

MICHIGAN FOOD AND FARMING SYSTEMS
IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Michigan Food and Farming Systems (<https://www.miffs.org/>) has been dedicated to connecting beginning and historically underserved farmers to each other and to resource opportunities with the values of social justice, environmental stewardship, and farm profitability since 1998. To this end, MIFFS seeks two new board members.

MIFFS currently works in three main areas to:

- Enable and **support farmer networks** to build stronger communities through peer-to-peer discussion and mentorship (Red de Productores Hispanos, Vets-in-Ag, and Women-in- Ag)
- Identify and respond with adaptive programming to **address barriers to USDA Farm Bill programming access** for underserved farmers
- **Advocate for the needs of underserved farmers and food system workers**, both rural and urban, to government and industry partners
- Collaborate with farmers and partners to **cultivate a culture of food safety** through MI Group GAP and other food safety programs

We are looking for people who share MIFFS interest in farmer networks, small farm business incubator support, and food safety and have the time to invest 5-10 hours per month to promote MIFFS programming and carry its mission forward. We are especially looking for persons who have skills in one of two main areas:

- Urban Agriculture: MIFFS is looking for individuals that understand the reality of urban farmers and growers and can advocate for programmatic and deliverable insights of working in urban areas with underserved communities
- New Americans and Immigrants: MIFFS is looking for individuals that have experience in advocating for New American and immigrants communities needs in the food systems and beyond
- Fund Development: MIFFS is looking for individuals with experience and expertise in fund development to increase our institutional capacity and financial sustainability to serve underrepresented farmers and growers in Michigan

Please note that no board member will be required to work alone, but only to take on a leadership role in their area of expertise.

If you are interested in one of these Board positions, please fill out the attached application and indicate which of the two positions best align with your skills. Email the completed application to info@miffs.org

Applications are due March 15. Final decisions will be in the first week of April. Email info@miffs.org with questions and a board member will follow up with you.



Board of Directors Application

Michigan Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS) is seeking individuals to join our Board of Directors who can provide essential leadership to the small, statewide organization. Please complete and submit the attached skills matrix, your resume or cv, and brief response to the following questions by March 15 to info@miffs.org or by mail to 2438 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, MI 48864.

- 1) Why are you interested in serving on MIFFS Board?
- 2) What skills do you have to offer to MIFFS?
- 3) Where is your passion in the food system?

MIFFS Board of Director Expectations

The mission of Michigan Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS) is to connect beginning and historically underserved farmers to each other and to resource opportunities; ensuring social justice, environmental stewardship, and profitability.

As the highest leadership body of MIFFS and to satisfy its fiduciary duties, the board is responsible for:

- Determining the mission and purposes of the organization
- Selecting and evaluating the performance of the chief executives
- Strategic and organizational planning
- Ensuring strong fiduciary oversight and financial management
- Fundraising and resource development
- Enhancing the organization's public image
- Assessing its own performance as the governing body of the organization

Each individual board member is expected to:

- Know the organization's mission, policies, programs, and needs
- Faithfully read and understand the organization's financial statements
- Serve as active advocates and ambassadors for the organization and fully engage in identifying and securing the financial resources and partnerships necessary for the organization to advance its mission, and notify MIFFS staff of any related activity
- Leverage connections, networks, and resources to develop collective action to fully achieve the organization's mission
- Make a significant contribution to MIFFS that is reflective of your own values and means
- Help identify personal connections that can benefit the organization's fundraising and reputational standing, and can influence public policy
- Prepare for, attend, and conscientiously participate in board meetings
- Participate fully in one or more committees
- Commit to 5-10 hours per month, including board meetings and committee work, and submit a yearly report

In addition, board members are expected to follow MIFFS' bylaws, policies, and board resolutions, sign an annual conflict-of-interest disclosure and update it during the year if necessary, as well as disclose potential conflicts before meetings and actual conflicts during meetings, and maintain confidentiality about all internal matters of MIFFS.



**MIFFS Council Recruitment Matrix
February 2020**

**Please indicate your level of experience for each category by checking the box for the appropriate rating scale
(1=Low, 2=Fair, 3=Good, 4=Very Good or 5=Excellent)**

Areas of Expertise / Leadership Qualities	1	2	3	4	5
Administration / Management					
Business Development					
Conservation/ Environment					
Diverse Cultural Perspectives / Identity					
Farming/Agriculture Systems					
Financial Oversight					
Fundraising					
Government / Policy					
Human Resources					
Investment Management					
Innovation					
Land Access / Protection					
Law					
Leadership Skills / Motivator					
Marketing / Public Relations					
Public Health					
Social Justice					
Strategic Planning					
Technology					
Understanding of Community Needs					
Other					
Community Connections					
Agricultural					
Connections to Key Partners					
Corporate					
Education					
Environmental					
Media					
Non-Profit Experience					
Participation in MIFFS farmer networks					
Philanthropy					
Religious Organizations					
Small Business					
Social Services					
Units of Government					
Personal Style					
Consensus Builder					
Good Communicator					
Strategist					
Team Member					
Visionary					

Please indicate your level of experience for each category by checking the box for the appropriate rating scale word (1=Low, 2=Fair, 3=Good, 4=Very Good or 5=Excellent)

**MIFFS Council Recruitment Matrix
February 2020**

Age					
19-34					
35-50					
51-65					
Over 65					
Gender Pronouns					
Male					
Female					
Neutral					
Other					
Geographic Representation	Specify location below				
Upper Peninsula					
Northwest (Lower Peninsula)					
Northeast (Lower Peninsula)					
Mid-Michigan (Lower Peninsula)					
Southwest (Lower Peninsula)					
Southeast (Lower Peninsula)					
Interest in Executive Board position?	Yes	No	Unsure		
2021					
2022					
2023					

Please indicate your level of experience for each category by checking the box for the appropriate rating scale word (1=Low, 2=Fair, 3=Good, 4=Very Good or 5=Excellent)