

Feeding Innovation

Developing Healthy Food Businesses



**SC COMMUNITY
LOAN FUND**

investing in community

South Carolina Community Loan Fund (SCCLF) is a nonprofit community development financial institution (CDFI) that provides financing and technical assistance for community development projects in underserved and disadvantaged communities throughout the state.

We finance projects that provide affordable housing, create access to food and essential services, increase the quality and availability of neighborhood facilities, create employment opportunities, attract additional investment, and strengthen the social and economic fabric of the community.

ABOUT

Feeding Innovation is a comprehensive technical assistance program designed to support entrepreneurs interested in developing or expanding healthy food businesses in food deserts or underserved areas of the state. Examples of these types of businesses include farmers' markets, mobile markets, corner stores, and CSAs. The goal of the program is to increase access to healthy food while supporting the development of strong, local entrepreneurs and community-based businesses.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Participants will engage in an 8-week entrepreneurial training program with NxLevel Courses, offered through Clemson Extension, and work one-on-one with a business mentor that will help and support you outside of weekly classes. The program culminates with a live pitch to a panel of judges, with each business plan 1) proposing an innovative, market-based, business-oriented solution to the issue of local, healthy food access; 2) targeting a community with limited access to healthy food; and 3) incorporating community engagement to ensure local needs are met. The entrepreneur with the strongest business plan receives \$12,500 in seed capital for their business. At the end of the program, all participants should know what steps to take to grow their business and how they need to execute those steps. The only cost of the program is your time and commitment.

PAST WINNERS INCLUDE

Lowcountry Street Grocery

Charleston, SC

Good to Go Mobile Market

Greenville, SC

Truluck Farms

Timmonsville, SC

Banana Box Market

Boiling Springs, SC

Ferse's Specialty Store and Fresh Market

Orangeburg, SC

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