



AgForward Grant Program Invitation to Apply – 2026

The Community Foundation seeks applications from nonprofit educational institutions and organizations within its 12-county service area to *advance education and innovation in the field of production agriculture*.

This grant program is funded by the **Bob W. Richter Endowment for Agricultural Education** and a grant from the **Compeer Financial Rural Collaboration Project**.

Grant Purpose

Grants from the fund will promote and benefit education relating to production agriculture at any educational level throughout the Community Foundation's service area. Funded programs must directly involve and/or impact students. Grants must be for project or program support. Grants may not be used for scholarships or general operating support.

Production agriculture is defined as the practice of growing and harvesting crops or raising livestock for food and other agricultural products.

Priority will be given to applicants whose proposals demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Educational projects and programs that seek to advance the field of production agriculture in the Community Foundation's service area.
- Programs to encourage or inspire agricultural careers and/or to develop a skilled agricultural workforce at any education level.
- The development of and training in technologies and techniques that will enable agriculture to be more productive, efficient, and safe.

Desired Outcomes

1. Enhanced knowledge and skills of production agriculture: Individuals in our region will gain a deeper understanding of agricultural practices, technology, and innovations.
2. Youth engagement and career preparation: Young people in our region are inspired to pursue careers in agriculture and have the resources and opportunities to do so.
3. Improved agricultural productivity: Individuals in our region will be prepared to adopt efficient and effective agricultural practices leading to increased output and better resource management.
4. Economic growth: Investing in agricultural education and innovation will positively impact the economic stability of our rural communities.

Grant Amount

Requests of up to \$5,000 will be considered and applicants may be awarded partial funding. Total funding available in 2026 is \$30,000.

Eligibility

Nonprofit educational institutions, primary through post-secondary, and 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations located in Adams, Brown, Hancock, or Pike Counties (IL) and Clark, Lewis Knox, Marion, Monroe, Ralls, Shelby, or Pike Counties (MO) are eligible to apply.

(more on reverse)

Grant Terms

Grants are for a one-year period. A final report must be submitted one year from the check date. Organizations are not eligible for an AgForward grant if reports for previous AgForward grants are not complete by the application due date of May 15.

Application Information

- Applications open April 1.
- Applications close May 15.
- Grants awarded by June 30.

Access the application at: www.mycommunityfoundation.org/grants

Questions? Please contact Kent Embree at kembree@mycommunityfoundation.org.