

GEORGIA ORGANICS: GEORGIA FOOD OASIS



Georgia Organics is a nonprofit organization with the mission of connecting organic food from Georgia farms to Georgia families. It is the oldest statewide nonprofit providing direct support to small and organic farmers.



ACCELERATOR

Continued engagement of original Georgia Food Oasis communities, Augusta and Columbus, has been important to ensuring they are able to mentor communities that are newer to the network.



SPEED BUMP

COVID-19 has introduced uncertainty in the lives of many farmers, local businesses, and community organizations, and will impact the ability of local food coalitions to work together. Administratively, it has become a challenge for funding if the recipient is not a 501(c)(3).



NEXT STOP

Georgia Organics is seeking opportunities to strengthen partnerships around racial equity. The organization is seeking to intentionally build relationships with community organizations led by Black, Indigenous, and people of color. Further, Georgia Organics is in conversation with communities to discuss the establishment of a food fund, with local ownership and decision-making for how the funds are distributed.



SOURCES

Foundations and individuals contribute to the fund, which has distributed \$120,000 in minigrants to 45 recipients since May 2016.



USES

The Georgia Food Oasis fund provides minigrants between \$1,500-2,500 to local food coalitions to support their self-development. Focus areas include communications, community engagement, and partner-engagement strategies. So far, six communities have been recognized with this designation for working to improve access, supply, and consumption of healthy local food.



STRUCTURE

Five thousand dollars in minigrants is reserved for each Georgia Food Oasis community, with additional matching funds available for crowd-funding events, such as "Potluck + Pitch." During a Potluck + Pitch, the community committee selects up to five pitch-makers, and community members vote on the best pitch, with a prize between \$1,000 and \$1,500.



Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

