

Local Food and Farm Council Expands Access to Free Grant Workshops

stthomassource.com/content/2026/02/04/local-food-and-farm-council-expands-access-to-free-grant-workshops/

February 4, 2026



The Local Food and Farm Council will now offer an online option for upcoming workshops. (Photo courtesy VI Local Food and Farm Council)

To reach more participants across the territory, the Local Food and Farm Council has expanded its free TAP Grant Academy to a hybrid format. Attendees can now choose to join the upcoming sessions either in person at the University of the Virgin Islands campuses or virtually from any location.

The workshops are designed to support farmers, fishers, food producers, and related organizations in developing the skills needed to secure funding. Two sessions remain in the current series, scheduled for Friday, Feb. 6, and Friday, March 6, from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

The initiative addresses a critical need in the territory, where approximately 97% of the food supply is imported. By helping local producers access grants and loans, the program aims to strengthen food sovereignty, create a more resilient local economy, and provide communities with fresher, more affordable food options.

The upcoming sessions will cover distinct topics essential for navigating the funding landscape. The February 6th workshop will focus on Writing Successful Grant Proposals, offering practical guidance on crafting strong applications. The March 6 session, Grants, Loans, and Other Resources for Farmers and Fishers, will direct participants to available financial opportunities and support programs.

Experts from the University of the Virgin Islands Office of Sponsored Programs, the Agriculture Business Center, Virgin Islands Good Food, and experienced TAP fellows are slated to lead presentations.

Attendance Details:

Advance Registration is required for all participants. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/TAPGrantAcademy> or call 340-693-1003.

Registrants will select their preferred attendance method:

In person on St Croix: UVI Albert Sheen Campus, Research and Technology Park, Large Conference Center.

In person on St. Thomas: UVI Orville E. Kean Campus, School of Business, Chase Auditorium.

Virtual Attendance: A secure access link will be provided after registration.

The LFFC is responsible for guiding the implementation of the Territorial Agriculture Plan. Its membership includes the commissioners of the Departments of Agriculture and Education, the President of the University of the Virgin Islands, and appointed honorary farmers and fishers.

For more information about the TAP Grant Academy or the Local Food and Farm Council, contact 340-693-1003, email vilocalfoodandfarmcouncil@doa.vi.gov, or visit the official [website](#).

Editor's Note: This story has been corrected to list the correct number for information about the TAP Grant Academy and Local Food and Farm Council. It is 340-693-1003.

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