



## **Support the Emerging Farmers' Conference by writing your Sponsorship into a Grant Application!**

At the Latino Economic Development Center, we have been sponsoring the Emerging Farmers' Conference at a Sustainer Level for over 5 years. We believe in the conference and are happy to support it financially. By writing the conference sponsorship into our grant applications we secure more money for the conference while simultaneously helping our grant applications look more attractive to reviewers. Below are some key points about adding the sponsorship into your grant application:

1. The EFC is a large event that brings in over **300** farmers each year. **This is a lot farmers you get to add to your list of farms you support!** Working with Emerging Farmers is slow patient work with often a relatively small number of farmers being worked with throughout a grant period. It is sometimes hard to get large number of farmers into your grant application. Adding the EFC to your grant immediately impacts the numbers you can report!
2. The EFC provides an incredible report each year on the conference and this report is loved by grant administrators. We send this report each year along with our organizational report to grant administrators and it is very well received.
3. It is important to include your organization's time participating in the conference planning and sub-committees.
4. Remember to ask for a letter of support from The Food Group. They will happily write a letter of support for your grant application.
5. Ask for the amount your organization is comfortable with. We suggest \$5,000 to \$10,000 but are happy to work with your budget.
6. The Emerging Farmers' Conference is farmer-led and it is the farmers who decide what workshops there will be each year. If your organization would like to offer a workshop at the conference, please do not put the workshop in your grant application as a certainty. You can use language about what your organization can offer if the farmers are interested in that subject.

Please feel free to reach out to **Laura Mirafuentes** at the Food Group if you have any questions. Her e-mail is [lmirafuentes@thefoodgroupmn.org](mailto:lmirafuentes@thefoodgroupmn.org) and her office number is 763-450-4209.



**LEDC grant language:**

***Sponsorship of Emerging Farmers:***

LEDC will participate each year in the planning and implementation of the Emerging Farmers’ Conference in St. Paul, MN. This conference averages over **400** participants each year and over **300** of these participants are socially disadvantaged farmers. USDA staff from FSA and NRCS regularly attend the conference, present at workshops, and table in the main hall of the conference building. This conference is interpreted into **8** language groups and is completely centered on socially disadvantaged farmers. It is the country’s premier farming conference oriented towards creating a voice for socially disadvantaged farmers. LEDC will help sponsor the conference each year of the grant period with a \$10,000 sponsorship. In addition, we believe this conference will be a strong recruitment tool for our programs in the second and third year.

**Big River Farm grant language:**

Big River Farms has hosted the Emerging Farmers Conference (EFC)—the largest annual conference for underserved farmers in North America—for over 15 years. The EFC provides access to education and resources, fosters relationships between farmers and community partners, and empowers participants to lead change in their communities. A total of 454 attendees—including 359 farmers—registered for the 2021 conference.

Interpretation and translation is provided in eight languages at the Emerging Farmers Conference and in at least two languages in the farmer education program according to farmer needs. USDA programs table at the EFC each year and have a chance to connect one-on-one with a very diverse set of farmers and communicate through interpreters.

An additional opportunity for sharing learnings is the annual Emerging Farmers Conference. Over the past 16 years, the conference has reached more than 2,500 farmers from 36 cultures, 26 states, and three countries. A collaborative of immigrant and BIPOC farmers, volunteers, and government, nonprofit, and University of Minnesota personnel plan the agenda.