

**Michigan Food Hub Learning and Innovation Network
Recruiting Local/Regional Network Consultants – 2013-14
Benton Harbor, Grand Rapids, Thumb, and Flint/Saginaw areas**

Background

The Michigan Food Hub Learning and Innovation Network is led by the MSU Center for Regional Food Systems, in coordination with Morse Marketing Connections LLC. The network is funded by a grant from the Kresge Foundation for the period June 2012 through June 2014.

In the first year of the project we hired eight local consultants to work in various areas of Michigan as part of the network. This summer we plan to bring consultants back to seven of those eight areas. We also plan to hire up to four new local consultants in other areas of the state through professional service contracts to provide local support to existing or emerging food hubs. Each of the new consultants will focus on one of the following areas: Benton Harbor, Grand Rapids, Flint/Saginaw and the Thumb (Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties). The consultant must live in or near the target area she/he is applying for to be considered. Out of state consultants and/or consultants residing outside of the target areas will not be considered. The specific roles and services provided by these consultants are described below. These consultants will be selected based on:

- 1) Experience and knowledge of the food system in their local region including work with food value chains, local farmers, local food buyers, small business and nonprofit support organizations and relationships with state agencies and networks.
- 2) Local reputation as a team builder, connector, facilitator, and food systems leader
- 3) Experience, knowledge and connections to underserved communities of these regions.
- 4) Availability of funds

Local Consultant Roles

- Be a local resource and connector for existing and emerging food hubs
- Be a local champion to assist in connecting constituents and organizations particularly from underserved communities to the regional food systems discussions and to the statewide network
- Participate in 90-120 minute teleconference every other month to share learning among local networks, with other existing local consultants, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) staff and state network co-conveners.
- Prepare brief reports on progress for the teleconferences
- Participate in 3-4 statewide meetings through attendance, providing updates on local network activities and food hub progress at selected meetings when appropriate
- Encourage existing & new local network members to attend statewide meetings
- Co-convene 2-3 local/regional food hub network meetings annually; these meetings may be in cooperation with other networks.
- Provide, if possible, a 10% in-kind time match as part of their commitment to their local area

Application procedure

Please send an updated resume and cover letter to Rich Pirog and Marty Gerencer (contact information below) by **Monday, July 1, 2013**. The cover letter should contain:

- The area or region of Michigan that you propose to cover – Benton Harbor, Grand Rapids, Thumb, or Flint/Saginaw
- How your skills and experience match up with the descriptions above
- Confirmation that you can enter into a consulting arrangement contract and are not employed by MSU, other Michigan educational institutions, or state government
- Willingness and commitment to attend statewide meetings and participate in recurring phone calls.

Applicants will be reviewed and interviewed by phone by the project co-conveners. Positions may shift to another part of the state if suitable candidates cannot be found in these areas. Professional service contracts of \$5,000, which includes travel expense reimbursement, will be drawn for successful consultant applicants on an annual basis for up to two years; continuation beyond first year is based on performance of the contract deliverables.

Send resume and cover letter by e-mail to:

Rich Pirog, MSU Center for Regional Food Systems --- rspirog@msu.edu

Marty Gerencer, Morse Marketing Connections, LLC --- marty.gerencer@gmail.com

