

## Good Food Fund

### Frequently Asked Questions

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

A: 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 present a valid license by April 30, 2024 to be eligible for a grant.

Any business with questions about this requirement is encouraged to reach out to A4CB at [help@a4cb.org](mailto: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>

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

A: No, we plan to run another round of grant applications later this year. Please keep an eye out for further information.

- **I filled out the "expression of interest" for the Good Food Fund grant. When will I receive my grant?**

A: You're not done yet! The expression of interest form is just the first step. We will review your submission within five business days at the latest (and will usually do so within two business days). If you meet the basic eligibility criteria, you will receive an invitation from Allies for Community Business (A4CB) by email to complete the full application.

- **What types of businesses are eligible for this grant?**

A: Businesses throughout the food and beverage supply chain are eligible. If you grow, supply, make, manufacture, sell, or otherwise contribute to food and beverages, you are probably eligible. See the next question for a few exceptions.

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

A: The following business categories are not eligible:

- National Chains (Locally-owned franchises are acceptable)
- Liquor stores and alcoholic beverage wholesalers
- Cannabis dispensaries and other cannabis-related businesses
- Night clubs and bars

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

A: 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 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](mailto:help@a4cb.org).

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

A: 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?**

A: As long as you meet the eligibility criteria, we encourage you to apply! Meeting the funding priorities (like being located on the West or South Side) will make it more likely for you to receive funding, but any business that meets the eligibility criteria will be considered.

Eligibility criteria that you must meet:

- Food or beverage business
  - Located in Chicago
  - Holds a current Chicago food and beverage business license
  - Filed a federal tax return in 2022
  - Has established a business bank account
- **What if we are a food co-op?**

A: Grocery stores are acceptable as long as they are set up as for-profit companies.

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

A: 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](https://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: Unfortunately, you are not eligible for this grant. A 2022 federal tax return is required from all applicants.