



Grants Advising for Farmers and Agricultural Entrepreneurs in the Midwest

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute provides free Grants Advising services with priority to two target groups in the Midwest.

While our services are open to all farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs, priority is given as follows:

- In Wisconsin: All new or existing producers and agriculture-related businesses, as well as those working with them. Agriculture includes forestry and fisheries.
- In the Midwest: Beginning farmers, limited resource farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers and/or military veterans, as well as young organizations working with these farmers.

What is Grants Advising?

MFAI's Grants Advisor can help you **apply to grant, loan, and cost-share programs of state or federal sources** that could help you **with specific projects to develop your agricultural, forestry or related business**. These can be programs of any federal or state agency, not just the USDA, as well as private sources. We assist individual producers, associations of farmers, and agricultural, fishery and forestry-related businesses to both search for and apply to programs for which they are eligible.

More detail

Our Grants Advisor helps you determine what funding opportunities would be appropriate to achieve your goals. If so, she will help you **identify a funding program** that best fits your goals and **outline a plan of work** to meet the application deadline and all application requirements. If not, she will suggest other resources you may choose to approach. Examples might be federal, state or local loan programs, loan guarantees, as well as resource information and resource persons.

The Advisor will help you **identify local partners** (agency staff, nonprofit organizations, or local volunteers with experience in grants and project management) to strengthen your project, to help you complete the proposal, and, if funding is awarded, to manage the project.

Anyone can ask to be on the **Advisor's email list** to get funding program announcements ASAP. Select announcements are also **archived** at the link below.

Even for deadlines later in the year, it is best to start working *now* with the Grants Advisor on a specific application. Get your plan of work organized early so that deadlines don't sneak up on you.

Please contact **Grants Advisor**, Deirdre Birmingham, at deirdreb4@gmail.com , (608) 219-4279. Also visit: <http://www.michaelfields.org/grant-advising-resources/> .

**Grants Advising is a project launched and supported by the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute since 2007. Historically funded by Farm Aid, USDA's Rural Development Agency and the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program,, starting in fall of 2014, Wisconsin Farmers Union is a project partner, offering financial support for our work with Wisconsin farmers.*