

## Farm to Food Assistance Learning Lab Application

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**The Farm to Food Assistance Learning Lab will support and learn from people working on initiatives that buy food from local farmers and make it accessible to food insecure communities, with an emphasis on racial equity and community driven solutions. Through this 12-month Lab, the Wallace Center will provide funding, mentorship, and peer support to folks working on these efforts, including those that are funded by USDA's Local Food Purchasing Assistance Cooperative Agreement program (LFPA). We'll also collaborate with you to gather and measure the impact and challenges of this strategy so we can all better tell the story of this work. If you are working on a program that aims to address food insecurity and farm viability for BIPOC producers, apply now!**

#### **You'll receive:**

- **Peer connection: a community of people doing similar work in a confidential, supportive space**
- **Financial assistance: \$20k to strengthen and advance your farm to food assistance (F2FA) efforts**
- **Technical assistance: dedicated advisors and monthly group calls to increase organizations' knowledge and capacity for design, collaboration, and implementation of F2FA projects**
- **In Person Retreat to help participants expand their network, deepen their connections and learn from their peers (Lead applicant only)**

#### **Eligibility:**

- **This learning lab is open to Local Food Purchase Assistance program implementers OR Organizations that have at least one year of engagement in managing (non-Local Food Purchase Assistance) farm to food assistance programs that are paying farmers fair market value for their products and connecting them with food assistance programs in their communities.**
- **We'll consider applications from a broad range of organizations, including but not limited to nonprofits, for-profits, faith-based organizations, mutual aid organizations, food hubs, food banks, community-based organizations, state and tribal governments, and cooperatives.**

**Selection Criteria: Here are the criteria we will use to select from eligible applicants. Throughout your responses please demonstrate how your program is:**

- **Paying farmers for food purchases vs requesting donations**
- **Demonstrating a commitment to racial equity and centering community driven solutions**
- **Working to create sustainable solutions that exist beyond short term funding streams**
- **Willing and able to share data about their operations including number of farmers, dollars of product, and number of people served per month.**
- **Planning to use grant funds (up to \$20k) to help your program and partners set up for long term success**

**Applications are open through 5pm PT on Monday July 10th. Each organization will be represented by a lead applicant and their partners. Your responses to the questions in this application will be kept confidential. Thanks for your interest in participating- we can't wait to learn with you!**

**Please Enter contact and demographic information for the lead applicant and 2 participating team members**

We are committed to supporting teams that reflect the diversity of communities across the country and represents a cross-section of the movement for equitable food systems. This demographic information will be kept confidential and help us track our progress towards inclusivity.

**\* 1. Lead Applicant**

<b>Name</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Organization</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Title</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>City/Town</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>State</b>	<input type="text" value="-- select state --"/>
<b>Email Address</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Phone Number</b>	<input type="text"/>

**\* 2. What is the legal structure of your organization?**

- Nonprofit 501c3, or fiscally sponsored by one
- Cooperative
- For profit business
- B-corporation
- Other- please explain:

**\* 3. How would you identify your race/ethnicity? (Check all that apply)**

- Asian
- Pacific Islander
- Black/African American
- White
- Latino/Latina/Latinx
- Prefer not to answer
- Native American
- Other (please specify)

4. How old are you?

- Under 29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60 or older
- Prefer not to answer

5. What pronouns do you prefer?

6. How do you identify your gender?

7. What is your role in the F2FA program you're working on?

**Please enter contact and demographic information for 2nd team member below**

8. Team member contact information

<b>Name</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Organization</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Title</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>City/Town</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>State</b>	-- select state -- <input type="button" value="v"/>
<b>Email Address</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Phone Number</b>	<input type="text"/>

9. How would this team member identify their race/ethnicity? (Check all that apply)

- Asian
- Black/African American
- Latino/Latina/Latinx
- Native American
- Other (please specify)
- Pacific Islander
- White
- Prefer not to answer

10. How old are they?

- Under 29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60 or older
- Prefer not to answer

11. What pronouns do they prefer?

12. How do they identify their gender?

13. What is their role in the F2FA program you're working on?

**Please enter contact and demographic information for 3rd team member below**

14. Team member contact information

<b>Name</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Organization</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Title</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>City/Town</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>State</b>	-- select state -- <input type="button" value="v"/>
<b>Email Address</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Phone Number</b>	<input type="text"/>

15. How would this team member identify their race/ethnicity? (Check all that apply)

- Asian
- Black/African American
- Latino/Latina/Latinx
- Native American
- Other (please specify)
- Pacific Islander
- White
- Prefer not to answer

16. How old are they?

- Under 29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60 or older
- Prefer not to answer

17. What pronouns do they prefer?

18. How do they identify thier gender?

19. What is their role in the F2FA program you're working on?

**Application Questions. Please keep your answers prompt and honest. These answers do not have to be polished. We are looking for applicants who are deeply committed to learning and solving problems together with their peers.**

20. What is the mission of your organization? (150 words max)

21. In your work, do you buy and sell, aggregate, store, produce, and/or distribute locally or regionally produced agriculture products?

- Yes  
 No

Comments

22. Briefly describe the farm to food assistance program that you are involved in. Who are your partners? Who are the main suppliers and recipients of food? (200 words max)

23. How is this program funded?

- Local Food Purchase Assistance Program  
 Other Federal Funding  
 Philanthropic funding  
 State government funding  
 Corporate Funding  
 City/County funding  
 Individual donations  
 Other/ Comments

24. What percentage of your program's total food purchases (% of total dollar amount) is from Black farmers, Indigenous farmers, or other farmers of color?

25. Comments on your response from previous question:

26. What geographic area does your program serve (one or more counties, state level, regional etc)?

27. How does your work engage or support historically disinvested or excluded communities? (200 words max)

28. How long has this program been in operation?

- Less than 1 year
- 1-2 years
- 3+ years

29. How are important decisions related to your project made? Who gets to influence those decisions? (200 words max)

30. What are the top three challenges you would like to work with others in the lab to solve?

1

2

3

31. Are you willing and able to share data about your program? This will include metrics like the number of farmers, dollars of product, and number of people served per month.

Yes

No

Comments

32. Why do you want to participate in the Learning Lab? (200 words max)

33. There are grants of up to \$20,000 available per team through this program. Grant deliverables will include sharing data and metrics with the Wallace Center and attending learning lab events.

How would you use these funds to contribute to the long term viability of your F2FA program? (200 words max)

34. Please share any existing communications you have around this program (links to webpages, articles etc)

35. Is there anything else you would like us to know about you, your history, your interests, or your work?

\* 36. By signing this, I confirm that I, as the lead applicant, will attend the in-person kickoff gathering November 1-3 2023, attend monthly calls with the cohort, and provide data about my program to the Wallace Center to the best of my ability.

Signature

Date