



Grants Advising in the Midwest

If you are a farmer or rural entrepreneur in the Midwest, you are invited to use a free Grants Advising service of the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute.

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

- In Wisconsin: All producers and agriculture-related businesses, as well as those working with agricultural businesses. Agriculture is broadly defined to also include forestry and fisheries. Businesses can be new or existing.
- In the Midwest: Beginning farmers, limited resource, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, as well as young organizations working with these farmers.

What is Grants Advising?

MFAI's Grants Advisers will not write your grant applications for you, but they can help you **apply to government or private grant, loan, and cost-share programs** that could help you **improve your farming business**. These can be programs of any federal or state agency, not just the USDA. We will assist individual producers, associations of farmers, and rural agricultural and forestry-related businesses to both search for and apply to funding programs for which they are eligible.

More detail

Our Grants Advisers help you decide whether a grant would be the best way to achieve your goals. If so, he or she will help you **identify a grant program** that best fits your goals and help you **outline a plan of work** for you to follow to meet the application deadline and all application requirements. If not, the Adviser 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.

Anyone can ask to be on our Advisers' **email list** to get funding program announcements ASAP.

Our Advisers can help you **identify local partners** (agency staff, nonprofit groups, 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. They can help you prepare the proposal to ensure timely submission with necessary forms, attachments, and letters of support.

Even for deadlines later this year, it's best to start working *now* with a Grants Adviser on a specific application. You can get your plan of work organized so that the deadline doesn't sneak up on you.

For more information and to be on the **e-list for program announcements**, please feel free to contact one of our **Grants Advisers: Martin Bailkey**, at (608) 698-9478, martinbailkey@gmail.com or **Kitt Healy**, at (630) 346-4749, gracekhealy@gmail.com.

Also visit <http://www.michaelfields.org/grant-advising-resources/>.

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