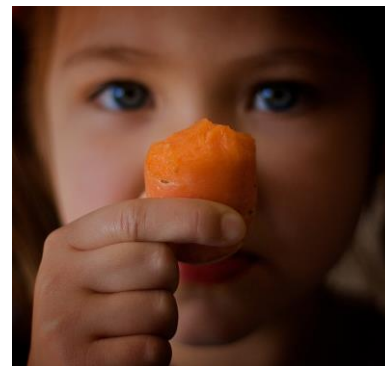




GROWING JUSTICE

The Fund for Equitable
Good Food Procurement

GROWING JUSTICE is a pooled fund that invests in efforts to solidify the leadership, dignity and power of Tribal, Indigenous, Black, Latinx, Asian and immigrant people to identify and drive solutions that expand the market for good food from locally- or regionally-owned, and environmentally- and economically-sustainable farms, ranches, fisheries and food businesses.



THE VISION

Growing Justice envisions a future in which Tribal, Indigenous, Black, Latinx, Asian and immigrant people engaged in food markets as suppliers, producers, distributors, workers, & eaters at community-serving institutions are economically and physically thriving thanks in part to efforts by large community institutions to prioritize equitable good food procurement.



EQUITABLE GOOD FOOD PROCUREMENT

is the purchasing of good food from locally- or regionally-owned, and environmentally- and economically-sustainable farms, ranches, fisheries and food businesses that prioritize the needs of low-income communities of color and treat workers with dignity.

GOOD FOOD *is affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate and supports physical, economic and community health; regenerates, and respects natural resources and animals; and ensures that all people involved in the value chain live with dignity and freedom from oppression and exploitation*

FOOD VALUE CHAIN *refers to the people working in partnership to produce, distribute and procure raw or value-added foods, and includes farmers, ranchers, fishers, suppliers, producers, food hubs, distributors, cooperatives, front line food workers, organizers, advocacy groups and the assistance groups that support them. It also includes large institutions – such as schools, agencies and hospitals – that purchase food*



THE PROBLEM

Large institutions like school districts, universities, early childhood and elder care centers, hospitals, and government agencies spend billions of dollars annually procuring food for the communities they serve.

However, small farmers, fishers, ranchers, and others working in the food value chain – especially those from Tribal, Black, Latinx, Asian and immigrant communities – struggle to gain access to the opportunities and markets necessary for their businesses to thrive and for the good food they deliver to reach communities' plates.



Funding Opportunity Announcement

Awards of \$50,000 to \$250,000 are available to support community leaders working to advance the Growing Justice vision.

Priority will be given to efforts with the most promise to:

- Build power for people of color in the food value chain
- Stabilize and strengthen the efforts of people of color in the value chain to deliver good food to institutions
- Leverage resources and shift institutional procurement practices to become more equitable and sustainable
- Seed innovation and grow models for equitable good food procurement across regions and sectors
- Support the spread and scale of equitable good food procurement

Growing Justice aims to support a wide range of activities to address community-defined priorities. This may include efforts that:

- **Strengthen the effectiveness of racially diverse food suppliers, food producers, food distributors, and food hubs in local, regional or Tribal food value chains** *(for example, efforts that provide technical support to emerging farmers of color to adopt more eco-friendly or regenerative practices, or efforts to provide fiscal sponsorship to social enterprises that aim to expand operations to obtain institutional contracts)*
- **Forge partnerships within regions and/or Tribal Nations to help small suppliers and distributors of color win contracts from large institutions** *(for example: alliances that increase access to processing facilities or equipment to aggregate foods for sale to institutions)*
- **Incentivize large institutions to expand markets or break down barriers for local suppliers or producers of color** *(for example: efforts to shift institutional insurance requirements that can prevent small businesses from qualifying for institutional contracts)*
- **Develop, implement and share effective policies, practices and partnerships across regions** *(for example: models of partnerships that help to shift costs or create greater transparency in data along the food value chain)*
- **Build agendas to advance worker dignity and rights** *(for example: worker coalition organizing across jurisdictions)*



WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Eligible applicants include community-led organizations, community-based organizations, Tribal Nations, or the instrumentalities of Tribal Nations, and other leaders that are:

- 1) Led by or allied with people of color
- 2) Actively engaged in the food value chain, and
- 3) Committed to transforming the food system by:
 - a) working together with other organizations in the food value chain or
 - b) seeking to build partnerships with other organizations in the food value chain.



Large institutions – such as schools, hospitals, and public agencies – are strongly encouraged to apply. To qualify, such organizations must partner with an applicant that both meets the eligibility criteria above and will serve as the project lead.

Social enterprises – such as small food production or distributions businesses – are also strongly encouraged to apply. To qualify, such organizations are encouraged to partner with a non-profit fiscal sponsor.

Application Deadline: March 16, 2023 5 PM PT / 8 PM ET

HOW TO APPLY

Applying is easy. Interested parties should:

1. **Visit the Growing Justice webpage:** www.growingjusticefund.org **and take the Eligibility Quiz, available in English and en espanol.**
 - If you have questions about eligibility, please submit them through the Eligibility Quiz.
 - For technical support with the Eligibility Quiz, email support@growingjusticefund.org
2. **Eligible applicants who submit their contact information will receive an invitation to apply via JustFund.**
 - If your organization has an existing JustFund account, begin by logging in.
 - If you are a new user, you will receive a welcome email with your login information to access JustFund.
 - Once you login to JustFund, the opportunity will be visible on your home page.
 - For questions about how to submit your proposal, please refer to [JustFund's Help Center](#) or contact info@justfund.us.
3. **The application can be submitted in writing or via video. Applicants must submit:**
 - Proposal Summary (max 140 characters written or 1 minute video):
 - Proposal Description (recommended 2500-3500 characters written or 5-8 minutes video)
 - Team Description (recommended 1250-2500 characters or 3-5 minutes video)
 - Financial Need (recommended 1250-2500 characters or 3-5 minutes video)
 - Evidence of Eligibility (recommended 2500-5000 characters or 6-10 minutes video)
 - For technical support with the application, email support@growingjusticefund.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF GROWING JUSTICE GRANTMAKING?

GROWING JUSTICE: The Fund for Equitable Good Food Procurement aims to advance its [vision and values](#) by supporting community-led efforts to improve local and regional food value chains.

GROWING JUSTICE seeks to better understand and support aligned efforts that help to strengthen the field of practice for emerging & growing producers, distributors, food hubs, buyers and frontline workers in the value chain; create greater resources and institutional engagement in equitable good food procurement; realize changes to institutional and public policies and systems to support equitable good food procurement sustainability and scale; and promote awareness and examples of equitable good food procurement across regions, fields and sectors.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

WHAT IS THE FOOD VALUE CHAIN?

The food value chain refers to the many people working in partnership to produce, distribute and procure raw or value-added foods, including farmers, ranchers, fishers, suppliers, producers, food hubs, distributors, cooperatives, front line food workers, organizers, advocacy groups and the technical assistance groups that support them.

The value chain also includes those engaged in the transportation, technology and marketing sectors related to food procurement and/or distribution. In many communities, elders and others with traditional ecological knowledge also play a critical role in the value chain, helping to preserve cultural traditions related to food.

GROWING JUSTICE seeks to support organizations that have been involved in the food value chain for at least the past two years, and organizations that have existing partnerships in the food value chain or aspire to build partnerships with others in the food value chain.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY OR COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION?

GROWING JUSTICE seeks to support organizations involved in the food system that are driven by community residents in all aspects of their existence.

In these organizations: the majority of staff, directors, and the governing body consists of frontline community members that the organization serves; community members disproportionately impacted by an exploitative food system are intimately involved in identifying, defining and making decisions regarding the organization's mission, vision, and work; the organization embodies a grassroots, "bottom-up" approach; the organization is committed to building collective power and building the movement alongside frontline communities; and/or the organization's geographic focus is defined by the community members they serve.

To learn more about your organization's eligibility or to submit questions about eligibility, please complete the Grant Eligibility Quiz.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

WHAT IS A BIPOC-LED OR A BIPOC-ALLIED ORGANIZATION?

‘BIPOC’ is an acronym referring to a wide range of racially, ethnically and culturally diverse people and communities who identify as Black, Indigenous, Tribal, and/or People of Color, such as people of Latinx, Asian or Pacific Islander descent. These groups typically represent the nondominant culture in the United States, with some groups experiencing the effects of colonization, chattel slavery and/or systematic institutionalized exclusion throughout our collective history.

GROWING JUSTICE is prioritizing support in this round of grantmaking for BIPOC-led organizations [e.g., organizations with at least 50% BIPOC representation in the organization’s leadership] and BIPOC -allied organizations [e.g., organizations actively working against racism].

GROWING JUSTICE considers BIPOC-led organizations to be those organizations with at least 50% BIPOC representation in the organization’s leadership (e.g., board, c-suite), and BIPOC -allied organizations to be those actively working against racism.

Organizations that do not qualify as BIPOC-led can demonstrate that they are BIPOC-allied organizations by describing / providing examples in their application of: (1) how they apply a racial equity lens in their work, (2) how they approach issues of antiracism, and/or (3) how their work has helped to build power for BIPOC communities in the past 2 years.

To learn more about your organization’s eligibility or to submit questions about eligibility, please complete the Eligibility Quiz [in English](#) or [en espanol](#).



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

HOW DOES GROWING JUSTICE SUPPORT ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN PROCUREMENT ?

Large institutions that seek to expand their work in equitable good food procurement are encouraged to apply for support in partnership with leaders of color in the food value chain.

Partnerships with small, community-led organizations may seek GROWING JUSTICE support for a wide range of activities, as long as efforts aim to expand opportunities for contracts with leaders of color across the food value chain.

Activities may include innovating contract sharing or selection processes; increasing or improving technical assistance between institutions and food distributors; expanding or replicating effective regional partnerships; improving worker safety among regional businesses; and more.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

HOW DOES GROWING JUSTICE SUPPORT SMALL BIPOC-LED OR BIPOC-ALLIED FOOD BUSINESSES THAT ARE NOT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATIONS?

GROWING JUSTICE aims to catalyze food systems transformation by opening up markets to leaders of color in the food value chain.

Leaders of color in the food value chain who run small businesses are strongly encouraged to partner with community-based organizations, agencies, and/or fiscal sponsors to apply for funding.

GROWING JUSTICE provides limited technical support to these organizations – to learn more, please complete the Eligibility Quiz [in English](#) or [en espanol](#). Basic educational materials are also available on this FAQ page.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

HOW CAN MY ORGANIZATION GAIN FISCAL SPONSORSHIP?

Eligible grantseekers may need fiscal sponsorship to apply. GROWING JUSTICE has compiled the following resources about the process of finding and selecting an appropriate fiscal sponsor.

DIRECTORIES

- [Fiscal Sponsor Directory.org](#) is a database of fiscal sponsors searchable by geography and specialty areas, including [communities of color](#), [environment/sustainability](#), [food security](#), [social justice](#), and others. The database is in the process of being updated.
- [National Network of Fiscal Sponsors](#) has a [member directory](#) that includes fiscal sponsors working on a variety of charitable and educational activities across the country. Be sure to click "Show More" at the bottom of the page to see the full selection.
- Local community foundations are often a helpful resources in receiving or connecting to fiscal sponsors. [The Council of Foundations](#) maintains a [database of community foundations](#) that is searchable by geography.

HOW-TO

- [Find a Fiscal Sponsor that Fits](#) (Candid 2016) offers a simple overview of how to find a fiscal sponsor
- [How to Find a Fiscal Sponsor](#), Nonprofit Law Blog (Neo Law Group 2020) provides a helpful list of 15 signs of a good fiscal sponsor for entities seeking fiscal sponsor support.
- [What is fiscal sponsorship?](#) by Candid provides a detailed overview of how to find a fiscal sponsor
- [Fiscal Sponsorship - Useful Information and Tips](#), Adler & Colvin, 2019 provides more nuanced information for those with specific questions

Eligible grantseekers may seek additional assistance by contacting the GROWING JUSTICE [Support Team](#).



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

IS MY ORGANIZATION A GOOD FIT FOR GROWING JUSTICE GRANTMAKING?

All eligible grantseekers are considered a “good fit” for GROWING JUSTICE grantmaking and are encouraged to apply.

Grantseekers must complete the Eligibility Quiz to determine eligibility and receive an invitation to apply. Grantseekers are encouraged to complete the Eligibility Quiz by March 1, 2023 to allow ample time to receive an invitation to apply, and to submit the application. Grantseekers who have specific questions about their eligibility may submit their questions through the Eligibility Quiz and will receive a response within 1-2 business days.

Eligible grantseekers who receive an invitation to apply are encouraged to review the GROWING JUSTICE [vision and values](#) and [focus](#) to strengthen their applications. A list of [supported projects](#) has been provided to inspire ideas. Please note that an invitation to apply does not guarantee funding.

An informational webinar will be held for grantseekers on February 24, 2023 at 10:30am PT. The webinar will discuss eligibility criteria and how to submit a complete and effective application aligned with the vision, values and purpose of GROWING JUSTICE using the JustFund platform. A recording of the webinar will be available to all registrants. [Click here](#) to register.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

WHAT KIND OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR APPLICANTS?

Eligible grantseekers who receive an invitation to apply may obtain support as follows:

Questions about eligibility and invitations to apply may be answered through the Eligibility Quiz. Grantseekers are encouraged to complete the Eligibility Quiz by March 1, 2023 to ensure there is ample time to be invited to apply and to complete the application. Answers to common questions are also available in the [FAQ section online](#).

Questions about the JustFund application portal may be answered via JustFund's [Knowledge Base page](#). The JustFund team will also provide [direct support](#) for:

- accounts and login questions
- applicants with technology or grantwriting limitations to apply by phone or video

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