

Farmers + Vendors Resource List

Hard Times & Personal Support Resources

1. Cumberland County Resource Directory – Compiled by county offices; includes food, housing, medical, and utility assistance.
 (717) 240-7800 |  [Cumberland County Human Services](#)
2. Family Life Center – Carlisle Area – Counseling, parenting support, and crisis intervention.
 155 N Hanover St, Carlisle, PA 17013
 (717) 243-6540
3. Children & Youth Services – Cumberland County – Family support and child welfare programs.
 16 W High St, Carlisle, PA 17013
 (717) 240-6120 |  [Cumberland CYS](#)
4. Juvenile Probation – Cumberland County – Youth support services; can connect to community aid resources.
 1 Courthouse Square, Carlisle, PA 17013
 (717) 240-5375 |  [Juvenile Probation](#)
5. PA 211 – Statewide helpline for food, utility, housing, and medical assistance.
 Dial 211 or text "Your Zip Code" to 898-211 |  [PA 211](#)
6. Tri County Community Action – Carlisle – Programs for heating assistance (LIHEAP), rent help, and emergency food.
 401 E Louther St, Carlisle, PA 17013
 (717) 249-5719 |  [Tri County Community Action](#)
7. MidPenn Legal Services – Free legal help for eligible residents in areas like housing, benefits, and consumer protection.
 401 E Louther St, Carlisle, PA 17013
 (717) 243-9400 |  [MidPenn Legal Services](#)
8. Local Tax Assistance / VITA Program – Free income tax preparation for eligible individuals.
 (717) 724-4077 |  [United Way VITA Program](#)

Education, Training & Technical Assistance

9. Penn State Extension – Cumberland County – Workshops on marketing, food safety, soil health, and business planning.

Speaker potential: Extension educators can present on farm profitability, crop planning, and market trends.

 310 Allen Road, Suite 601, Carlisle, PA 17013

 (717) 240-6500 |  [Penn State Extension](#)

10. USDA Service Center – Carlisle – NRCS/FSA programs for conservation, loans, and disaster recovery.

Speaker potential: USDA staff can present on available grants, cost-share programs, and emergency funding.

 43 Brookwood Ave, Suite 2, Carlisle, PA 17015

 (717) 601-3718 |  [USDA Service Center Locator](#)

11. Cumberland County Farm Bureau – Local chapter of PA Farm Bureau; policy updates, advocacy, and member benefits.

Speaker potential: Farm Bureau can cover legislative changes and vendor advocacy resources.

 (717) 761-2740 |  [PA Farm Bureau](#)

12. Farm Credit – Agricultural financing, equipment loans, and financial planning support.

Speaker potential: Farm Credit reps can offer vendor workshops on credit, cash flow, and investment.

 4470 Marketplace Way, Enola, PA 17025

 (717) 796-9372 |  [MidAtlantic Farm Credit](#)

Marketing & Business Development

13. PA Preferred® (PA Dept. of Agriculture) – Branding & marketing program for PA-grown/processed products. Vendors can apply to use the PA Preferred logo and get listed in the statewide directory.

Speaker potential: Invite PDA marketing staff to vendor meeting to review benefits and enrollment.

 (717) 787-6901 |  [PA Preferred](#)

14. Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce – Networking, local business promotion, and events calendar. Can connect vendors to marketing opportunities and sponsorships.

Speaker potential: Chamber leadership can explain membership perks, small business

resources, and networking.

 info@carlislechamber.org |  (717) 243-4515 |  [Carlisle Chamber](#)

15. Visit Cumberland Valley – Tourism promotion office; offers event listing, marketing partnerships, and visitor outreach for local markets.

 (717) 240-7198 |  [Visit Cumberland Valley](#)

Equipment (rentals, purchase & local vendors)

16. Cumberland County Conservation District — Local conservation programs, technical support, and staff who can advise on equipment needs and conservation practices. Office: 310 Allen Road, Suite 301, Carlisle, PA 17013. Phone: 717-240-7812; email listed on site. Some nearby conservation districts and regional partners operate no-till drill and equipment rental programs — if you need a specific rental (drills, tillers, forklifts, etc.), the Conservation District can advise on local availability and partner programs.

[Conservation District – County Site](#) | [Cumberland CD Official Site](#)

17. Local equipment dealers & rental services (Mechanicsburg / Carlisle area) — For immediate short-term equipment needs (forklifts, skid steers, tent/pavilion rentals, pallet jacks, small engines): examples include Equipment Depot (Mechanicsburg), Groff Tractor (Mechanicsburg), and regional rental suppliers; contact locally for rates and availability. (These are private vendors — useful when Conservation District rentals aren't available.)

[Equipment Depot – Mechanicsburg](#) | [Groff Tractor – Mechanicsburg](#)

18. Regional Conservation District rentals / neighboring county programs — Many PA county conservation districts maintain no-till drill and other equipment rental programs (fees per acre/day); if Cumberland doesn't have a specific unit available when you need it, neighboring county districts often do. Check with your Conservation District for referrals.

[Clearfield CCD Example](#) | [PA DEP Conservation District Highlights](#)

Technical assistance & funding (grants / loans / program support)

19. USDA — Carlisle Service Center (FSA / NRCS / Rural Development contacts) — Federal point of contact for farm loans, disaster assistance, conservation program sign-ups (EQIP, CSP), and technical conservation planning. Carlisle Service Center address: 43 Brookwood Ave, Ste 2, Carlisle, PA 17015. Phone: (717) 601-3718; District Conservationist Justin Atkins (email: justin.atkins@usda.gov). Essential contact for technical assistance and cost-share programs.

[USDA Offices Locator](#) | [Farmers.gov Service Centers](#)

20. PA Department of Agriculture — Grants & Resilient Food Systems Programs — State grant programs that help with marketing projects, equipment purchases, and food-system infrastructure (e.g., Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure program / Simplified Equipment grants; PA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program for marketing/research). Application windows vary by year — check PDA announcements for current deadlines. (Recent SCBGP deadlines have varied; USDA AMS FY2025 RFA listed July 7, 2025 as the federal submission deadline.)

[PDA Agricultural Marketing Programs](#) | [AMS SCBGP RFA PDF](#)

21. PA Farm Vitality & other PDA small grant programs — PDA and associated state programs periodically run small planning grants (business planning, diversification) and equipment simplification grants — often on a rolling or funds-available basis. Check the PDA grants page and local Extension for application help and deadlines.

[PA House Grant Announcement](#) | [GrantExec Agriculture Listings](#)

22. Pennsylvania SBDC / Local economic development — Assistance with grant applications, business planning, and financial projections for equipment/marketing/food-safety upgrades; local SBDC or county economic development offices can help prepare applications and budgets. Contact the PA SBDC network or the SBDC office nearest you (Shippensburg/central PA options).

[Penn State SBDC](#) | [PA SBDC – Shippensburg](#)

23. Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS) — Coordinates donation of surplus food (including helping use unused field space that can be planted with food to donate, surplus at harvest time, and value-added projects) to food banks and reimbursement to farmers.

[PASS Program Information](#) | Contact Tom Mainzer, Director of Agricultural Partnerships: tmainzer@feedingpa.org

24. [Farmers Guide to Pennsylvania State Funding & Grant Programs](#)