



2017 LEAF Grant Guidelines

Food Systems: Building Capacity for the Santa Barbara County Food Action Plan

The Santa Barbara Foundation LEAF (Landscapes, Ecosystems, Agriculture, Food Systems) initiative seeks to increase community resiliency by preserving and enhancing the landscapes and systems that sustain nature, human health and our economy. The LEAF strategy includes development of a countywide Food Action Plan and a Conservation Blueprint. In support of the initiative, the foundation is offering grants to help strengthen the local food system, increase agricultural sustainability, and support land conservation, habitat restoration and ecosystem health.

Focus & Priority – Food Systems

First priority for LEAF grants in 2017 will be given to **Food Systems** projects that align with one or more of the 16 goals and related strategies of the Santa Barbara County Food Action Plan (SBFAP). The Plan was released last year and project partners Community Environmental Council, Foodbank of Santa Barbara County and the LEAF Initiative are working to grow community capacity in order to create positive change in the local food system. To review the SBFAP please see: sbfoundation.com/leaf.

Note: Second priority will be given to the **Restoration, Conservation and Best Practices** projects that do not align with the SBFAP, subject to funding availability after first priority projects are selected. PLEASE SEE SEPARATE GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION FOR LEAF RESTORATION, CONSERVATION AND BEST PRACTICES. It is strongly recommended that Restoration, Conservation and Best Practices grant applications call to discuss their projects in advance of submittal.

Types of Support

LEAF **Food System** grants are available for:

- Creating or expanding partnerships, networks and collaborations between non-profit organizations, government or private sector partners for greater efficiencies, better delivery of services or fresh approaches to addressing needs or opportunities as defined in the Food Action Plan.
- Piloting or expanding projects that demonstrate best practices in agriculture, fisheries or other parts of the local food system that align with one or more of the goals or related strategies of the Food Action Plan.
- Capacity building support to facilitate adoption of best practices and policies that support the goals of the Food Action Plan.

The strongest projects will incorporate:

- community involvement, awareness or education element
- a collaborative framework

Funding Amounts and Duration

Grant awards up to \$20,000. Application deadlines are July 17 and October 2, 2017. An applicant may submit a proposal in one of the two cycles.

The grant period is up to one year from the award date. A final report is required and is due within 13 months of the grant award, preferably no later than 30 days following the project completion.

Criteria

- Projects must address one or more of the 16 goals and related strategies of the Santa Barbara County Food Action Plan through either a geographic approach (city or neighborhood) or an issue-specific approach (a specific goal or strategy of the SBFAP).
- Projects must help build capacity for current or future implementation of Food Action Plan. This may include:
 - network and collaboration development
 - feasibility and planning
 - small capital projects that catalyze SBFAP focused projects
 - piloting or expanding a ‘best practice’ in agriculture, fisheries or food system (*see additional criteria for ‘Best Practices’ below*).
 - agricultural land conservation (*see additional criteria for ‘Land Conservation’ below*)
- Projects must have clearly defined goals and outcomes, and a strategy and timeline in place for achieving the stated goals.
- Applicants must agree to provide data and results of their projects for inclusion in the SBFAP evaluation framework and community report card.
- **This grant program is not intended for existing or ongoing food service, delivery or distribution programs.**

Additional Criteria: SBFAP Best Practices & Conservation

Best Practices:

- Projects part of a larger or longer-term effort must demonstrate how it relates to future work, including a financial sustainability concept or strategy for scaling up the project.
- Project planning, implementation or investigation/research of best practices or innovative approaches must address a specific challenge or opportunity in agriculture, grazing, fisheries or the food systems, and align with a specific goal or strategy identified in the Food Action Plan.
- Pilot implementation or facility improvement projects should serve as a model that can be replicated and/or scaled up in the future.

Land Conservation:

- Projects must have clearly defined strategies and timeline.
- Projects should align with a conservation plan or strategy and be recognized as a valuable component of a longer-term plan or vision. This may include providing permanent (or long-term) protection for lands with high agriculture value or ecosystem function. Allowable projects include:

- Planning and feasibility for new or emerging opportunities for early phases of land or easement acquisition (i.e., good-faith deposits to begin landowner negotiations, appraisals or other land use investigations).
- Closing or completion costs for land acquisition or easement purchases.
- The organization and/or project partners demonstrate expertise and capacity in negotiating land deals, and have capacity to manage the scale and scope of the project to fruition

Grant Limitations

LEAF Grants are not made for:

- Direct support to government agencies or private landowners (grantees must be a 501(c)(3) organization and serve as the primary project lead agency; public or private entities may be part of a collaboration)
- General operating support
- Existing or ongoing food service, deliver or distribution programs

Please visit the [Community Grants FAQs](#) for a complete list of what the foundation does not fund.

Eligibility Requirements

- Organizations must be certified as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or use a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)(3) tax status. **Applications that do not contain a valid EIN (tax ID) number will not be considered.** Organizations using a fiscal agent are asked to include a one-page letter signed by the fiscal agent's executive director signifying the intent to serve as such and describing the relationship between the two groups.
- The foundation accepts applications from public entities such as schools, universities, and libraries through an affiliate or supporting 501(c)(3) organization. Please see the [Community Grants FAQs](#) for additional qualifying information and instructions.
- An agency acting as the fiscal sponsor on behalf of a community collaborative may be eligible to submit proposals on behalf of its own agency needs as well as the needs of the collaborative. Please contact Sharyn Main, Senior Director of Community Investments, at (805) 963-1873 or smain@sbfoundation.org for additional qualifying information and instructions.

Application Process

To download the application, go to sbfoundation.com/leaf and select **LEAF Grants**. Using the **Save As** feature, save the application to your computer. **Please use only the space allotted. Expanding the text boxes on the application form will result in unreadable content.**

The application packet will include the following documents:

- Grant application
- Board of directors roster
- Project budget

Additional materials such as project or site maps or photos may be included as part of your electronic submission.

If you experience technical difficulties downloading the application, please try the following:

1. Click on this link: <http://get.adobe.com/reader>
2. Download the latest version of Adobe Reader (click on **Install Now**)
3. Restart your computer

Submittal Procedures

1. Applications are accepted electronically via email.
2. Attach your completed application along with the additional required documents in an email using the **Attach File** feature.
3. Include the name of your organization and the name of the grant program you are applying to in the email subject line. (Example: SBF LEAF Grant Application)
4. Email the materials to: leafgrants@sbfoundation.org.
(NOTE: You will receive an automatic response email when your grant application has been received. This will guarantee that your application has been submitted successfully.)

Important Dates

2017 LEAF Grant Deadlines:
July 17, 2017
October 2, 2017

Contact Information

For questions about the LEAF Grant program and funding eligibility, please contact Sharyn Main, Senior Director of Community Investments, at (805) 963-1873 or smain@sbfoundation.org.