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Community Ventures Corporation is a relative newcomer to the Local Foods movement in the Bluegrass though we've been planning for it for many years.

CVC's Third Street Exchange at Third and Midland in downtown Lexington was built with an outdoor pavilion to accommodate a farmer's market. Though being constructed for this use, it was not until 2010 that our passion for local food from local farmers resulted in the **East End Community Farmer's Market**. As a result of CVC's partnership with multiple community organizations, fresh local foods can now be found in the food desert of the East End community during the growing season.

To further our entry into the local food economy, CVC has applied to be part of President and Mrs. Obama's **Healthy Food Financing Initiative**. We want to promote a range of interventions that expand access to nutritious foods, eliminate food deserts, and put our community on a better path to healthy lives.

CVC operates an **Agricultural Microenterprise Program**, designed to meet the specialized business training needs of farming families in Kentucky. Our farmers are asking for intensive business training and technical assistance to diversify from tobacco. It is one of CVC's strategic goals to assist tobacco farmers to successfully start ventures which will give them an alternative source of revenue.

The **Kentucky Small, Limited Resource Minority Farmer's Conference** held every fall at Kentucky State University has become a vehicle to get the word out about CVC's business opportunities relating to the development of food related industries. Through a partnership with this conference, farmers from across the state and from several surrounding states are learning how to access resources to grow and expand their farming operations to reach new customers.

Community Ventures Corporation was founded in 1982 to create economic opportunities for low income residents in a four-county area of Central Kentucky. Since that time, CVC has expanded its service area several times in response to demands from local community leaders, partners and customers. CVC now delivers its business development resources throughout the state.

Here at CVC, we are all about our customers. Through our customer's success, we find our success. Partnering with some of the brightest minds in the Bluegrass State, we've joined with over 5,000 entrepreneurs and are happy to be part of the creation of a thousand new businesses.

Working with leadership of new and expanding businesses who are helping rebuild local economies through expanded business activity, stabilization of jobs, and increased new employment opportunities for residents gives us the success we strive for in our work.

Our customers tell us that technical assistance provided by our expert staff is one of CVC's most highly valued services. In fact, the business survival rate is 80% among borrowers over the past few years. Without our customers and the support of the SBA and the USDA, we would not be able to provide this level of quality training and technical assistance.

***Educating and Financing a New Generation of Home and Business Owners***



For more information, please contact CVC at 1-800-299-0267 or go to [www.CVCKY.org](http://www.CVCKY.org).