

Appalachian Funders Network  
Food Systems Working Group



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# Who We Are



FSWG Connects food system practitioners across the region, and brings together funders who are interested in food systems to learn from practitioner efforts, build a shared analysis of investment needs, and share funding strategies.

# Food Systems Working Group Objectives



- 03 Create and deepen relationships between funders and practitioners working in local food systems
- 03 Foster deeper learning and analysis between funders, practitioners, and supporters within specific sub-regions and across the region
- 03 Increase resources within the region targeted at creating stronger local food systems
- 03 Enhance the connectivity and capacity of the region's key food system actors



# FSWG Regional Strategies

- **Producer Capacity-Building and Business Training:** production techniques such as season extension, and business training to help farm businesses navigate regulations and increase financial viability.
- **Direct Sales Support:** Farmers market support programs to create sales opportunities for the smallest farmers and increase healthy food access for local consumers.
- **Processing, Aggregation, and Distribution Infrastructure:** Infrastructure development to expand the opportunities for processing, aggregation and distribution of local food products.
- **Intermediated Local Food Value Chains:** connect farmers to wholesale markets through a fair trade supply chain of produce auctions, food hubs, processing centers and purchasers.



• **Farmland Conservation and Access:** preserve working landscapes and improve access for the next generation of farmers.

• **Branding and Marketing:** publicize Appalachia's local food movement.

• **Public Education and Training:** support programs that educate low-income families to grow their own food as a source of nutrition and income.

• **Access to Fresh and Healthy Foods:** address obesity, malnutrition, and food insecurity through increased access to fresh healthy foods and nutritional education and collaborations to get fresh food into food pantries and regional food banks.



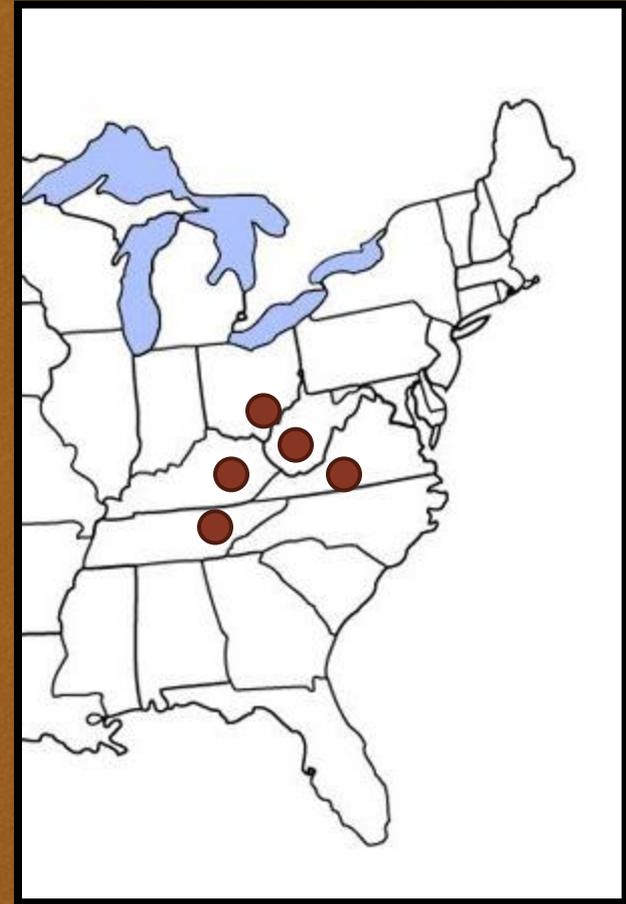
# USDA Rural Community Development Initiative for Goals for Central Appalachia:



1. Sub-Region Food System Development.
2. Strengthen Funder and Food System Practitioners Relationships.
3. Increase Sustainable Funding for Sub-Region Food System Development and Operations.
4. Increase the Capacity of Food System Players with Both Sub-Region and Central Appalachia Communities.

# Building Food System Capacity in Central Appalachia

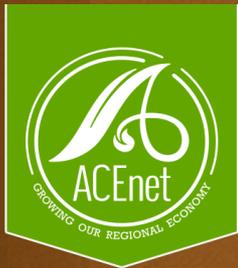
- \$250,000 for the Region through joint effort by Appalachian Funders Network and Central Appalachian Network
- Appalachian Ohio; Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee; Eastern Kentucky; and Eastern West Virginia
- Strengthens practitioners across the region through shared capacity building and learning



# Funder & Practitioner Collaboration in Action



Osteopathic Heritage Foundation approached Athens-area non-profits to address food system inequities to develop comprehensive and sustainable solutions.



Although a history of collaboration between organizations existed, it was a new experience to determine how to communicate with funders on who we are, what we do, and where we collectively want to go.



OHF supported work to intentionally and clearly define the practitioners' collective strategic plan and needs in terms of capacity, system infrastructure and coordination.

# A Local Food Economy Can Exist that increases availability, access and consumption of healthy food for all consumers, especially low income and vulnerable populations in Athens County and the region.



# Thank You

