers, suppliers, industry experts, funding opportunities
CONTACT US!

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