

2022-2023 Oregon Producers Feeding Oregon Communities Grant FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

- **Where does the funding for this grant come from?**
 - Oregon Department of Human Services was awarded a USDA Local Food Purchasing Cooperative Agreement grant and is partnering with Oregon Food Bank, who will administer and distribute the funds.
- **Who was involved in the creation of this grant?**
 - Oregon Department of Human Services (Grant Recipient and final reporting agency. Funding had to go to a State Agency or Tribal Government)
 - Oregon Department of Agriculture: (State agency partner, Grant program support)
 - Oregon Food Bank (Sub-awardee and administering program and funds)
- **What is the purpose of this funding?**
 - To support local and socially disadvantaged producers through building and expanding economic opportunities while creating healthy food access opportunities for underserved communities.
- **Who are the intended audiences for this grant?**
 - The intent of the program is to uplift and support socially disadvantaged producers. For the purpose of this program, socially disadvantaged, as defined by the USDA, is a producer who is a member of a Socially Disadvantaged Group; whose members have been subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and, where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.
 - While purchasing from socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers is not a requirement, we are making it a preference in our scoring rubric.
 - The intended recipient of this grant will also be a *producer who is distributing to underserved communities*.
- **What [size farm](#) am I considered? This is Gross Sales**
 - Micro or Low-sale farm: Less than \$150,000
 - Small or Moderate farm: \$150,000 to \$349,999
 - Midsize Farm: \$350,000 to \$999,999
 - Large Farm: \$1,000,000 to \$4,999,999
- **What is the minimum and maximum a producer can ask for?**
 - We will offer tiered option for this process:
 - Tier 1: \$500 minimum up to \$5,000 (paid up front in full)
 - Tier 2: \$5,001 minimum up to \$25,000 (paid up front in full)
 - Tier 3: \$25,001 minimum up to \$50,000 (paid half up front and half mid-season)
- **Is there a requirement to have a distribution outlet before submitting?**
 - Yes. The applicant will need to have distribution outlet(s) outlined that correspond with their narrative and distribution timeline.

- We will help connect producers who don't currently distribute to communities impacted by hunger to distribution outlets such as a food pantry, free food market and/or community organizations before they apply.
- **What is considered a traditional food distribution network?**
 - A Regional Food Bank and/or Food Pantry
- **What is the application review process?**
 - Application will be open on December 7, 2022 - closing 11:59 12/31/22.
 - The applications will be reviewed initially as they come in by the LFPA Grant manager to check for eligibility, ask any clarifying questions, and score the applications. After the deadline the Grant Manager will meet with a panel of food system leaders to discuss the applicants with the use of a scoring matrix to assist in determining who is awarded and how funds will be allocated.
 - [Here is a copy of the Scoring Rubric.](#)
- **Why do we give extra points for Black and Indigenous producers?**
 - Those two groups have been most socially marginalized in the context of allocation funding access. The grant has an intersectional Equity/Justice framework that we hope will encourage more producers who historically don't have access to USDA funds to apply.
- **How many grants are you awarding?**
 - This depends on the amount that each farmer requests. Oregon Food Bank's goal is to work with a minimum of 25 unique farmers.
- **What will happen if/when I am awarded?**
 - Once the review process is finalized, applicants will receive an email announcing if they were fully or partially funded, or not awarded.
 - If awarded a MOU will be created outlining the project and its deliverables. Once signed, we will submit a check request.
 - Check request process takes 1-2 Weeks. (If the check request is submitted on Tuesday before noon, the check goes out that Thursday)
- **Will there be any reporting?**
 - This is a USDA grant and quarterly and annual reporting will be a part of the deliverables.
 - Our goal is to capture as much information up front as possible to limit the amount of reporting the farmers have to do.
 - Here is a copy of the [reporting Metric](#) that the USDA gave to us.
- **What happens if I have crop failure and am unable to fulfill my contract?**
 - We first want to recommend that you check out the links below to see if your operation qualifies for insurance.
 - [Micro Farm Crop Insurance](#)
 - [Livestock Insurance Plans](#)
 - [Whole Farm Revenue Protection](#)
 - [NAP Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#)
 - We will also be checking in with the producers quarterly and at that time we will ask the producers if they need technical assistance brainstorming alternatives to

the original scope of work and how we can support other ways for them to fulfill the MOU.

➤ **What if I need help with Food Safety Planning?** Here are Resources depending on where you are.

- Do you run a food business and have questions about licensing requirements for food safety? Contact your local food safety inspector for more information.
<https://mylicense.oda.state.or.us/plsapex/f?p=250:15>
- Are you a seafood harvester and need a HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) Plan? Find out more here.
<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/FoodSafety/SeafoodHACCPPlan.pdf>
- Are you a farmer producing crops and selling to wholesale and retail markets (like grocery stores, schools and hospitals)? You may be covered under the Produce Safety Rules. Find out more here.
<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/MarketAccess/PSR/Pages/AreYouCovered.aspx>
- Are you a small-scale farmer who mostly sells produce directly to consumers in your community? This guidebook will help you improve your produce safety practices on the farm.
<https://www.youngfarmers.org/resource/foodsafetyguide/>

➤ **Who do I contact if I have more questions?**

- Please email us at lfpa@oregonfoodbank.org