

2026 Grow Local Food Fund Application Questions

Below are the anticipated questions for the 2026 Grow Local Food Fund application. This document is intended to provide a preview of questions so you may prepare your responses ahead of the application window. Questions are subject to change, though it is unlikely.

The 2026 Grow Local Food Fund Application will be live Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2026. Applications will only be accepted online.

When preparing photos, please note that all photos submitted may be used by Whole Foods Co-op for promotional purposes. By uploading, you consent to Whole Foods Co-op photo usage across all digital and print platforms.

Business Information Questions

- Name of the business
- Is this business for-profit?
This grant does not fund nonprofits at this time. If your organization is a nonprofit, please consider applying for our GIVE! Community Support Program.
- Was your business awarded a Grow Local Food Fund grant in either 2024 or 2025?
Organizations who've received funds in the last two GLFF cycles are not eligible for this year's grant.
- Primary contact name
- Phone
- Email
- Business address
- Business logo
(image upload)
- Please share 4–6 photos of the business owners/employees/location/space/food/product/things related to your project for Whole Foods Co-op to share in our marketing and communication materials if you are selected to receive a Grow Local Food Fund grant.
- What year was your business incorporated?
- Is your business majority owned (51% or more) by individual(s) who identify as woman, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+2S, having a disability and/or as a veteran?
- In 10 words or less, please share the name of your project or a very brief summary.

- Will the funds from this project help your business grow food for people (fruits, vegetables, etc.) or produce food for people (meat, wild rice, maple syrup, etc.)?
- Dollar amount requested from Grow Local Food Fund (up to \$7,000).
- To help the committee better understand your project, please share 1–4 photos of your location/space/food/product. Please do not include any images of people or share images that include your logo or other features that would distinguish your specific business. Applications will be scored blind, and any photos with identifying information will not be submitted to the committee for review.

Long-Form Answers

*For the remaining questions, the form will limit responses to 1,300 characters, or about 200 words. Please **do not mention the name of your business in your responses**. Applications will be scored blind. If you need to refer to your business, please use a term like “the business”.*

- Describe your project.

Scales Local Food Production (20%)

- Is your business in Minnesota or Wisconsin?
Note: The GLFF is only funding projects in Minnesota or Wisconsin at this time.
- Is your business in the Lake Superior Bioregion (in a county in Minnesota or Wisconsin that borders Lake Superior)?
- How will this project increase access to nutritious food for our community? Please be as specific as possible. Consider including numbers or data (ex: we currently produce XX lbs of food a year and with this investment we will be able to produce XXX lbs of food a year).

Long-Term Investment (20%)

- How will this project contribute as a long-term investment in your business? Examples include investing in equipment or techniques that will improve climate resiliency, or acquiring equipment or supplies for ongoing use. *Items like general operating expenses, packaging, seeds, etc., are generally not considered long-term investments.*

Project Feasibility (20%)

- Please share the relevant experience you and/or your collaborators have related to accomplishing this project successfully.
- Please share your plans for how your business will accomplish this project, including a timeline.

Contributes to Environmental Stability (20%)

- Describe how this project will promote organic practices, local sourcing, and/or regenerative sustainability, ensuring responsible management of air, soil, and water.

Viability to Ensure Project Success (20%)

- In 2025, what was your total annual business revenue (sales, grants, other)?
- In 2025, what were your total annual business expenses (rent, utilities, labor, supplies, etc.)?

You will be asked to fill out a budget table for this project in an editable PDF and upload it with your application. This budget table is available on the [Application Information Page](#).