

FOOD SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Making Sense of the RFSP: Webinar Presenters



Patrick Kelly

Patrick has been a Lead Grants Management Specialist with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service since September 2019. He currently leads a team of specialists focusing on AMS's Initiatives and Partnerships Program, which includes the Regional Food System Partnerships grant program. Prior to coming to AMS, he was a program analyst for 5 years in SNAP retailer policy at USDA's Food and Nutrition Service where he managed the SNAP at Farmers Markets programs, including the Farmers Markets SNAP Support Grants program.



Angela Davis

Angela joined USDA AMS, in August 2019. She works with the IPP (Initiatives and Partnerships Program) Team as a Grants Management Specialist for the Regional Food System Partnerships program and the Lead Grants Management Specialists for the Dairy Business Innovation (DBI) Initiatives program. Prior to USDA, Angela worked for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, as an Economic Development Specialist.



Amanda LaSala

Amanda LaSala is a Grant Management Specialist for AMS, working on several grant programs promoting local and regional food systems including the Regional Food Systems Partnerships Program (RFSP). Before joining USDA, she worked at Environmental Defense Fund as a Diversity Fellow. In her role, she was responsible for managing several projects that supported pollinator habitat restoration efforts on working farms with socially disadvantaged farming and ranching communities in California. She also served in the Peace Corps as a Community Economic Development volunteer in Colombia, providing business advising, technical training, and project management support to youth, small farmers, and business owners. She works and lives in Washington, DC.



Suanne Unger

Suanne Unger has worked for the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association in Anchorage, Alaska since 2001. She is currently the Wellness Lead and oversees the USDA Regional Food Systems Partnerships Grant.



Rachael Miller

Rachael Miller chairs the Alaska Food Policy Council and is an Associate Professor of Business at Alaska Pacific University, where she teaches marketing, entrepreneurship, and manages their 800-acre Kellogg Farm Campus. After kicking off her food career at 12 years old, transplanting seedlings in a greenhouse, her food systems resume has grown to include commercial fishing in Alaska, launching a street food business in Benin West Africa, joining a software startup for shared kitchens, and leading a variety of community-centered project.



Robbi Mixon

Robbi is the executive director of the Alaska Food Policy Council. She is also the Local Foods Director for a regional non-profit, Cook Inletkeeper, organizing programs like the Alaska Farmers Market Association and the Alaska Food Hub, and is working to Alaskanizing “Salmon-Safe” agricultural practices. She recently retired after 10 years of directing the Homer Farmers Market.



Denise Miller

Denise Miller has been the executive director of the New Mexico Farmers’ Marketing Association (NMFMA) since 2005. Denise directs the NMFMA’s wide-ranging food value chain activities devoted to programs, projects, and resources that help New Mexico farmers and food producers improve profitability, and that improve the nutritional health of communities across the state. Denise has helped grow the NMFMA from a state-registered non-profit with a \$200,000 annual budget to a 501c3 organization now managing more than \$2 million annually, much of which are pass-thru funds for food incentive programs, farmer grants, and partner resources.



Bryan Crawford-Garrett

Bryan Crawford-Garrett is the Food and Agriculture Policy Officer at the Thornburg Foundation in New Mexico, where he manages the Foundation’s Food and Agriculture strategy and grantmaking portfolio. Bryan has nearly 20 years of experience working to strengthen local food and agricultural systems – in New Mexico as well as in numerous countries throughout the world.



Renee Catacalos

Renee Brooks Catacalos is Senior Director, Membership and Outreach for SAFSF. She is focused on strengthening outreach to members and the broader philanthropic community, creating opportunities for member engagement and benefit, leveraging new resource partnerships, and positioning SAFSF as the leading voice for sustainable agriculture and food systems philanthropy.



Elizabeth Atwell

Elizabeth Atwell is a Project Manager with the Wallace Center’s Food Systems Leadership team. Elizabeth brings eight years of experience working to support the growth of thriving regional food systems rooted in equity, community power, and connection to the earth. Elizabeth’s work centers around fostering opportunities to forge collaborations and build the individual and collective leadership capacity of food systems leaders across the country.