One Season

ONE SEASON PLAYBOOK

The Community Funding Playbook

Where community growing projects find their money, and how to scope one before you apply.



Pickup day at a community installation.

The program types communities look at

- **Federal local food programs.** USDA has invested significantly in local and regional food systems, with programs aimed at helping food banks, schools, child care programs, and Tribal communities source fresh, locally grown food.
- **Health-focused grants.** Foundations and health systems fund food-access work because fresh-food access supports healthier eating in the communities they serve.

- **Tribal programs.** Food-sovereignty funding exists specifically to put food production under community control on sovereign land.
- **School nutrition budgets.** Districts already buy produce; some redirect part of that spend to producing it.
- **Local philanthropy.** A visible, permanent fresh-food asset is the kind of project local funders like to put their name on.

Why the lease model matters for grants

Many grant programs fund operations more readily than construction. Because One Season structures are leased like equipment rather than built as capital projects, a project shows up in a budget as a predictable monthly cost. That shape fits annual grant cycles and program budgets far better than a one-time building campaign does.

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How to scope before you apply

Funders respond to specifics. The scoping work we do with communities covers the site, the people served, what the harvest is for, and who will run the system. From that comes a configuration, a cost, and the numbers a grant writer actually needs.

See how Tribal Nations, schools, and nonprofits run the system.

[See the community system →]

Figures are modeled targets from preliminary engineering, not guarantees. Programs are tuned per project, market, and climate.