2027 Grow Local Food Fund Application Preview

Updated November 2, 2026

This document is intended to provide a preview of questions so you may prepare your responses ahead of the application window. Slight changes between this document and the actual online application are unlikely, but possible.

The 2027 Grow Local Food Fund Application will be live December 14, 2026 – January 24, 2027. Applications will only be accepted through the online form.

Below are the questions for the 2027 Grow Local Food Fund (GLFF) application. 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

Please share the name of the project that you're seeking for the Grow Local Food Fund to support. If a specific name doesn't come to mind, please briefly describe the project in 10 words or less.

Business name

Primary contact name

Phone

Email

Business address

Business logo
(image upload)

What year was your business incorporated? If you're not incorporated, what year did you start selling your products?

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.)?

For 2026, what do you anticipate your total annual business revenue (sales, grants, other) to be?

For 2026, what do you anticipate your total annual business expenses (rent, utilities, labor, supplies, etc.) to be?

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.*

Is your business in Minnesota or Wisconsin? *Note: The GLFF is only funding projects in Minnesota or Wisconsin at this time.*

Is your business located in the Lake Superior Bioregion (in a county in Minnesota or Wisconsin that borders Lake Superior)? *Businesses in the Lake Superior Bioregion will be given a small advantage.*

Was your business awarded a Grow Local Food Fund grant in either 2025 or 2026? *Businesses who have been awarded the grant in the last two funding cycles are not eligible for this year's grant.*

Has your business ever been awarded a Grow Local Food Fund grant? *Businesses who have not previously received this grant will be given a small advantage.*

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? *Applications will be reviewed blind by the Application Review Committee. If final scores are very close, a business that has indicated 'yes' to this question will be given preference. The Committee will not be given access to this response, and it will only be consulted by Co-op management if necessary.*

Does this project support the growing of produce (vegetables and/or fruit) or the production of value-add foods (honey, wild rice, livestock, eggs, etc.)? *(Options: Growing of Produce; Production of Value-Add Products; Both (only select if it's truly an equal split))*

Does this project support the growing or production of edible, nutritious food for humans? *The Grow Local Food Fund will not fund projects focused on the production of food for animals (ex: dog treats) or mind-altering substances (ex: THC).*

On occasion, partial funding may be available for a project. Would you be able to proceed with your project if partial funds (no less than 50% of requested amount) would be granted?

Anonymous Photos for Grant Committee Review: Please share 1–3 photos of your location/space/food product to be included with your application to help the Application Review Committee better understand your project. 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 included.

Photos for Publicity: Please share 3–4 photos of the business owners/employees/location/space/food 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.

Long-Form Answers

For the following questions, the application form will limit responses to 1,000 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” or "the farm." If identifying information is shared, it will be edited out.

Describe your project. *Include what pain points your project may be able to solve.*

Overall Sustainability of Business (20%)

Tell us about your business. How did it start, how is it going, and what is your vision for the next 10 years? *If applicable, tie your response back to your project. The answer from this section will also be reviewed alongside the business's budget information.*

Project Feasibility (20%)

Please share your plans for how your business will accomplish this project, including a timeline. *Include the relevant experience you and/or your collaborators have that will help you to accomplish this project.*

Project Budget

Please itemize the costs associated with your project. *Format your list with the item first, then the amount, separated by a colon. For example:*

Tractor attachment: $XXXX
Contractor wages: $XXXX
Permit fees: $XXXX

Funding Sources

Dollar amount requested from Grow Local Food Fund (up to $7,000):

Dollar amount business is funding directly:

If you have other funding sources, list below. *Format your list with the funding source listed first, then the amount, separated by a colon. If you're receiving additional grants, loans, etc., to fully fund this project, please share their status (received, pending, etc.) For example:*

Banana Bank Micro Loan: $XXXX
Volunteer Hours by Neighbors: $XXXX
State Grant (pending): $XXXX

Note: The total dollar amount for the items listed under Project Budget needs to equal the total dollar amount under Funding Sources. In other words, if the sum of your whole Project Budget is $10,000, your Funding Sources should equal $10,000.

Long-Term Investment (20%)

How will this project serve as a long-term investment in your business? *Examples of long-term investments include equipment, infrastructure or techniques that make your operations more sustainable and/or long-lasting. Items like general operating expenses, packaging, seeds, etc., are generally not considered long-term investments.*

Scales Local Food Production (20%)

How will this project increase access to nutritious food for the region? *When possible in your response, include specific examples and numbers.*

Examples include: the pounds of food you currently produce and how many pounds you anticipate being able to produce after your project; the current amount of livestock you support and the additional amount you anticipate being able to support after your project; the time it takes to currently till your land and the amount of time you anticipate being able to save with new equipment.

Contributes to Environmental Resiliency (20%)

Describe how this project will contribute to environmental resiliency. *Ensure your response focuses on the impact of your specific project, not necessarily your entire business.*