

FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS

September 2020

Purpose: Assist Montgomery County-based food producing farms to increase food production capacity in order to contribute to the Montgomery County Farm to Food Bank program in 2021.

Eligibility: Montgomery County-based food producing farms that will commit to providing Montgomery County grown produce to the Montgomery County Farm to Food Bank program in 2021.

Application Range: Up to \$20,000 for increasing farm capacity to plant, harvest, store, distribute and deliver shelf stable or refrigerated farm produce for human consumption. Smaller amounts than requested may be awarded.

Webpage with full details is at: <https://mocofoodcouncil.org/f2fbapp/>

Timeline:

- Application Period Opens: Friday, September 18th, 2020 by 12 PM EST
- Information Session for Potential Applicants: Monday, September 21st 2020 at 9AM EST
 - Register in advance:
https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZokce2trjluGtKmgGwsdF_39_XE8GW07Phq
- Application Deadline: Friday, October 2, 2020 at 12 PM EST
- Announcement of Awards: Monday, October 12th, 2020
- Grant Agreements Issued and Signed and Awards Processed: October 13-16th, 2020
- Final deadline to spend down grant funds: April 30, 2021

Eligible Costs:

- Increased Production Capacity (equipment, supplies, infrastructure)
- Season extension (equipment, supplies, infrastructure)
- Increased Storage Capacity (onsite cold storage)
- Transportation/Machinery/Tools (refrigerated vans, new equipment or repairs to existing equipment/infrastructure)
- Installation Costs

Please note, we cannot fund ongoing maintenance costs, staff salaries/general farm labor costs, mortgage/leases, insurance, or existing technology subscription renewal.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Budget (max 15 points): Detailed description of costs, includes documented cost estimates.
- Maintenance and Sustainability Plan (max 15 points): Applicant has a plan for how project assets will be maintained/utilized long term to increase food production

- Justification (max 30 points): Clear purpose and plan, demonstrated need for the project.
- Quick implementation (max 15 points): Applicant has a plan to utilize funding within 6 months of award
- Partnerships (max 10 points): Existing relationships with food assistance providers
- Priority areas (max 15 points): Project supports culturally appropriate food access, opportunities for BIPOC farmers, sustainable farming practices

Please find a list of culturally appropriate foods [linked here](#), for reference. This list was developed using the results of a Culturally Appropriate Food Preferences survey conducted through the Food Council's Culturally Appropriate Food Access Subgroup in 2019. Various partner organizations distributed the survey to clients and program participants from different ethnic groups to gain a better understanding of the foods that County residents from diverse backgrounds are seeking.

Application Process:

1. All applications will be completed through an online Google form, linked below. If you cannot complete this application online or require the application be provided in a language other than English, please contact cnardi@mocofoodcouncil.org to coordinate.
 - a. Please find the application link here:
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScy-hwTLoV.SRAnER-cnDKovPxk6TUvBa2fKwJhthkGCUzQ/viewform?usp=sf link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScy-hwTLoV.SRAnER-cnDKovPxk6TUvBa2fKwJhthkGCUzQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)
2. The application should be completed in one sitting, though you may access the form to copy/paste questions into a separate document, and return to the form at a later time to input your responses. Once complete, you must hit 'SUBMIT' to finalize the application. The primary contact email listed on the application will receive a copy of the submitted responses.
3. For any questions about the application or process, please contact Catherine Nardi at cnardi@mocofoodcouncil.org.

The Montgomery County Farm to Food Bank Program is a partnership between the Montgomery County Food Council, Manna Food Center, the Montgomery County Office of Agriculture, and the Montgomery County Food Security Task Force, established to increase access to fresh, culturally appropriate produce among Montgomery County residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, and simultaneously support local agricultural producers and foster food system resilience. The funding for this grant program includes Federal CARES Act funding that was appropriated by the County Executive and Montgomery County Council to address local food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as funds from Manna Food Center and the Greater Washington Community Foundation.