

From: SC COMMUNITY LOAN FUND <michelle@sccommunityloanfund.org>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 4/17/2017 2:33:22 PM
Subject: Fighting Food Deserts and Feeding Innovation

April 2017

Increasing Food Access and Investing in Innovation

Over one million South Carolinians live in food deserts, meaning they have limited access to healthy food. The impact food deserts have on our health is undeniable: South Carolina ranks 43rd in overall health indicators. Fortunately for the 1 in 5 residents who struggle to access nutritious food, community members and hopeful entrepreneurs are creating innovative, market-driven solutions to the problem. And South Carolina Community Loan Fund's Feeding Innovation program was created to help these aspiring business owners feed their communities.

Germaine Jenkins of [Fresh Future Farm](#) was the inaugural Feeding Innovation winner in 2014. Just three years later, she has turned her seed money into a bustling urban farm which provides fresh, locally grown produce to a neighborhood that hasn't been home to a grocery store for over 11 years.

Germaine says Feeding Innovation wasn't just about the seed money; she received training and guidance which was critical to the launch of Fresh Future Farm. The process helped her solidify her business plan and offered perspective on strategies for success.

"I want to be the first farmer here," says Germaine, "but not the only one."

You can help more fledgling organizations like Fresh Future Farm once was by supporting SCCLF on Midlands Gives Day!

By making a \$20 minimum donation on May 2nd at www.MidlandsGives.org/SCCLF, you and other innovation investors will be part of a future entrepreneur's vision of a market-driven approach to increasing healthy food access. You'll also be part of SCCLF's vision of a more equitable South Carolina.

Visit our [Midlands Gives profile](#) to learn more about your generosity can support the Feeding Innovation program.

Advocate for Affordable Housing

[Ask Your Senators to Support Affordable Housing](#)

Use the link above to find and contact your state Senator regarding [S. 346](#). Contact them **today** to ask them to support this bill, which would allow local governments to use inclusionary strategies in planning for affordable housing.

Events

[2017 Annual Meeting](#)

May 2, 2017 | 11:00AM - 1:00PM | North Charleston, SC

Equity Advancing Equity: Leveraging Grants and Donations to Support Community is a panel discussion with borrowers about putting support to work in our communities. Lunch provided, complimentary tickets reserved at the link above.

Midlands Loan Application Workshop

May 11, 2017 | 12:30PM - 4:30PM | Sumter, SC

The workshop will provide an introduction to SCCLF's policies and application package. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions about the lending process and discuss their projects.

PeeDee Loan Application Workshop

May 17, 2017 | 5:00-7:00PM | Marion, SC

This session will provide all of the same helpful information and guidance as the Midlands workshop, but more convenient to participants in the PeeDee region.

Announcing Feeding Innovation: Colleton

September 12, 2017 | Walterboro, SC

SCCLF and Clemson Agricultural Extension are accepting applications for the 8th Feeding Innovation competition: Innovation Colleton. The application deadline is August 18th. Follow the link above to learn more about the program and how to apply.

Save the Date for the SC Food Access Summit

October 2, 2017 | 8:30AM - 4:30PM | Columbia, SC

The 3rd annual summit will focus on local food policy development. Session topics include advocacy and policy, community economic development, transportation and food access, and healthy food projects.

Since 2004, we have provided 313 loans for \$39 million in financing that facilitated more than \$246.3 million in community development projects; we financed 1,410 housing units, 9 healthy food outlets, 10 community facilities, and 16 community businesses, creating or retaining 2,896 jobs and providing a safe, affordable place to call home for 3,525 individuals and families.

INVEST OR GIVE BORROW IMPACT ABOUT

© 2015 SC Community Loan Fund
All Rights Reserved

South Carolina Community Loan Fund, 1064 Gardner Rd. Suite 302, Charleston, SC 29407

SafeUnsubscribe™ kester@aging.sc.gov

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by michelle@sccommunityloanfund.org in collaboration with

Try it free today