

# TOWN OF SPRINGERVILLE, ARIZONA



## TOWN OF SPRINGERVILLE –PRODUCERS’ CO-OP FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION, ARTS & JOB CREATION

# TARGETED AREAS REQUIRED BY THE GRANT

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. **DEVELOP A CO-OP** A Co-op can be used to accomplish almost any purpose to fulfill a need, obtain a product or service, produce a product or service or secure employment

- **Create facilities (Greenhouse and Co-op office)**

- **OFFICE SPACE/GREENHOUSE:**

A 12 x 24 building will be purchased and used as the central office. Both the greenhouse (30’ x 14’) and the ‘office’ can be housed behind Town Hall on the Town’s property. The Town has water and sewer to the site. Electric will be arranged thru Town Hall.

- **CO-OP:** The Co-op ‘office’ would be used as a multi use facility for the entrepreneurs including a component for an incubator where entrepreneurs would learn how to fine tune their business skills; a classroom for instruction on various topics (growing sustainably, food market, art market, grants, farmer’s/producer market. Additionally, the Town has an existing heated ADA public bathroom adjacent to this facility on the Town’s property that could be utilized during business hours.

Cooperative is promoting cooperation among members to grow individually and as a group.

Cooperative is being established mostly according to the needs of the people in their community thus the strength of its function relies heavily on the patronage of its members. When a cooperative grows the members benefited from the community because it helps its member by sharing profit and helped them in job creation.

- **PRODUCER/FARMER’S MARKET**

It is anticipated that a seasonal Producer/Farmer’s market would open the following year providing at least 20-30 vendor spots

It has been determined that a local Producer’s market not only provides food, jobs, arts and crafts and plant sales, but also has a tourism factor. People enjoy shopping at open markets, from local artisans, purchasing plants, fresh vegetables and value added products. This market will also be a platform for our numerous artist/herbalists to sell their wares producing many much needed part time jobs. Location matters and has its own success ratio due to the geographic location of Springerville that provides abundance historic and recreational activities. Springerville is the GATEWAY TO THE WHITE MOUNTAINS and on a national scenic highway – Highway 60, also known as Coronado’s Trail which is rich in history.

The Producer /Farmers’ market/greenhouse will ultimately provide a platform to create jobs, support local artists/craftsmen as well as support sustainable food production and a unique market within the Apache County region.

2. **NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION – SET UP**

The non profit would have a Board consisting of 5-7 Board members. The Town Council will have oversight of the non-profit.

The Non-profit will be in support of the following activities in support of the Co-Op as well as future endeavors as determined by the Town Council:

- A. Support of the Producer’s Co-op and other economic development projects
- B. Capacity building for organizations to provide technical assistance and help identify lending programs for new and existing employee owned businesses.
- C. It would help to create employment opportunities for the region excluded from traditional employment models, including formerly incarcerated, low skill, veteran and new American populations. It could provide funding and technical support for creative community problem solving through small business creation. This could include assisting the creation of small or corner food businesses in neighborhoods with food insecurity, and provide a gathering space or neighborhood amenity businesses
- D. Future funding/grants: Future grants could be written for continued income/programs as well as percentage of market proceeds and membership fees.
- E. Create jobs and entrepreneurial development

The co-op will focus primarily on agriculture products (home grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, seeds, workshops, as well as arts from the local community in support of entrepreneurial development).

- F. Creating fixed assets which the Town would have oversight on as the Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation designate
- G. The vision of cooperative is in working together to reach the common goal which is to be a progressive individual by depending among them. Members of cooperatives may allow themselves voluntarily to serve and become a significant worker that will definitely contribute to the success of the organization.
- H. **Entrepreneurial Development and Small Business Support.** The co-op would also support the creation and growth of new and small businesses that could manifest from the Producer's co-operative. The Producer's non-profit organization and its functionality would also act as an incubator for future projects of this nature as well as how to be successful in a business.
- I. **Create jobs and Entrepreneurial Development and Small Business Support.** The co-op would also support the creation and growth of new and small businesses that could manifest from the Producer's co-operative. The Producer's non-profit organization and its functionality would also act as an incubator for future projects of this nature as well as how to be successful in a business.  
Activities include:
  - (a) training and technical assistance on how to start a business;
  - (b) training and technical assistance on business management issues;
  - (c) mentoring programs on how to grow and operate an hydroponics/greenhouse successfully;
  - (d) creation of entrepreneurial support networks;
  - (e) small business incubators that combine space, shared services, and mentoring for new businesses;
  - (f) financing targeted to start-up businesses through microloan and seed capital funds;
  - (g) programs for small, minority businesses, such as small business set-asides, and vendor development. An area of growing activity has been in promoting and supporting entrepreneurship/arts and small business development.
- J. **Potential for Community and Economic Development**  
One of the principal aims of this project is to support the challenges of local economic growth, health and nutrition, and environmental sustainability which have become increasingly important to residents of Springerville
- K. **Small Business Development**

The Chamber of Commerce for the Round Valley Area will be actively involved in the input criteria for the development of small businesses as well as NPC's Small Business Development Center.

3. **GREENHOUSE (30 X 14)**

A year round greenhouse would thrive in near 90 degree temperatures during the warmer months from passive solar. The plants would survive largely on natural winter light. Fans would force rising heat down into a rock storage area (passive solar) that captures the day's warmth and releases it at night. On very cold nights, the BTU heater would offset temperatures to keep it at no less than 42 degrees providing an energy efficient greenhouse.

Sustainable growing such as growing fodder (oats or barley) could also be implemented into this design providing additional income as well as feed to the community for horses, cattle, sheep and goats. In the future, a drying component could be added to bale the fodder to make shipping easier.

- **Growing Food Crops**

The growing system will be thru a hydroponic systems will adapt to most common plant types – leafy salad crops, herbs, tomato, pepper, and cucumber. **Hydroponics** is a subset of hydroculture and is a method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions, in water, without soil. Terrestrial plants may be grown with their roots in the mineral solution only, or in an inert medium, such as perlite or gravel.



within a circular frame which rotates continuously during the entire growth cycle of whatever plant is being grown. Due to the small foot print a rotary hydroponic system has, it allows for more plant material to be grown per sq foot of floor space than other traditional hydroponic systems.