

# SMIF AND RNDC Grow-a-Farmer Grant OPPORTUNITY

The **Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF)** and **Region Nine Development Commission (RNDC)** have partnered for the Grow-a-Farmer Grant Opportunity. The goal of this grant is to support local sustainable farmers with small grants to help grow their businesses and sell more local agricultural products across our region. Funds may be used to purchase small equipment, implementation of new sustainable farming techniques, replacement of inventory lost because of extreme weather, building repair or upgrades, and other similar projects. Farmers and farm businesses are encouraged to apply for \$500 – \$2,500 (requests for less or more funds may be granted on a case-by-case basis). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until November 1st, 2025.

**Funding:** Farmers and farm businesses are encouraged to apply for \$500 - \$2,500 (requests for less or more funds may be granted on a case-by-case basis). Purchases may be back dated to January 1st 2025 with proper receipts.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for this grant, your farm or farm business must meet the following requirements:

- Operate within the service territory of the Region Nine Development Commission of the following counties. Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Watonwan, Waseca.
- Grow food or agriculture products that you sell or plan to sell to communities within our service territory.
- Demonstrate one of the following issues or opportunities: (1) be located in an economically distressed community (2) demonstrate financial need to alleviate poverty, (3) be recovering from a disaster due to weather or other factors, (4) identify as a member of an underserved or disadvantaged population
- Ineligible costs:
  - Using grant funds to pay small-scale farmers to purchase depreciable property, such as tractors, large machinery, etc.
  - Underwriting of farming operations without an educational, research, or alleviation of poverty component
  - Income replacement paid to small-scale farmers

Application continues on the next page.

# Grow-a-Farmer Grant Application

**Applicant Name:**

**Farm Business Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Describe your farm or business:**

Describe your farm including what you produce, where you sell your products, and how long you have been in operation.

Application continues on the next page.

# Grow-a-Farmer Grant Application

## Proposed Project:

In 4-5 sentences or less describe how you intend to use these funds.

## Meeting Grant Priorities:

Describe how your application and project meets at least one of the funding priorities for this grant of **(1)** being located in an economically distressed community, **(2)** demonstrated financial need to alleviate poverty, **(3)** be recovering from a disaster due to weather or other factors, **(4)** identify as a member of an underserved or disadvantaged population.

Application continues on the next page.

**Grow-a-Farmer Grant Application**

**Impact on your farm business and our community :**

In 5-7 sentences or less describe how this project will benefit your farm business and customers in our region.

**Funding Requested \$500 - \$ 2,500:**

(requests for less or more funds may be granted on a case-by-case basis)