*With so many changes occurring in the way you conduct business, we want to offer support.   Covid has resulted in many new challenges but it has also brought an increase in awareness and demand for locally grown foods.  It is through adversity and challenging times that we grow the most. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) is working to support our farmers and address food insecurity for our residents.  IDALS will offer mini-grants to Farmers Markets partnering with Food Hubs to create innovative models to increase support for specialty crop producers while expanding local food access to Iowans.*

*Complete the application below for the $3,000 mini-grant for farmers markets partnering with food hubs to increase market access of specialty crops to Iowans.  Funds from these mini-grants can be used as needed to support this partnership.  Both existing and new partnerships are eligible.****Applications are due July 6th****.*

Name and address of farmers market Click or tap here to enter text.

Name and contact information for authorized market representative Click or tap here to enter text.

Name and contact information for authorized food hub representative Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Please provide a brief description of your current farmers market, including number of vendors, products offered and average number of customers attending your market. Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Please provide a brief description of your food hub including the average number of vendors supplying products and the average number of regular customers. Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Do you currently work together or is this a new partnership? Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Farmers market venues reach primarily local residents. Food hubs can expand that reach by offering product aggregation and transportation of product to a variety of distribution sites throughout the state. Food hubs do not generally have the one-on-one relationships that many farmers markets have established with their customers. Please explain how your partnership will strengthen your market and/or food hub. Click or tap here to enter text.
4. Through this partnership we will anticipate that 15% of sales will be derived through this new market platform. Farmers markets awarded this funding opportunity will work with a food hub to create a business model. Please briefly describe your work plan: Click or tap here to enter text.
5. If successful, will you plan to continue this beyond one year? Click or tap here to enter text.
6. Allowing markets and food hubs to create a plan to meet their expansion needs will provide a variety of models and lessons learned but will also make a single growth objective more challenging. Please identify two outcomes you hope to achieve through this project. Click or tap here to enter text.
7. Please provide a brief description of how the funds will be expended. Click or tap here to enter text.
8. Please feel free to provide any additional comments here. Click or tap here to enter text.

Please note: Approved applicants will be required to complete a W9 and an agreement/contract. All recipients will be required to complete a Final Financial and Performance Report by November 15, 2020.

For questions or additional information, contact Tammy Stotts tammy.stotts@iowaagriculture.gov