



Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development

Economic Development Division

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Office of Business Resources
Office of Real Estate Services

Memo: 2025 SEED Grants Funding Recommendation

Date: Monday, March 17, 2025

To: Members of the Madison Food Policy Council

From: Members of the SEED Grants Review Team

George Reistad, Business Development Specialist

Members of the Madison Food Policy Council, below are the recommendations for 2025 SEED Grants funding. Seven proposals were ultimately recommended for funding via a thorough deliberation process that included 3-member review teams to score and evaluate proposals and a group discussion on recommendation strategies. Please note that in total, 42 applications were submitted, requesting \$319,617.15 in total funding and that the SEED Grants funding authority for 2025 is \$50,000.

Review Team members wanted the scale of need they saw memorialized and so it should be noted that in 2025, the program saw a record-breaking number of applications and funding amount requests. And because of that, many worthy projects were unable to be funded - projects that had legitimate funding needs. These include pantry and emergency food systems supports, early childhood and senior education and engagement on gardening and growing food, pop-up meals and community feeding efforts, as well as efforts to provide nutrition education and well-balanced meals to children and families recovering from trauma, to name but a few. The 2025 SEED Grant application cycle clearly illustrates that there are very high – and growing – levels of community food systems needs within our city.

Please see below for Review Team's funding recommendations:

“Improving Nutrition Security through New Pantry Partnerships”, Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens, Inc.

- Up to \$6,978 to fund:
 - Farm Supplies
 - Personnel Time – Assoc Farm Manager

“Lake View Community School Culturally Relevant Food Access Through Garden and Nutrition Education and Cultural Celebrations”, Lake View Community School (fiscal - Madison Metropolitan School District)

- Up to \$9,993 to fund:
 - Contracted personnel services
 - Dinner events celebrating Black History Month and Hmong American Day

“Farm to Food Pantry: Building Community through Food”, Allied Food Pantry (fiscal – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Madison and Verona Inc.)

- Up to \$9,993 to fund:
 - Fresh, local produce for pantry clients

“Meadowood Community Garden: Cultivating Health, Connection and Sustainability”, Meadowood Health Partnership, Inc.

- Up to \$9,993 to fund:
 - Gardening supplies and materials
 - Personnel costs

“LCEC Community Garden”, *Lussier Community Education Center, Inc.*

- Up to \$1,943 to fund:
 - Garden supplies and materials
 - Stipends for workshop leaders

“Increasing Capacity and Culturally Relevant Foods”, *Neighborhood House Community Center, Inc*

- Up to \$8,993 to fund:
 - Food Purchases
 - Distribution Costs
 - Marketing and other materials

“Madison Public Library Meadowridge Kitchen Funding”, *Madison Public Library Foundation, Inc.*

- Up to \$2,107 to fund:
 - Food costs
 - Admin fee

Sincerely,



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