

## MDARD Grant Programs



MDARD offers three competitive grant programs.

- Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG)
- Strategic Growth Initiative (SGI)
- Value Added/Regional Food System



## Specialty Crop Block Grant Program



- Enhances the competitiveness of **specialty crops**.
  - fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture)
- Funding comes to Michigan from the Farm Bill

## Specialty Crop Block Grant Program



### Eligibility

- Non-Profit and For-Profit entities
- Local, State, Federal and Tribal Governments
- Colleges and Universities (non primary)

Funds **cannot** benefit a single organization, institution or individual.



## Specialty Crop Block Grant Program



### Goals and Objectives

- Enhance the marketability and competitiveness of specialty crops
- Expand access to health and safe Michigan grown specialty crops
- Expand stewardship practices, natural resource conservation and the development of ecosystem services
- Ensure the viability of Michigan specialty crops by investing in the next generation of operators

## Specialty Crop Block Grant Program



### **Project Examples**

- A non-profit requests funding to contract with a university to conduct research on the feasibility of planting, cultivating and growing a specialty crop in a particular area; results of which can be shared with many growers throughout the state.
- A non-profit organization requests funds to conduct an advertising campaign to benefit specialty crop members.

## Strategic Growth Initiative



### **Program Goal**

Increase the economic impact of the Food and Agriculture Industry in Michigan.

### **Program Priorities**

Remove existing barriers and leverage opportunities identified as critical to business development and growth.



## Strategic Growth Initiative

- MDARD received 48 applications totaling more than \$6.4 million in funding.

**Snapshot of Past Awardees**

- MSU, Department of Entomology
- THUMBWORKS, Marlette
- Michigan Bean Commission
- Eastern Market Corporation



## Value Added- Regional Food Systems



Establish, retain, expand, attract and/or develop value added agricultural processing and/or develop regional food systems by enhancing or facilitating aggregation and distribution of Michigan grown agricultural products.

## Value Added- Regional Food Systems



### Food System Eligible Entities

- Agricultural Cooperative
- Producer Network
- Producer Associations
- Nonprofit Corporation
- Economic Development Organizations



## Value Added- Regional Food Systems



- The department received 63 proposals, requesting \$7.8 million in grant funding for the first year of this grant program. MDARD funded 14 of those proposals.



- In 2014, MDARD received 53 proposals requesting more than \$3.4 million in funding. 13 were funded.

## Value Added- Regional Food Systems



- YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids
  - YMCA Veggie Van
- Northwest Michigan Council of Governments
  - Grand Traverse Regional Market
- Marquette Food Co-op
  - The U.P. Food Exchange (UPFE/Exchange)

