



July 30, 2023

## LETTER OF SUPPORT

Texas Center for Local Food  
201 North Main Street  
Elgin, Texas. 78621

Dear Texas Center for Local Food:

Farmshare Austin has a mission to grow a healthy, just and equitable local food system by increasing community food access and cultivating new farmers. Located on a 10-acre certified organic farm in Eastern Travis County, Farmshare's education programs center on launching new farmers into successful careers in organic and sustainable farming, focusing on the first 10 years of farming. The program includes both hands-on, classroom and community learning opportunities, with an emphasis on the business skills needed to run a successful business.

We are very supportive of your proposed project to create an educational resource for farmers in the form of the Texas Farm-Based Education Handbook. Many of our students and alumni are interested in hosting on-farm education events to connect with the community as well as to create another source of revenue for their new businesses. This handbook will give them the guidance to create and maintain robust programming.

If your application is selected for funding, Farmshare Austin will support this project through participation in the topic team which will review and develop the Texas Farm-Based Education Workbook. Our 10 years of experience in training new farmers will provide insights on the content and formatting of the curriculum.

The Texas Farm-Based Education Workbook is a unique opportunity to support farmers while shaping the next generation of farmers in the Texas food system through education and community building.

We will support the 2024-25 Texas Farm-Based Education Workbook proposal for the period of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026 in the following way(s):

- Providing the space to host one Field Day education event to develop the curriculum in the Fall of 2024

Sincerely,

Michelle Akindiya  
Education Director  
michelle@farmshareaustin.org