

Keynotes for Communities April 2009



**INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION**

Workshops & Conferences

Impact of Fiscal Hardships on Local Governments

Thursday, April 30, 2009 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm

The Lodge, Baxter MN (behind Famous Dave's off Hwy 371N)

Has your community been struggling to identify ways to cope with the escalating fiscal hardships? Hear from statewide experts from the Association of Minnesota Counties, the Association of MN Townships regarding the current legislative condition and impact of fiscal hardships additionally hear from David Drown Associates regarding bonding issues, then meet with your peers for a regional dialogue of ways to deal with the growing economic community challenges.

Who should attend: Representatives from all Local Units of Government & Legislators.
Requested donation at the door is \$10 per local unit of government, RSVP by April 24th, 2009 by calling Ann at (218)-894-3233 or at ahanson@regionfive.org.

Hope for the Road Ahead, Business and Workforce Development Workshop

April 29, Grand Casino Hinckley

Presented by the Corporate Commission of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe - this is a great opportunity for all who have an interest in Economic Development. Michael Kiefer will be the keynote speaker and will share Minnesota experiences about business success in tight economic times. There will be a number of economic development workshops and a Native American Business Fair. For more information contact Pam at 320-384-4645 or pwegner@grcasinos.com

The Next Generation of Lean

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

8:00 am - 11:00 am

Elk River City Hall - Upper Town Conference Room (map)

Who Should Attend?

CEOs, General Managers, CFOs, CIOs, VPs, Mid Level Managers, & Supervisors

What to Expect?

Competing and winning today in business requires foresight that includes Green (environmental sustainability) and Lean (reduced costs and increased efficiency) to create strategies that deliver clear, measurable, and rapid returns. Come learn how today's successful organizations are combining Lean and Green practices to improve productivity, competitiveness and opportunities for growth.

Speakers include:

- Judy Wlodarczyk, director of environment and energy, CONNSTEP
- Jed Falgren, vice president, Dotson Iron Castings
- Ed Polin, LBC-Sensei, lean enterprise manager, Central Container

- John Connelly, director of new product management, center director, Enterprise Minnesota

[Register Online Today!](#)

Group Rate 4 for \$237 or Regular \$110.

*Continental breakfast provided. For questions or more information email events@enterpriseminnesota.org or call our events line at 612.455.4239.

Government Training Services releases 2009 training schedule:

New to the planning commission or board of adjustment?

Long time member eager to keep up with new laws and regulations?

Want to gain insight on how to most constructive prepare comments on proposals pending before your city or county's Planning and Zoning departments?

Government Training Services (GTS) is the state's premier training organization in P&Z issues. Their "faculty" includes current and past local officials, attorneys, developers, and advocates to provide fact based, court tested, field implemented examples of how to encourage the type of growth you want and learn from others past mistakes.

This year's schedule includes:

- Beyond the Basics of Planning & Zoning (*Little Falls, April 30*)
- Redefining the Development Process: Choosing Collaboration over Contention to protect natural resources and maximize the public value of private development (*Collegeville, May 6*)
- Basic Traffic Impacts of Land Use (*Little Falls, May 14*)
- Your Comprehensive Plan is Done – Now What? (*St. Paul, May 20*)
- Your role as Planning Commission Member Videoconference (*broadcast to Fergus Falls, Mankato and Duluth, June 4*)

For detailed descriptions or registration information visit:

<http://www.mngts.org/LandUse/Land Use Workshops 2009.pdf>

Save-the-Date for Future Nonprofit Workshops!

All the workshops are free of charge, but preregistration is needed. The ones held at the Kelly Inn will have only a meal cost of \$10 if people wish to have lunch while they learn. More information will be on our website under nonprofits/news and notes as dates get closer.

- *Weathering the Recession* - April 30th - 10:00 - noon; St. Cloud Public Library, Bremer Room
Presenter: Nancy Lee Managing Consultant from Larson Allen
Session Summary: develop smart strategic responses to the economic downturn and applying new tools and approaches to respond to changes in income. This session is free for all that attend.
- *Dissect the Frog* - June 11 - 11:45 - 1:15; Kelly Inn, St. Cloud
Presenter: Brian Myres ING
Session Summary: Dissect the Frog is a process by which an organization dissects its operations. The process encourages staff to talk about certain procedures and explore if efficiencies can be gained by changing the way business is done. Dissect the Frog makes organizations take a series look at how to do business better and more productively. Brian Myres of ING Direct will be the

guest speaker as he has led the Dissect the Frog process in many local organizations along with divisions within ING Direct.

- *Leadership Transitions* - September 17 - 11:45 - 1:15; Kelly Inn, St. Cloud - panel presentation
Session Summary: the board's role in time of transition.
- *Technology* - December 10 - 11:45 - 1:15; Kelly Inn, St. Cloud
Session Summary: a look at fundraising, database and accounting software for small and medium sized organizations.

Please email, mail, or fax your RSVP to: LarsonAllen LLP, Attn: Janelle Steil, PO Box 1067, St. Cloud, MN 56302, e-mail: jsteil@larsonallen.com, Phone: 320-203-5617, Fax: 320-253-7696

Seventh Annual Symposium on Small Towns

Communities 2050: Building and Livable, Renewable and Responsible Future
June 2-3 – SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us June 2-3, 2009 for an action-oriented Symposium focused on rebuilding local economies, educating and motivating our communities, capitalizing on political change, and celebrating rural living. For more information visit: www.centerforsmalltowns.org or download [this flyer](#).

SAVE THE DATE!

Succession Planning/Governance Workshop

June 12, 2009

8:00 am to 11:00 am

Initiative Foundation, Little Falls

Presented by the Anderson Center and Initiative Foundation. More information to come!

Recession-Year Financial Leadership

Thursday, September 10, St. Paul

Illuminate the key decisions, choices and strategies that you should consider in key areas such as recession-preparedness, budgeting approaches for uncertain times, fundraising expectations and priorities, communications and community, [and more](#). **Recession-Year Financial Leadership** will provide you with analytical tools, templates and talking points to lead your organization, and join forces with partner organizations, in this most difficult year.

This workshop will be presented by Kate Barr (Executive Director, [Nonprofits Assistance Fund](#)) and Jon Pratt (Executive Director, [Minnesota Council of Nonprofits](#)). For workshop details including content, pricing, and registration information, visit http://www.mncn.org/event_leadership.htm#recession.

MCN members save \$20 on your registration. Not a member? [Join now!](#)

Funding Opportunities

Grants Promote Environmental Conservation Programs

[Wallace Genetic Foundation](#)

The Wallace Genetic Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations nationwide that believe in the long-term conservation of the soil and of the environment, rather than exploitation of natural resources for temporary profits. Specific areas of interest include: sustainable agriculture, protection of farmland near cities, plant genetic research, biodiversity protection, and environmental education and media. Requests may be submitted throughout the year. Application guidelines and forms are available on the Foundation's website.

Grants Enhance Comprehensive Capital Campaigns

[Kresge Foundation: Capital Challenge Grant Program](#)

The Kresge Foundation supports communities in the United States and around the world by strengthening the nonprofit organizations that serve them. The Foundation's six major areas of interest are health, environment, arts and culture, education, human services, and community development. Through the Capital Challenge Grant Program, the Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that are engaged in comprehensive campaigns designed to support institutional growth through the construction of new facilities as well as the acquisition or renovation of existing facilities, the purchase of real property, and the purchase of major integrated equipment systems. Because environmental conservation is one of the Foundation's values, challenge grant applicants are encouraged to consider green construction issues. The Foundation accepts online letters of intent for this program throughout the year. Visit the website listed above to review the Capital Challenge Grant Program guidelines.

Fire Control Projects Supported Worldwide

[FM Global Fire Prevention Grant Program](#)

The FM Global Fire Prevention Grant Program supports a wide array of fire prevention, preparedness, and control efforts throughout the U.S. and internationally. Funded projects include pre-fire planning for commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities; fire and arson prevention and investigation; and fire prevention education and training programs. Fire departments and brigades, as well as national, state, regional, local, and community organizations are eligible to apply. Requests may be submitted at any time and are reviewed quarterly. Visit the website listed above to review the frequently asked questions and request a grant application.

Grants Target Rural Communities

[Pioneer Hi-Bred International: Community Investment Program](#)

Pioneer Hi-Bred International's Community Investment Program supports efforts to improve the quality of life in the communities where the company's customers and employees live and work. The company focuses its grantmaking in the following areas: education, with an emphasis on science; agriculture; and farm safety. Priority is given to nonprofit organizations located in Pioneer facility communities or rural agricultural regions. Organizations with active Pioneer management/employee participation receive priority consideration. Requests may be submitted at any time and are reviewed quarterly. Visit the website listed above to learn more about the program; click on [U.S. Grant Guidelines](#) to access the grant application.

Grants Enhance Company Communities Nationwide

[Wal-Mart Foundation State Giving Program](#)

The Wal-Mart Foundation State Giving Program awards grants at the state and regional level to programs that have a strong impact within the communities the company serves. The program provides grants of \$25,000 and up in the following categories: Education grants support programs that address the educational needs of underserved young people ages 12-25. Workforce Development/Economic Opportunity grants target job skill training and support services for unemployed and displaced workers. Health and Wellness grants strive to improve access to healthcare, reduce healthcare disparities, and promote healthy lifestyles. Environmental Sustainability grants assist in the development or expansion of environmentally sustainable communities, with emphasis on green building and job training. The Foundation has a particular interest in supporting veterans and military families, traditionally underserved groups, individuals with disabilities, and people impacted by natural disasters. The application deadlines for 2009 are April 17 and September 18. Visit the website listed above to review the FAQ and submit an online application.

Funds for Puppet Theater Projects

[Jim Henson Foundation](#)

The Jim Henson Foundation awards grants for the creation and development of innovative works of Puppet Theater. Project grants of \$5,000 are awarded for the continued development and production of new works ready to be presented in the coming year. Seed grants of \$2,000 are provided for the development and workshopping of pieces in the earlier stages of creation. The Foundation also offers grants of \$3,000 for the development of new and innovative work specifically for children and families. Applications for international collaborations are accepted, but the primary artist and fiscal sponsor must be American. Projects that will only take place outside of the United States are not eligible for funding. The deadline for letters of intent is April 24, 2009; invited proposals are due September 14, 2009. Visit the website listed above for application guidelines.

USDA Farmers' Market Promotion Program

AMS provides competitive grant funds to agricultural cooperatives, producer networks, producer associations, local governments, nonprofit corporations, public benefit corporations, economic development corporations, regional farmers' market authorities and Tribal governments. The grants are targeted to help improve and expand domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities. Due April 27.

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=y1wVJBRp7vH9hCw2sW1yhLfgyJmqfTVwpYvFbszLmtrvMxd21ptw!161260983?oppld=46141&flag2006=false&mode=VIEW>

Funds for Local Company Communities

[Office Depot Foundation](#)

The Office Depot Foundation supports local nonprofit organizations that make a positive impact on the quality of life in company communities around the world. The Foundation provides grants through the following funding categories: Making a Difference in Children's Lives supports activities that serve, teach, and inspire children, youth, and families. Building Communities focuses on civic organizations and activities that serve the needs of the community. Disaster Relief funds recognized national, regional, and local relief agencies. Requests must be submitted online through the Foundation's website by April 30, 2009, with the exception of Disaster Relief requests, which are accepted throughout the year. Visit the website listed above to take the required eligibility test.

Support for Youth Projects in the U.S. and Canada

[Youth Service America: Dollars for Change](#)

Youth Service America improves communities by increasing the number and the diversity of youth serving in substantive roles. Youth Service America, in partnership with State Farm, is offering Dollars for Change grants for individual youth or teams of youth to plan and implement service-learning projects with the assistance of an adult coordinator or educator. Five grants of up to \$2,000 will be provided to high-impact, semester-long projects created by youth in the United States and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, New Brunswick, and Ontario. Selected projects must be youth-led (ages 12-25), engage at least 100 youth volunteers (ages 5-25), and demonstrate leadership in all aspects of the decision-making process. Online applications are due by April 30, 2009. Visit the website listed above to take the required eligibility quiz.

Grassroots Environmental Programs Supported

[Fund for Wild Nature](#)

The Fund for Wild Nature provides grants to grassroots organizations in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for campaigns to save and restore native species and wild ecosystems, including actions to defend wilderness and biological diversity. The Fund seeks proposals with visionary and yet realistic goals to create tangible change. Priority is given to projects premised on effective, intelligent biocentric strategies on issues that are not receiving adequate national attention, and may not be fundable through mainstream sources. The Fund rarely supports proposals from organizations with large budgets (over \$250,000 annually). The remaining deadlines for 2009 are May 1 and November 1. Application guidelines and forms are available on the Fund's website.

Sabbaticals for Christian Pastors

[Lilly Endowment: National Clergy Renewal Program](#)

The National Clergy Renewal Program, a program of the Lilly Endowment, provides support to Christian congregations throughout the country whose pastors wish to take time for reflection and renewal. The program provides grants of up to \$50,000 to congregations whose pastors and parishioners, working together, produce compelling plans for an extended sabbatical time for the minister and a complementary set of activities for congregational renewal. Up to \$15,000 of the grant may be used to help the congregation fulfill pastoral duties during the pastor's absence and/or to support activities that enable the congregation as a whole to be renewed in its ministry. Christian congregations whose ordained pastors have a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited theological school are eligible to apply. Congregations in any of 49 states may apply. (The Endowment administers a separate program for Indiana congregations.) The application deadline is May 14, 2009. Visit the website listed above to download the program's guidelines.

Support for Company Communities

[Burger King Corporation: HAVE IT YOUR WAY Foundation](#)

The Burger King Corporation's HAVE IT YOUR WAY Foundation provides support to nonprofit organizations that provide long-term positive impact on the U.S. communities served by the company. In the Improving Education category, the Foundation primarily supports the BURGER KING Scholars Program, with limited support for organizations that seek to improve scholastic opportunities. The Alleviating Hunger category emphasizes finding solutions in the fight against global hunger. The Preventing Disease category supports U.S. efforts to prevent and control chronic disease. In the Youth Programs category, the focus is on organizations that work to better the lives of children and youth. Requests are reviewed three times per year; the next application deadline is May 15, 2009. Application guidelines are available on the Burger King website.

Significant Cultural Heritage Projects Supported

[National Park Service: Save America's Treasures Grants](#)

Save America's Treasures Grants, administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, are provided to preserve our country's cultural heritage. Grants are available for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and collections, including documents, sculpture, and other works of art, and on nationally significant historic properties, including historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects. The grants require a dollar-for-dollar, non-federal match. The minimum grant request for historic collections projects is \$25,000; for historic property projects the minimum grant request is \$125,000. Applications must be submitted online by May 22, 2009. Visit the website listed above for program details.

The Bowerman Track Renovation Program, administered by Nike's Corporate Responsibility Department, provides matching cash grants to community-based, youth-oriented organizations that seek to refurbish or construct running tracks anywhere in the world. Matching grants of up to \$50,000 are provided to nonprofit organizations, NGOs, government agencies, schools, and school districts. Requests are reviewed quarterly, and will be accepted on an ongoing basis through May 31, 2009. Application guidelines may be downloaded from:

http://www.nikebiz.com/responsibility/community_programs/bowerman_track_program/

Grants Address Native American Issues

[Seventh Generation Fund for Indian Development](#)

The Seventh Generation Fund for Indian Development is dedicated to promoting and maintaining the uniqueness of Native peoples throughout the Americas. The Fund's primary grantmaking program areas include: Arts and Cultural Expression, Environmental Health and Justice, Human Rights, Sacred Earth, Sustainable Communities, Intergenerational Leadership, and Women's Leadership. Grants from \$500 to \$5,000 are provided three times per year to Native communities that address one or more of the Fund's program areas. The next application deadline is June 1, 2009. (Mini-grants of up to \$500 are reviewed throughout the year.) Application guidelines and a cover sheet form are available on the Fund's website.

Matching Grants for National Forest Conservation Initiatives

[National Forest Foundation: Matching Awards Program](#)

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) was established by Congress to support the USDA Forest Service in its management of America's National Forests and Grasslands. The Foundation's Matching Awards Program provides challenge cost-share grants to nonprofit organizations throughout the U.S. to engage in on-the-ground conservation and citizen-based monitoring initiatives directly benefiting National Forests and Grasslands. Priority is given to projects in the areas of community-based forestry, watershed health and restoration, wildlife habitat improvement, and recreation. All grants require at least a one-to-one cash match through non-federal donations. Pre-proposals are due by June 5, 2009. The request for pre-proposals may be downloaded from the NFF website listed above.

Local Rock Climbing Projects Supported

[Access Fund Climbing Preservation Grant Program](#)

The Access Fund Climbing Preservation Grant Program supports projects that enhance climbing opportunities and conserve the environment for climbing throughout the United States. Grants are generally made in the following categories: facilities/improvements, grassroots activism, land acquisitions funding, and education outreach. The Fund is most interested in making grants to

organizations that work on local climbing access and conservation issues. Priority is also given to organizations that build a strong base of climber support and activism. Requests are reviewed three times per year; the next application deadline is June 15, 2009. Visit the website listed above to review the funding guidelines.

Grants Address Hunger Issues Worldwide

[Presbyterian Hunger Program](#)

The Presbyterian Hunger Program provides grants to programs addressing hunger and its causes in the United States and around the world. While some funding is provided for direct feeding projects, priority is given to initiatives that attempt to address the root causes of hunger. Grants are provided in the following five categories: Development Assistance grants focus on creating a multi-faceted approach to the empowerment of poor people. Influencing Public Policy grants encourage activities that advocate for public policy changes which provide food for the poor. Lifestyle Integrity grants target programs that help the church to move toward sustainable lifestyles sensitive to the reality of the Earth's limited resources. Education and Interpretation grants promote activities to educate the church and the public at large about the root causes of hunger. Direct Relief grants support programs that provide food to poor people. Applications are due June 30, 2009. Visit the website listed above to download application guidelines and forms.

Financial Literacy Programs Funded

[National Credit Union Foundation Innovation Grants](#)

The mission of the National Credit Union Foundation is to promote and improve consumer financial independence by way of credit unions. Through Innovation Grants, the Foundation funds projects that will help low-wealth individuals and families reach life-changing goals in the following five areas: Financial Education, Transaction Services, Savings, Credit, and Homeownership. Credit unions as well as organizations that partner with credit unions are eligible to apply. Projects should leverage funding from other sources, have a plan for sustainability, and demonstrate potential to be replicated by other credit unions. Applications are due by June 30, 2009. Detailed application guidelines are available on the Foundation's website.

Violence Prevention Programs for Youth Funded

[United Methodist Church: A Brighter Future for Children and Youth](#)

A Brighter Future for Children and Youth, an initiative of the United Methodist Church, supports nonprofit organizations that address the needs of children and young people age 5 to 18 in the areas of violence prevention, anti-abuse, and relationship abuse. Grants of up to \$4,000 are provided to small-scale, community, and church-based programs. Priority is given to programs that have significant involvement of women and youth at the grassroots level. Funded programs should demonstrate the ability to raise additional funds from other sources. Grant requests must be submitted by July 1, 2009. Application guidelines and forms may be downloaded from the website listed above.

Seed Grants for Dementia Day Programs

[The Brookdale Foundation National Group Respite Program](#)

The Brookdale Foundation works to advance the fields of geriatrics and gerontology and to improve the lives of senior citizens. The Brookdale National Group Respite Program supports community-based efforts throughout the U.S. to develop social model respite programs for elders with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia, and their families. The initiative awards seed grants to service providers that are planning to implement new, dementia-specific Group Respite or Early Memory Loss programs. Up to 40 programs will receive grants for \$7,500 in the first year. Grants are renewable at \$3,000 in the second year, based upon evaluation of the first year's activities and potential for future continuity of the

program. The application deadline is July 1, 2009. Visit the website listed above to download the 2009 RFP application form and guidelines.

Grants Promote Local Health Collaborations

[Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Local Funding Partnerships](#)

Local Funding Partnerships (LFP), a collaborative program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and local grantmakers, supports innovative, community-based projects throughout the United States. Through LFP, a local grantmaker proposes a funding partnership with RWJF to provide seed money for a new project that addresses the health or health care problems of people who are not reached by traditional health and social services or for whom existing services are insufficient. Projects are expected to create meaningful change by addressing health in the context of complex social factors that impede good health for society's most vulnerable people. Programs that address access to medical care – such as the start-up of community health centers, mobile vans, dental services, or school-based health centers – also are not likely to be competitive. LFP provides grants of \$200,000 to \$500,000 per project, which must be matched dollar for dollar by local grantmakers such as community foundations, family foundations, corporate funders, etc. Brief proposals are due July 7, 2009. Visit the website listed above for program details and online application information.

Early Child Care Programs Funded

[Rosie's For All Kids Foundation](#)

Rosie's For All Kids Foundation awards grants to nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping disadvantaged children and low-income families. The majority of the Foundation's grants are made through the Early Childhood Care and Education program. Priority is given to experienced, community-based programs serving children in low-income areas where many families struggle to find affordable, high-quality early education and care. Types of support include tuition subsidies; small renovations, supplies, and equipment upgrades; playground construction; and staff development opportunities. Grants typically range from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Letters of intent may be submitted throughout the year. Visit the website listed above to take the online eligibility quiz and submit an online application.

Small Grants Assist Domestic Violence Survivors

[Allstate Foundation Education and Job Training Fund](#)

The Allstate Foundation Education and Job Training Fund, established by the Foundation in partnership with National Network to End Domestic Violence, provides small grants to survivors of domestic violence to help them achieve their educational and job related goals. Eligible expenses include books and tuition for school, job skills training, temporary child care, public transportation, etc. Any survivor of domestic violence is eligible to apply; however, the application must be completed by a local domestic violence program or coalition to be accepted. Applications may be submitted at any time. Details about the program are available on the National Network to End Domestic Violence website.

Water/Wastewater Funding Programs

USDA Rural Development provides a number of community facility and water/wastewater funding programs for eligible applicants including public bodies, non-profits, and Indian Tribes in rural Minnesota. If you have a project in mind, we encourage you to file an application at your local USDA Rural Development office to begin the application process.

Roger Clapp - Area Specialist
Baxter Office - 7118 Clearwater Road, Baxter, MN 56425
218-829-5965, ext. 155
roger.clapp@mn.usda.gov

Kathy Luepke - Area Specialist
Bemidji Office - 3217 Bemidji Avenue North, Bemidji, MN 56601
218-751-2689, ext. 152
kathy.luepke@mn.usda.gov

Rural Development has invested about \$418 million since 2001 through its Water/Environmental and Community Facility Programs to upgrade water, sewer, storm water systems and essential community facility projects throughout Minnesota. Rural Development accepts applications for these programs at any time and is asking all rural communities, non-profits and Indian Tribes with potential projects to get in touch with their local Rural Development office for more information.

For further information on these funding programs, please visit the Minnesota Rural Development web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn. Once you are at the web site, click on the community programs banner for information on water/wastewater or community facilities programs. You can also learn about opportunities for housing and business programs at this site.

Resources

Minnesota Stimulus Package

The Minnesota Management and Budget office has posted an updated version of the report with much more detailed information. The information provided is a great resource for anyone trying to understand the impact the stimulus dollars could have on Minnesota.

<http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/doc/citizen/summary.pdf>

The 3/50 Project

www.the350project.org/home.html

- Pick three local businesses you would miss
- Try and spend at least \$50 a month (combined) in those businesses.
- For every \$100 spent in locally owned stores, \$68 returns to the community, only \$43 of that spent in a chain, and \$0 of that spent online.

National Directory of Farmers Markets

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has been maintaining a National Directory of Farmers Markets since 1994. This resource is used both by members of the public looking to locate a farmers market, and by media, policymakers, and a growing number of academics and educators who seek to better understand farmers market characteristics and their economic potential. *We need your help in making sure that the most current and accurate information is being made available in a timely manner!*

AMS and the national Farmers Market Coalition (FMC) have a mutual interest in maintaining the quality and accuracy of the National Farmers Market Directory and in promoting the importance of farmers markets. Therefore, we request you to send your current market listings to [Velma Lakins](#), AMS Agricultural Marketing Specialist by May 1, 2009. This will allow AMS personnel to fully update the Directory in advance of National Farmers Market Week (August 2-8, 2009).

This year, the FMC is planning a variety of promotional efforts in partnership with AMS to help market managers promote and enhance consumer awareness of National Farmers Market Week. Consumers

will be invited to find a farmers market in their community by visiting the [National Directory of Farmers Market website](#) and to find organizations in their State actively working to strengthen farmers markets on the [FMC website](#). Market managers, stakeholders, planners, and community members will be given access to a variety of consumer education tools through the FMC website that will help them communicate to the general public, both during National Farmers Market Week and throughout the year.

We request that you submit the following information for each of the farmers markets in your respective State or locality:

- Market Name
- Months of Operation
- Market Location (City, State, Zip)
- Name of County
- Days of Operation
- Hours of Operation
- Mailing Address (City, State, Zip)
- Covered Facility: Yes or No
- Does the market accept SFMNP Coupons?
- Does the market accept WIC Coupons?
- Does the market accept EBT?
- Market Manager Name
- Market Manager Contact Number
- Market Manager E-mail Address
- Market Website Address

The AMS staff is currently working with the Secretary's office to have the 2009 National Farmers Market Week Proclamation signed. The signed proclamation will be made available on the [USDA Farmers Market website](#) as soon as it is available.

> [View the 2008 Farmers Market Proclamation](#)

Working together, we can cultivate a valuable national resource that will help everyone more effectively communicate the reach and importance of farmers markets. Thank you in advance and best of luck in the 2009 season!

This newsletter is designed to share funding opportunities, resources, and conferences or training events of common interest for program participants and supporters of the Initiative Foundation. For more information about these and other training opportunities, contact Dan Frank, dfrank@ifound.org.

If you wish to be removed from this mailing list or if you have other names/e-mails to add please contact Leah Posterick, lposterick@ifound.org.