

*Below are questions and answers from the 2025 Starter Fund info sessions, this document will be updated after each session. Questions are anonymized and slightly edited for clarity. If you have any questions about the Starter Fund, please send an email to* [*foodequityfund@seattle.gov*](mailto:foodequityfund@seattle.gov) *or call us at (206) 727-FOOD (3663).*

Last updated: 4/29/2025

**For ineligible applicants, can you please share what you mean by ‘unsuccessful projects’?**

If you were awarded a grant in the past three years and you didn’t carry out the project according to the contract, you are ineligible. We are happy to talk about this further offline.

**Are food vouchers and gift cards eligible?**

No, we currently cannot pay for food vouchers or gift cards.

**What about gift cards as incentives?**

Our current policy is that we’re not able to pay for gift cards and encourage you to provide a stipend to volunteers if you see fit.

**Is it ok to submit a handwritten application?**

Yes, though we encourage you to type it if possible so that we can read it. However if you do decide to handwrite it, please scan or take a photo of the application and submit it to [foodequityfund@seattle.gov](mailto:foodequityfund@seattle.gov).

**How soon can we apply for the grant if we have an application ready?**

Today if you’d like. If you’d like to receive feedback on a draft, a project manager who won’t be involved in the decision making process can provide feedback on a draft application. Please reach out to our team at [foodequityfund@seattle.gov](mailto:foodequityfund@seattle.gov) if you’d like to submit or receive feedback first.

**Do applications need to be submitted in English?**

Currently, DON is only able to accept applications in written English. However, if you want one-on-one support in a language other than English, we can set up a virtual meeting with an interpreter free of cost. Please send an email to [foodequityfund@seattle.gov](mailto:foodequityfund@seattle.gov) or call us at 206-727-3663 to request an interpreter.

**Do you consider cultural relevant food for funding?**

Yes absolutely. If you want to increase culturally relevant food access to your community, or supplement what is already being provided, we consider those eligible activities.

**Is there a timeframe for providing property owner permission? Should we submit the application now or get property owner permission at a later time?**

If your project includes a physical improvement, you need to have a property owner permission at the time of application submission.

**Is there an application word limit?**

For the Starter Fund, there is no word limit. Being specific and clear is more important than the length of your answer.

**Can you apply to both the Food Equity Fund (which closed on March 17th) and this Starter Fund?**

We will only make one award over the two grant programs. We suggest that you wait until you hear back from the Food Equity Fund general grant if you already applied.