



Enhancing Resilience, Innovation & Sustainable Transformation of the Regional Food System Grant Opportunity

FAQs – Frequently Asked Questions

- **What organizations can apply for a grant?**

Houses of worship can apply for a grant. Houses of worship are mosques, synagogues, temples, churches, and other faith communities.

Faith-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations can also apply for a grant.

Nonprofit organizations that are not 501(c)(3) organizations **cannot** apply for a grant.

- **Where must my organization be located to apply for a grant?**

Houses of worship and faith-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that are located in **and** propose a project to take place in Illinois, Indiana, or Wisconsin **and** are located within a 200-mile radius of Chicago can apply for a grant.

If your organization and proposed project is located in the following Illinois, Indiana, or Wisconsin counties, then you can apply for a grant.

Illinois

Boone, Bureau, Carroll, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Coles, Cook, Crawford, Cumberland, DeKalb, DeWitt, Douglas, DuPage, Edgar, Effingham, Ford, Fulton, Grundy, Henderson, Henry, Iroquois, Jasper, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Knox, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, Livingston, Logan, McDonough, McHenry, McLean, Macon, Marshall, Mason, Menard, Mercer, Morgan, Moultrie, Ogle, Peoria, Piatt, Putnam, Rock Island, Sangamon, Schuyler, Shelby, Stark, Stephenson, Tazewell, Vermilion, Warren, Whiteside, Will, Winnebago, Woodford

Indiana

Adams, Allen, Benton, Blackford, Boone, Brown, Carroll, Cass, Clay, Clinton, DeKalb, Delaware, Elkhart, Fountain, Fulton, Grant, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Henry, Howard, Huntington, Jasper, Jay, Johnson, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Lake, LaPorte, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Newton, Noble, Owen, Parke, Porter, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Rush, St. Joseph, Shelby, Starke, Steuben, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Vermillion, Vigo, Wabash, Warren, Wells, White, Whitley

Wisconsin

Adams, Brown, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Marquette, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago

Please contact us at grants@faithinplace.org if you have any questions.

- **My organization has never had a grant from Faith in Place before. Can we apply?**

Yes! We welcome your application.

- **My organization has had grants from Faith in Place in the past. Can we apply?**

Yes! There is a question on the grant application form that asks you to tell us about the previous grant your organization received from Faith in Place. Did you complete your grant project and reports on time? If no, please tell us why and how you will make sure you do better this time. You are still eligible to get a new grant. Please contact us at grants@faithinplace.org if you have any questions.

- **How much are grants? How many grants will be awarded?**

We will award 25 grants. Each grant will be \$7,000.

- **What can grants be used for?**

Grants are to be used for specific projects that enhance resilience, innovation, and sustainable transformation in the regional food system. The regional food system is the region within 200 miles of Chicago. Projects can focus on any part in the regional food system – growing sustainable food in the region; processing and distributing sustainable food grown in the region throughout the region; ways to increase the consumption of sustainable food grown in the region; and sustainable ways like composting to deal with food waste so that it benefits growing more sustainable food in the region. Projects must be completed in one year (April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023).

Grants can be used to pay for costs that allow you to complete your project to enhance resilience, innovation, and sustainable transformation in the regional food system. **Some examples of costs** might be employee salaries; consultant fees; volunteer stipends; infrastructure like farm and gardening tools, irrigation supplies, refrigeration equipment, fencing, sheds, or project vehicles; community gardening supplies; and computers or software to improve efficiency, marketing, or community outreach.

For more information, please consider attending one of application webinars. The English webinar will be on Thursday, January 6, at 6:00 PM Central Time / 7:00 PM Eastern Time. The Spanish webinar will be on Monday, January 10, at 6:00 PM Central Time / 7:00 PM Eastern Time.

Please also feel free to contact us at grants@faithinplace.org about your questions.

- **What are examples of projects that might receive a grant?**

Starting a community food garden at a house of worship.

Improvements to a house of worship food pantry that increases the delivery of sustainable, locally-grown food to homebound senior citizens and other community residents.

Starting a faith-based Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm.

Offering a series of free community classes about nutrition, healthy eating, and community gardening.

Working with urban and rural farmers to increase the distribution of sustainable, local food.

Starting a food composting system at a house of worship.

These are just examples. We want to learn about your other innovative ideas!

- **What are examples of projects that are not eligible for a grant?**

Buying non-sustainable, non-local food for distribution.

One-time food distribution events.

Projects that won't have a longer-term impact in enhancing the resilience, innovation, and sustainable transformation of the regional food system.

- **My proposed project's budget total is more than this \$7,000 grant. How should I complete my application and budget?**

Please write your application and budget for a \$7,000 grant. We want to make sure that if you are awarded a \$7,000 grant that you will be able to complete a project fully with our grant money within one year. If you have a larger project with, say, a \$100,000 budget, we suggest you separate out a smaller \$7,000 part from the larger project to propose in your application and budget. Of course, you could discuss the larger project in your application, but please make sure you mostly focus on the \$7,000 smaller project. Please contact us at grants@faithinplace.org if you have any questions.

- **How does my house of worship or nonprofit organization apply for a grant?**

You must submit your complete application **through our online form at**

<https://form.jotform.com/220124656194049>. The deadline is by the end of the day (before midnight Central Time) **Monday, February 7, 2022**.

A **complete application** is:

1. **Grant Application Form** – *Completed with your answers. The form is online at <https://form.jotform.com/220124656194049>.*
2. **IRS Form W-9** – *This must be completed and signed. This should be uploaded into our online form.*
3. **IRS 501(c)(3) Letter of Determination** – *This is only required for 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Houses of worship should ignore this requirement. This should be uploaded into our online form.*

Please **do not** submit any other extra materials or attachments, such as letters of reference or support, annual reports, photos, etc. Any extra materials will not be looked at by our committee members who will make grant decisions.

Late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed and will not be eligible to receive a grant.

- **What does it mean that applications from environmental justice communities will be prioritized?**

Environmental justice communities are communities disproportionately impacted by polluted air, land, water, and climate change. Environmental justice communities are in urban and rural settings and are typically low-to-moderate-income communities of color.

If your organization and project are located in an environmental justice community, then your application will receive preferred consideration during our review process. If your organization is not located in an environmental justice community but your project is, then your application will receive preferred consideration during our review process. Being located in or proposing a project in an environmental justice community does not necessarily mean you will receive a grant.

We will use the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's EJSCREEN: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool to determine if your application is eligible for the environmental justice community scoring preference. EJSCREEN is online at www.epa.gov/ejscreen. You do not have to use EJSCREEN to complete your application. We will do that during our application review process.

Please contact us at grants@faithinplace.org if you have any questions.

- **If my organization gets a grant, what will we have to do?**

After you sign your grant contract, you will be required to attend a Zoom kickoff meeting in early April 2022. You will also be required to attend at least three more meetings with us during the year-long project grant period (April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023). During meetings, our staff will check in with you about your project's progress, help you solve any problems you might have, and help you explore new opportunities. At the end of the grant period, you will be required to submit a final report due March 31, 2023. We will provide a report format and help you so that this requirement is as easy as possible for you.

- **I have more questions! How do I learn more about applying for a grant?**

Please consider attending one of our application informational webinars (Zoom) in early January 2022. The webinars will explain the grant application and process. There will also be time to answer questions from the audience. To register for a webinar, please go to www.faitinplace.org/upcoming-events.

The **English webinar** will be **Thursday, January 6**, at 6:00 PM Central Time / 7:00 PM Eastern Time.

The **Spanish webinar** will be **Monday, January 10**, at 6:00 PM Central Time / 7:00 PM Eastern Time.

Recordings of the webinars will be posted [at https://www.faitinplace.org/food-grant-application](https://www.faitinplace.org/food-grant-application).

You are not required to attend or watch a webinar to apply for a grant. Webinars are entirely optional, though attendance is encouraged.

- **I have even more questions! How do I get answers?**

Please email your questions to grants@faithinplace.org. We will answer your questions as soon as possible.