

COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY COALITION



Training and Technical Assistance Services for Community Food Project Applicants and Grantees

October 2009-September 2010

The Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC)'s technical assistance program will provide Community Food Project (CFP) practitioners with valuable information and resources covering a wide range of topics. It will enable participants to learn from both peers and experienced consultants, to discover effective methods and models, to receive practical tools and advice tailored to their needs, and to learn how to evaluate the impacts of their projects.

The purpose of this project is to strengthen the capacity of diverse organizations to implement successful, systems-oriented community food projects that will meet the food needs of low-income communities and increase self-reliance.

The following technical assistance (TA) services will be provided in collaboration with a broad network of partners, to help ensure effective delivery of services to diverse audiences across the country.

One-to-One TA

A new national TA service will provide information and consultation on a broad range of organizational development and community food system topics. CFSC will link CFP projects with experienced consultants, who will provide them with free, one-on-one assistance (starting early in 2010). This could range from a one-time response to a question to more intensive TA over a year. Allocation of TA will be based on the organization's CFP Program status and access to other resources. CFSC also will continue to provide free one-on-one assistance to 70-100 CFP applicants a year to help them develop stronger projects and proposals.

Group Trainings and Workshops

CFSC will collaborate with partners to organize 16 trainings and workshops to build knowledge and skills in key areas of community food systems practice. Sessions will be held at the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group conference, the Southwest Marketing Conference, the CFSC annual conference, and other venues (in partnership with the American Community Gardening Association). CFSC will provide 16 full scholarships to promising community-based groups to attend these sessions (plus many more registration scholarships for the CFSC conference).

National Learning Communities

Two learning communities will enable practitioners across the country who are engaged in similar work to share information and learn about best practices through a series of conference calls. One group will focus on scaling up local and regional food system initiatives, the other on evaluating community food projects with qualitative and participatory-based practices.

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Whole Measures for Community Food Systems (CFS)

This new planning and evaluation tool provides a lens for community food projects to dialogue about how their work affects whole communities. It is based on a set of six core value-based practices against which projects can measure the impact of their work. In 2010, CFSC, the Center for Participatory Research, Education and Policy, and Seeds of Solidarity will work with a core group of CFP grantees to support them in utilizing Whole Measures CFS as a central planning or evaluation tool for their project.

Evaluation Trainings

In October 2010, CFSC will host the intensive evaluation training, *A Field Guide to Evaluation*, at its annual conference in New Orleans. This 1½ day training will provide an overview of the evaluation process from start to finish, including defining program outcomes, developing logic models, designing evaluation tools, analyzing data, and using evaluation results. Training participants also will explore Whole Measures for Community Food Systems, and USDA's forthcoming *CFP Indicators for Success*.

CFP Data Collection

CFSC will continue working with CFP grantees to collect information on common outputs and outcomes across programs. This data collection will highlight the results and accomplishments of community food projects, and build understanding of the operating elements of successful projects. CFP grantees will be invited to help develop the new cross-program outcome evaluation tool, *CFP Indicators of Success*, and will receive training and support for both this new tool and the current *Common Output Tracking Form (COTF)*. In 2010, CFSC will also work with the National Research Center, Inc. to provide a compilation of the first four years of COTF data.

CFSC Project Collaborators

American Community Gardening Association • Center for Participatory Research, Education and Policy • Growing Power • National Research Center, Inc. • Occidental College: Center for Food and Justice • Open Source Leadership Strategies • Seeds of Solidarity • Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group • Southwest Marketing Network • WHY (World Hunger Year) • Wallace Center at Winrock • Weinberg and Vauthier Consulting

Additional Training and Technical Assistance is available from Growing Power and WHY (World Hunger Year). For more information, e-mail grassrootsnetwork@whyhunger.org.

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Or visit us at www.foodsecurity.org