



Interfaith Sustainable
Food Collaborative

Faith-Based Youth Food Project Mini-Grant

Introduction:

Does your faith-based organization have a youth group or want to start engaging youth more? Then this opportunity is for you! The Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative is pleased to offer mini-grants to further our mission to empower faith communities to increase access to healthy, sustainably produced food. We recognize that a small amount of money during the beginning stages of a project can be vital to bringing it to fruition. It helps a passionate leader and dedicated individuals to focus efforts and bring their project or idea to the next level. In the past, we have awarded 11 mini-grants in Marin and Sonoma Counties to advance faith-based/congregational programming that supports sustainable food systems or advocacy and access to healthy, local food.

In this cycle, the mini-grants will support food-related youth projects going on within a faith group or congregation. **We are currently taking applications for Sonoma and Marin County faith groups to be awarded mid-summer 2016. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 24th 2016.**

The Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative has a [Menu of Options](#) for Food and Faith Projects which may be helpful in understanding how to get youth involved in types of projects the mini-grants can support. We will assist groups that want help developing a proposal or idea and are happy to meet you to assist with planning.

Terms:

Awardees agree to: share results; allow project photos to be released; and attend one of the Collaborative's events to discuss their project. The project period would be 1-6 months in duration. Grantees will agree to provide a simple progress report and participate in some evaluation through month 12. This may include filling out a short survey or joining a focus group. Funds go to a faith-group, not an individual. (However, the faith group can choose to use funds to hire an intern to advance programming.) Grants will be awarded in the range of \$250 to \$1,000. Awards may be approved for lesser amounts depending on the number and quality of applications received. The mini-grant will be paid in full at the beginning of the project.

Who can apply? What is an eligible project?

Applicants must be faith-based organizations such as religious congregations, camps or schools located in Marin and Sonoma County. The mini-grants are intended to help catalyze or expand a faith-based youth food-related project so the project can have ongoing impact. Eligible uses of funds include: facilitating youth to glean local fields and gardens in order to contribute to a food pantry; organizing a garden project; taking youth on field trips to local farms where they can learn about supporting the local food system; facilitating youth to do SNAP-outreach in the neighborhood; scholarships to cover low-income youth field trip costs; materials for a cooking demonstration organized by youth.

How does my faith group apply?

An application can be submitted one of two ways:

- 1) Google Form (found [here](#)) which can be filled out and submitted online OR
- 2) Microsoft Word document (found [here](#)) and mailing or emailing it to the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative (632 Petaluma Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472).

If you have trouble accessing the online form or want a file sent to you, contact our office at (707) 634-4672 or email us at info@interfaithfood.org.

Application Review:

The Community Food Access Committee, comprised of members of the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative's Advisory Board, will evaluate applications based on the evaluation criteria below.

Evaluation Criteria:

Clear concept, objectives and plan for the project. Start-up project or expansion of current project led by faith based youth	Up to 15 points
Clear description of budget expenses	Up to 10 points
Strong likelihood of success	Up to 10 points
Breadth of support for the idea; evidence of more than one volunteer or staff person committed to carrying the project or event forward	Up to 15 points
Support from applicant's board and/or clergy leadership	Up to 10 points
Supports healthy food access for low-income individuals	Up to 10 points
Engages faith group in sustainable, local or organic food movement	Up to 10 points
Faith group has engaged with the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative (i.e. attended roundtable, conference); and/or clearly explained concept for partnership with the Collaborative throughout the project period	Up to 10 points
Interfaith component OR connects to affiliated movements initiatives (i.e. Presbyterian Hunger Project or URJ Just Table/Green Table)	Up to 10 points

Note: It is not necessary to address all of the criteria in your proposal, but doing so will increase the chances of your proposal's selection for funding. We expect the review process to be competitive and may not be able to fund all applicants.

If you have any questions about the program, please call us at (707) 634-4672 or e-mail info@interfaithfood.org.

Thank you to the Fulton Foundation for giving us the opportunity to advance faith-based youth engagement!