



UPPER WILLAMETTE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3291 W 1st Ave, Eugene, OR 97402 • uwsacd.org • 541.852.6680

2026 Farmers Market Grants

The Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District is offering grants of up to **\$7,500** per market location for projects and events that promote conservation and support local food systems through community farmers markets. Successful project applications will encourage community and vendor participation in market events, educate the public on conservation or agricultural topics, and/or make local agricultural products accessible to diverse demographics.

Applications are due by 11:59 PM on January 14th, 2026. Grant funds will be provided as a lump sum in February 2026.

To be eligible for Farmers Market Grant Program funding, the proposed project must be designed to address one or more of the following criteria:

- Increase community participation in market events
- Increase the number of vendors over previous years
- Educate the public on a conservation-related topic (e.g., food production, gardening, water use, soil health, food quality)
- Make healthy, fresh agricultural products accessible to all demographics of the county (e.g., matching funds from SNAP or other assistance programs).

To be eligible for Farmers Market Grant Program funding, the applicant must operate a farmers market located within the District's boundaries in eastern and central Lane County. For the purposes of this grant program, a farmers' market is where multiple local farmers sell fruit, vegetables, meat, cheese, bakery products, and/or other agricultural products directly to consumers. The market must be owned and operated by a local organization, not by one or more individual farmers or vendors. An organization is eligible for one grant per market location.

We have a total pool of approximately \$75,000 for this funding opportunity.

Requests will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Clear and specific description of how grant funds will be used.
- Project is achievable with the funds requested.
- If previously funded, applicant has completed all reporting requirements and is in good standing with the District.

To apply for a grant, register or log in at:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=uwsacd> and use the application template included below to prepare responses. With questions, contact Jared Pruch at grants@uwsacd.org.



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2026 Farmers Market Application

Note: This form is provided for applicants to prepare answers that will be submitted through our online grant management system, Foundant. Applicants will need to create an account at <https://sandbox.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=uwsacd> prior to submitting an application.

Please note the character limits on each question.

Items with an asterisk * are required.

1. **Project Name***. Name of the project or activity you are requesting funding for (this can be the name of your farmers market, or the name of a specific project / program that you are requesting funding for).
2. **Applicant Category***. Nonprofit Organization / Native American Tribe / For-profit Organization / Educational institution / Government agency / Private landowner
3. **Project Site**. If your project site is different from your organization address listed in the registration process, please include a site address or location for the project here. If there are multiple project sites, please include each of them with a brief description.
4. **Amount requested***. Maximum of \$7,500.
5. **Total project budget***. Annual operating budget of project / market.
6. **Upper Willamette SWCD Program Area***. Please indicate the primary Upper Willamette SWCD programs your project will address (choose one). For farmers market applications, please select "Farms, Food & Soil."
 - ☐ Farms, Food & Soil
 - ☐ Watershed Restoration
 - ☐ Forest Health & Resilience
 - ☐ Neighborhood Sustainability
 - ☐ Environmental Education
7. **Project Description***. In 2-3 sentences, summarize the project you would implement with funding. This description will be used on the District website to summarize your project.
250 characters max.
8. **Number of market events (annual)***. How many farmers market events does your organization anticipate hosting in 2026?
9. **Number of vendors (expected)***. How many vendors do you anticipate participating at your market on an average market day? An estimate is appropriate.



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- 10. Number of farm and ranch vendors*.** Of the total vendors anticipated, how many are local farmers and ranchers selling fruit, vegetables, meat, cheese, and other agricultural products?
- 11. Market trend (optional).** Please describe whether your market seems to be growing each year, declining, or staying about the same. Please also note any particular reasons or context that you think explain the growth or decline in vendor or community participation. We ask this question so that we can understand some of the constraints or opportunities that local farmers markets are experiencing. *1,500 characters max.*
- 12. Key Project Components.** Describe the main activities or services that funding would allow you to accomplish. You will be asked to specifically answer this question with regard to one or more of our program criteria:
- Increase community participation in market events
 - Increase the number of vendors over previous year
 - Educate the public on a conservation-related topic (e.g., food production, gardening, water use, soil health, food quality)
 - Make healthy, fresh agricultural products accessible to all demographics of the county (e.g., matching funds from SNAP or other assistance programs).
- 1,500 characters max per response*
- 13. Timeline*.** Provide a general timeline of activities, events, or key milestones. *5,000 characters max.*
- 14. Project Budget*.** Please upload a simple budget outlining the expenses that this grant would fund. Alternately, you can type a budget into the text box provided online. *1,500 characters max, or 1 MB upload.*
- 15. District Zone*.** Please indicate which of the Soil & Water Conservation District zones your project will serve. You can view a map of the Zones [here](#). *Checkbox.*
- 16. Recognition.** Describe how the Upper Willamette SWCD will be recognized as a funder / sponsor of your project. We do not have any specific expectations for recognition and this answer is not used to determine funding eligibility or prioritization. *1,500 characters max.*
- 17. Supplemental information (optional).** If there is additional information you would like to share, you may enter it here. You can also add an attached file, e.g. a brochure / newsletter / short video about your project. This information is not required. *1,000 characters max, or 2 MB upload.*
- 18. Convening invitation (optional).** This year, we will be inviting all Farmers Market grantees to attend an *optional* convening, facilitated by Terrill Thompson from Banyan Consulting. The goal of the convening will be to identify any collective needs or opportunities that this



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cohort of grantees share. The SWCD is holding a pool of approximately \$15,000 to support any activities or services identified as priorities by the group. If you receive a grant, you will be invited to have up to two representatives from your market attend the convening. Jared Pruch will be distributing a scheduling poll, and Terrill will be distributing a survey to inform the agenda. Please indicate if you are interested in attending this optional convening.

- Yes, our organization is interested in participating.
- No, our organization is not interested in participating.
- Unsure, I would like more information before deciding.

19. Certification. By submitting this application, the applicant certifies that:

- Upper Willamette SWCD's sole obligation is as a provider of grant funds. The SWCD assumes no duties or obligations for the planning or implementation of any project or program for which the funds are provided, or for any financial or tax-reporting obligations of the recipient.
- Funds will be used only for the purposes approved by Upper Willamette SWCD and will not be used for lobbying, for attempts to influence voting or legislation, or for litigation of any kind.
- The project/event will comply with Upper Willamette SWCD's non-discrimination policy.
- Subject to the limitations of the Oregon Tort Claims Act (ORS 30.260 through 30.300), the applicant organization agrees to be responsible for its own actions and for any damage or third-party liability arising from the organization's activities related to its agreement with Upper Willamette SWCD. It agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Upper Willamette SWCD and its officers, directors, agents, and employees from all losses, claims, damages, and expenses resulting from, or arising out of, the acts or omissions of the applicant and its officers, directors, agents, and employees under the agreement.
- The applicant agrees that obtaining permits, if needed, is the responsibility of the applicant. Upper Willamette SWCD is not responsible for the safety of organizers or participants in the project/event, or for providing insurance coverage. The applicant is advised to check to be sure adequate insurance coverage is obtained for the project/event.
- The applicant has read and accepts the terms and conditions provided within the UWSWCD Farmers Market Grant Program Guidelines and Application Instructions.

Once you have completed your online application, you will receive an email confirmation notifying you that the proposal has been successfully completed.

If you encounter challenges or have questions with the application process, contact Grant Management Specialist Jared Pruch at grants@uwsacd.org.