**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# Growing Justice Fund Launches 2025 RFP to Advance Community-Led Values-Aligned Institutional Food Purchasing

**This practitioner-developed RFP, co-created by Native and BIPOC food systems leaders shifts power to communities to direct resources toward strengthening the full institutional purchasing supply chain.**

[August 25, 2025] The **Growing Justice Fund (GJF)** is proud to announce the launch of its 2025 Request for Proposals (RFP). With grants ranging from **$25,000 to $250,000,** this opportunity will resource Tribal, Indigenous, Black, Latinx, Asian, and immigrant communities leading and benefiting from efforts to transform institutional food procurement into a values-aligned system that builds community power, equity, and sustainability across the food chain.

This RFP is rooted in the recognition that institutional purchasing is one of the most powerful but underutilized levers for change. By shifting where and how schools, hospitals, government agencies, and other institutions spend their food dollars, we can realign financing, create opportunities for historically marginalized farmers and food businesses, and drive systemic transformation from seed to plate.

> **"Procurement is one of the most underutilized levers we have to transform food and farming systems. The Growing Justice Fund is unique in advancing values-aligned purchasing to create opportunities for farmers and food businesses, realign financing, and support communities organizing for change. We're honored to support community-led solutions that put equity, participation, and local leadership at the center of institutional food change."**

> **– Linda Jo Doctor,** W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Growing Justice Fund Advisory Committee

The RFP is designed to support work that aligns with one or more of the following priorities:

- **Building Infrastructure for good food procurement**
- **Building policy action through grassroots organizing and advocacy for good food procurement**
- **Cultivating Traditional Food Pathways to build community wealth within Tribal Nations**

Through this new grantmaking opportunity, GJF will offer two types of awards—Planning and Implementation Grants to meet applicants where they are on their journey toward advancing equitable food purchasing.

**Planning Grants** (up to $25,000) are designed for organizations in the early stages of project development. These grants support strategic research, stakeholder engagement, coalition-building, feasibility studies, and organizational planning—laying a strong foundation for future implementation.

**Implementation Grants** ($50,000–$250,000) are geared toward organizations with a clear project plan and existing partnerships ready to bring their initiatives to life. These awards support the full execution of strategies that transform institutional food procurement and build power and infrastructure within BIPOC and community-led food systems.

> **"This RFP is not just about funding—it's about deepening relationships, resourcing community-rooted wisdom, and investing in the systems that nourish us. As a fund that practices participatory grantmaking, we're calling in movement-builders, farmers, operators, advocates, and organizers to co-create food systems rooted in racial and economic equity."**
>
> **- Ricardo Rocha,** Growing Justice Fund Advisory Committee Chair

The Growing Justice Fund was established to disrupt traditional philanthropic models by practicing trust-based philanthropy and shifting power to those with lived experience and proven expertise in creating solutions. Guided by a majority-BIPOC and Native Advisory Committee of food systems practitioners, the Fund's participatory governance structure shapes strategy, grantmaking, and communications ensuring the work is grounded in lived experience, mutual accountability, and shared leadership with an emphasis on values-based purchasing.

> **"This opportunity from the Growing Justice Fund is a transformative step toward strengthening our local food system and addressing food insecurity on Rosebud. By supporting our Local Foods Capacity Program, we'll empower local Native producers with the tools, training, and resources they need to grow their operations."**
>
> **- Siċaŋġu Co, Growing Justice Fund 2024 Grantee**

We invite applicants to leverage this opportunity to reimagine procurement - one of the most powerful tools for systemic change and direct purchasing power toward positively impacting historically marginalized communities.

## Deadline

Applications are due **Tuesday, October 14th, at 5 pm PT/8 pm ET**.

Grant seekers are strongly encouraged to complete the Eligibility Quiz by **Monday, October 6th, at 5 pm PT/8 pm ET** to allow ample time to receive an invitation and submit an application.

## How to Apply

Interested organizations can download the full RFP, take the eligibility quiz, and visit our website for more information: www.growingjustice.org/apply.

The Growing Justice Fund Advisory Committee and staff will be holding three webinars in mid-September based on priority area. Registration is required and available at the links below:

- **Policy + Organizing: Tuesday, September 9th, 11am-12pm ET**
- **Infrastructure: Thursday, September 11th, 3-4pm ET**
- **Tribal Food Systems: Monday, September 15th, 3-4pm ET**

Additional resources, including FAQs, are also available on our website.

## About Growing Justice Fund:

The Growing Justice Fund is a pioneering philanthropic fund advancing values-based good food purchasing by institutions and building community power across the food chain. By investing in community-led initiatives, GJF helps shift procurement systems, strengthen BIPOC food economies, and create sustainable, equitable food chains. The Growing Justice Fund is housed at the Amalgamated Charitable Foundation.

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**For more information, visit**: www.growingjusticefund.org.