



Washington State Organic and Sustainable Farming Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is this grant competitive?
 - a. Yes, in 2019 we were able to fund about 35 percent of the proposals we received with partial and full funding.
2. I have received a grant before. Am I eligible to apply again?
 - a. An individual farm business is eligible to receive up to \$20,000 in grants over a five-year period. For example, if in 2017, a farm business received a grant for \$5,000 they would be able to apply for up to \$15,000 in funding.
3. Is partial funding available?
 - a. Yes, projects can be partially funded if the project can easily be broken down into specific components.
4. Are non-profit farms eligible?
 - a. This grant program is designed to support for-profit farm businesses that have a high impact in their community. While non-profit organizations aren't ineligible for funding, they are not the priority demographic for this grant funding.
5. I operate a cannabis farm. Am I eligible to apply?
 - a. Although it is legal in the state of Washington to grow marijuana with certain permits, cultivation of these plants is currently still illegal at the federal level. Therefore, at this point, Tilth Alliance and the HumanLinks Foundation are not in a position to fund projects related to marijuana production.
6. Are individual farm businesses allowed to submit multiple applications?
 - a. No, the review committee will review and consider one application per farm business.
7. Are multi-year grants available?
 - a. Not at this time. Funds are awarded in March and must be spent by December 31 of the same calendar year.
8. Are project funds able to be used to cover labor costs?
 - a. Project funds may be used to cover contractual labor costs for specific project work that falls outside the regular operations of the farm. Project funds cannot be used to pay wages to owners, employees, or interns of the farm.
9. Are matching funds required?
 - a. Matching funds are not required for this grant but are greatly appreciated and encouraged.
10. Are group projects eligible?
 - a. Group projects are eligible, but there must be one person who serves as the point of contact for the project. Group projects must submit a single proposal.

Tips for writing a competitive proposal:

- Read all instructions carefully. Be sure that if submitting proposal by email that entire application (cover sheet, narrative questions, and letters of support) are submitted as a **single document** (PDF or Word).
- This is a competitive grant program. Successful proposals are straight-forward, make a clear request for what project funds will be used for, and are well thought out including contingency plans if things don't go as planned.
- Using exact or precisely estimated numbers in the budget demonstrates a well-researched proposal that uses project funds efficiently.
- If farming on leased land, we highly recommend including a letter of support from landowner or indicate landowner buy-off on project elsewhere in proposal.
- The goal of this grant program is to support as many farm businesses as possible. If partial funding of the project is feasible, indicate in the proposal the highest priority for project components to fund and how the project can still be carried out with partial funding.