

Good Food Fund: Grants Round 2

Frequently Asked Questions

- **I applied for round 1 of the Good Food Fund grants. What is different in this round?**

The main differences are:

- There is only one application form to complete, so be sure to have all your documents ready when you start.
- Both for-profit and non-profit organizations are eligible.
- Grant amounts will be based on 2023 gross income rather than 2022.
- Every business will submit a budget narrative describing how you plan to use the grant funds.
- The priority criteria have been revised ([see details here](#)).

- **Who is eligible for round 2 of the Good Food Fund grants?**

For-profit and non-profit organizations throughout the food and beverage supply chain are eligible. If you grow, supply, make, manufacture, sell, or otherwise contribute to food and non-alcoholic beverages, you are probably eligible. See the next question for some important exceptions.

- **Are there any food or beverage businesses not eligible for this grant?**

The following business categories are not eligible:

- Businesses which received a grant in round 1.
- National Chains (Locally-owned franchises are acceptable).
- Liquor stores and alcoholic beverage wholesalers.
- Cannabis dispensaries and other cannabis-related businesses.
- Night clubs and bars.

- **I don't have a business license from the City of Chicago. Does this mean I can't apply?**

You are welcome to apply for a Good Food Fund grant. If you do not yet have a Chicago license, please upload your State of IL certificate of registration. Allies for Community Business (A4CB) will connect you with a coach to help you apply for the appropriate license. Unless your business is exempt from City of Chicago licensing, you will need to obtain a valid license by September 24, 2024 to receive a grant.

We encourage you to reach out to A4CB with any questions at help@a4cb.org or (872) 710-0035.

The Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) provides a guide to business licenses on their website here:

<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/chicago-business-licensing/home/business-licensing.html>

- **The application asks for a business license from the City of Chicago. What type of document do I need to upload?**

If you are required by the City of Chicago to have a license to legally run your business, you must upload that license. If you are not required by the City to secure a Chicago license, you can upload your State of Illinois certificate of registration. City business licenses are issued by the Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP).

Some examples include a shared kitchen user license, retail food establishment license, or wholesale food establishment license. This is not a comprehensive list; the type of license you require depends on your business.

See the [BACP website](#) for licensing information. If you have further questions about what document to submit, please contact help@a4cb.org.

- **What is the difference between the Eligibility Criteria and the Priority Criteria?**
Find all the [grant criteria here](#). The eligibility criteria are must-haves for this grant. Your business will only be considered for a grant if you meet all of these criteria.

The priority criteria will help our reviewers select between the eligible applications. The more of the priorities you meet, the more likely your application will be selected.

- **How will you determine the areas of Chicago with low food access?**
Scoring will be based on data from the Chicago Health Atlas:
<https://chicagohealthatlas.org/indicators/LFA?topic=low-food-access>.

- **Is this my only opportunity to apply for a Good Food Fund grant?**

This is the second and final round of grants being offered under this program. However, Good Food Fund [low-interest loans](#) and [free business coaching](#) are available throughout 2024.

- **What if I have a food or beverage business that sells from a truck or at farmers markets?**

Your legal business address must be within the city of Chicago to be eligible. Your business address will also influence how many priority funding criteria you meet.

- **What if my business is not located on the West or South Side of Chicago? Does that mean I can't apply?**

As long as you meet the eligibility criteria, we encourage you to apply! Meeting the funding priorities (like being located in an area with low food access) will make it more likely for you to receive funding, but any business that meets the eligibility criteria will be considered.

- **What if I don't get the full amount of grant money I need?**

If you qualify to receive a Good Food Fund grant, you may also be eligible for a low-interest business loan. Learn more at a4cb.org/loans. (Look for the green bar that says "What is the Good Food Fund Loan?")

- **What if our business won't open until later this year?**

A fiscal sponsor may apply for this grant on behalf of a business in the incubation stage. Please see the application instructions for further details.