



**MILL CITY FARMERS
MARKET &
CHARITABLE FUND**

Healthy foods, LOCAL FARMERS

INTRODUCTIONS



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Farmer Grant Programs, Cooking Demos, Market
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Market Logistics, Vendor Apps and Scheduling,
Greens4Good, SNAP/EBT, Zero Waste

HISTORY OF THE MARKET

- Located on Dakota Land by the Owamni Omni (St. Anthony Falls)
- Founded in 2006 by Brenda Langton in partnership with the Mill City Museum
- 115+ vendors, 6,500+ weekly visitors -summer market
- Market began as a 501(C4) Market, in 2017 added a 501(C3) Charitable Fund



WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

- Year-Round Marketplace
- Local Sourcing Standard & Sustainability Statement
- Live Chef Demos & Kids Activities
- MN's First Zero-Waste Market
- Greens4Good Produce Gleaning
- Next Stage Grant Program (NSG)
- Hardship Grant Program



NEXT STAGE GRANT PROGRAM (NSG)

Providing funding to local, regenerative farmers and makers improving sustainable farming and business practices or growing toward the “next stage” of their business. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$7,000.



- Applications open by early January close on March 1st
- Funding received in April
- Over 100 grants funded so far
- Total of \$395,000 in grant funding

HARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

Intended to help alleviate small farmers' vulnerability to extreme weather-related crop loss or other unpredictable causes of hardship. Grants up to \$2,000.

- 10% of total yearly grant funds
- Applications open year-round while funding is still available
- Funding received within 6-8 weeks after applying if approved



GRANT HISTORY

1

2013

MCFM farmer came to us with a hardship in the form of garlic blight, raised \$1500

2

2014

Raised more \$\$ and expanded to the Next Stage Grant for MCFM vendors

3

2017

Created Charitable Fund & formalized process, opening grant funding beyond MCFM vendors

4

2023

\$395,000 distributed to date funded through sponsorship & donations from annual benefit

WHY IT'S NEEDED

Creating more accessible funding to support farmers & our local food system

- Introduction to grant writing and process
- Easier application with 1-on-1 support
- Simple mid-season and final check-ins
- Can be used to leverage larger grants
- Available to makers as well as farmers
- Broader project scope with less strings attached



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS



- Must sell at one or more regional farmers markets.
- Must be located within 200 miles of Minneapolis.
- Must adhere to MCFM's Sustainability Statement, or bring them closer to meeting it.
- Must have been in operation for over a year.
- Applicant must meet our Financial Need Statement **OR** project must demonstrate a significant research or education component.

SEASON EXTENSION



COOLERS & COLD STORAGE



FENCING



TOOLS & EQUIPMENT



MAKER SUPPORT



SOIL REGENERATION



IMPACT ON LOCAL FOOD COMMUNITY



APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Next Stage Grant:

NSG Application, Budget Template, Financial Summary

Hardship Grant:

Hardship Application & Financial Summary

FARMER & MAKER GRANTS

FOOD DONATION

COOKING DEMOS

NUTRITION INTERNSHIP

ZERO WASTE



QUESTIONS?

