SLC Food Equity Microgrant Program

The Salt Lake City Sustainability Department created the SLC Food Equity Microgrant Program in 2023 as a funding opportunity to support resident- and community-led projects that address food inequity and increase access to fresh, healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant food in Salt Lake City.

The purpose of the SLC Food Equity Microgrant Program is to build an inclusive community around healthy food choices where individuals living in Salt Lake City have many opportunities to shape, participate in, and enjoy a sustainable, equitable, and resilient local food environment.

Projects must be located in Salt Lake City. Only one application is accepted per household or organization. There are two categories of funding:

- *Home Food Production Grants:* $250 for residents
- *Community Grants:* up to $5,000 for community groups, organizations, or small businesses

Funding Priorities

Any food related projects that connect with the purpose and goals of this grant will be considered for funding. Projects that align with the key ideas and recommendations outlined in the [SLC Resident Food Equity Advisors' Final Report (June 2021)](#) will be prioritized for funding. The four main categories of prioritized projects include:

- *Growing Food* - projects that support opportunities and access to grow food locally
- *Inclusive Outreach & Communications* - projects that support accessibility of information about food resources to groups that experience challenges with or exclusion from traditional outlets
- *Dignified Food Access* - projects that support improving access to healthy and relevant food opportunities that center and respect the agency and choice of individuals
- *Healthy Food Environments* - projects that support the availability and accessibility of healthy, fresh foods and enhance the quality and character of food environments near where people live

Projects led by and serving those who identify as members of groups that have been most negatively impacted by the food system will be prioritized for funding. Priority peoples and communities include:

- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)
- Historically marginalized or under-resourced people and neighborhoods
- People and households living in poverty or with low- or moderate-incomes
- Unsheltered or informally sheltered people
- LGBTQIA2S+ individuals and communities
- People with disabilities
- People with specific health needs
- Veterans
- Adults 65+
- Youth
- Nontraditional students
- People of differing legal status
- Immigrants and the newly arrived
- Formerly incarcerated
- People with deep cultural food relationships
- Groups for whom other funding opportunities are or historically have been limited

The 2024 SLC Food Equity Microgrant application period will be open until March 3rd, 11:59 PM. Awardees will be announced during the first week of April.

To apply for the grant, please respond to the questions contained in this document. Please note that questions marked with a ***** are required. All required questions must be addressed for an application to be complete and considered for funding. There are five parts to the community grant application:

1. Confirming grant eligibility
2. Contact information
3. Project proposal
4. Additional Information (optional)
5. Acknowledging next steps

Application Format & Submission Options

Applications are available and accepted in multiple formats including:

- *Written options*: online form, digital form (Word document or fillable pdf), or paper form
    - Digital forms should be submitted by email to the Program Manager
    - Paper applications should be sent or delivered to the following address: Sustainability Department, Food Equity Microgrant Program, 451 South State Street, Room #418, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84114
    - Paper applications may also be dropped off at any of the SLC Library branches

- *Recorded options:* an audio or video recording responding to the application questions
    - Recorded responses should be submitted by email to the Program Manager

- *Live exchange options*: phone call, video chat, or in-person meeting with the Program Manager
    - To schedule a live exchange application appointment, contact the Program Manager

Application Language Options

Applications are available and accepted in any language. To request an application form in a language other than Spanish or English, visit our website or contact the Program Manager. If you would like additional translation support with a live exchange or recorded response, contact the Program Manager.

Additional Information & Support

If you have questions, would like help with your idea or application, or would like to receive or complete the application in another format or language, contact the Program Manager. For general information about the program, including FAQs, application examples, and information on past funded projects, please visit our program website: https://www.slc.gov/sustainability/food-equity-grant/

Program Manager Contact Information

Maria Schwarz (she/her) | phone (calls or texts): (385) 271-7220 | email – maria.schwarz@slcgov.com

COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION

Community Grants are intended to support local community groups, organizations, and small businesses in advancing food equity in Salt Lake City. Grants provide up to $5,000 to Salt Lake City-based organizations to help buy equipment and supplies, access educational opportunities, or support professional services or personnel compensation directly related to the proposed project.

Confirming Grant Eligibility

Please note this grant is unavailable for projects located outside of Salt Lake City or for the following groups: government agencies, political groups, media groups, or groups/individuals living or serving outside of Salt Lake City. You can see a map of the Salt Lake City boundaries here: https://maps.slcgov.com/mws/residentrepresentation-lg.htm

If you have a question about your organization's eligibility to apply for this grant, contact the Program Manager, Maria Schwarz, by email: maria.schwarz@slcgov.com or by phone/text: (385) 271-7220

- *Will the proposed project be located in the boundaries of Salt Lake City?
    - ☐ Yes
    - ☐ No
    - ☐ I'm not sure

- *Are you applying for a grant on behalf of one of the following groups: government agency, political group, media group, group/individual living or serving outside of Salt Lake City?
    - ☐ Yes
    - ☐ No
    - ☐ I'm not sure

Contact Information

Please provide the following information so our team can communicate with you about the application.

- *Name of applicant or primary contact person: _____
- *Email address: _____
- *Phone number: _____
- What communication method(s) would you prefer to use when communicating with us? (select all that apply)
    - ☐ Email
    - ☐ Phone call
    - ☐ Text message
    - ☐ Other: (specify)
- What language would you prefer to use when communicating with us?
    _____

- If you would like to list an additional contact person, please provide their name and contact information here:

Project Proposal

Section 1: Organization Description

Please answer the following questions about your group, organization, or business in 1-3 paragraphs. The most successful applicants will be led by and serving those most impacted by inequities in the food system with a demonstrable history of or potential to execute the goals of their project. Please note that we use the term "organization" throughout this application to refer to many different group or business structures and types.

The questions in this section will be reviewed by our grant selection committee and used to prioritize projects for funding.

- *Name of organization(s): (please include all organization names if applying as a partnership)

- *Organization website(s) (if none, please write NA)

- *Please select the option that best describes your organization
    - ☐ Grassroots group (organization without 501(c)(3) status)
    - ☐ Nonprofit (organization with 501(c)(3) status)
    - ☐ Neighborhood or community association
    - ☐ Faith-based organization
    - ☐ School
    - ☐ For-profit business
    - ☐ Other: (specify)

    _____

- *Is your organization's overall budget equal to or more than $1,000,000 (one million dollars)?
    - ☐ Yes
    - ☐ No
    - ☐ I'm not sure
    - ☐ Other: (specify)

- *Please describe your organization and its mission. Include a brief description of your organization's history including why it was founded, the key issue(s) it addresses, your current work, and any major accomplishments.

- *Please describe your organization's leadership and structure. How do those that are impacted by the issue(s) your organization addresses participate in decision making with your organization?

- *Please describe the populations your organization primarily engages and serves. Does your organization work with one or more of the priority peoples or communities this grant aims to benefit?

- *Where is your organization located? What is the geographic area your organization primarily serves?

Section 2: Project Description and Impact

Please answer the following questions about your organization's proposed project. The questions in this section will be reviewed by our grant selection committee and used to prioritize projects for funding. The most successful applicants will clearly demonstrate how their project aligns with the purpose and goals of this grant program, addresses food inequity, and advances food equity in Salt Lake City.

- *Which funding priority category, if any, does your project align with best?
  - ☐ Growing food
  - ☐ Inclusive outreach and communications
  - ☐ Dignified food choices
  - ☐ Healthy food environments
  - ☐ None of the above

- *Please describe your proposed project and its goals.

- *How does your project address food inequity and advance food equity in Salt Lake City? How does your proposed project align with the purpose and goals of this grant program?

- *How much funding are you seeking for this project? (up to $5,000)

- *Please provide a budget or detailed description of how all funds will be used for your proposed project. This information can be attached or sent to the Program Manager as a separate document if you prefer.

- *Please provide an estimated timeline for the project. This information can be attached or sent to the Program Manager as a separate document if you prefer.

- *How would you define success for this project?

- *What metrics will you use to evaluate this project and how will you collect that data?

- *How would your project incorporate sustainable or environmentally beneficial practices?

- *Who are your partners and how do you collaborate with them to achieve your goals? How do you plan to grow and foster community support for your project?

- *I acknowledge that our organization may be asked to provide a letter of support from community members or other organizations involved or impacted by our organization's proposed project.
    - ☐ I understand and agree to the terms of this statement.

- *Please provide the address of the proposed project, including the zip code.

- *Does your organization own or have permission from the owner to use the space where you are proposing to locate your project? You may be asked to provide proof of ownership or permission from the owner prior to receiving funding for your project.
    - ☐ Yes
    - ☐ No
    - ☐ I'm not sure
    - ☐ Not applicable to project

- If desired, please use this space to share anything else you would like the Selection Committee to know or consider about your work that the application questions did not address.

  Please note: The information you provide for this question will be used to better understand what your project is trying to achieve and has no impact on whether your project is awarded a grant. The information provided could increase points awarded on other questions if it provides more clarity or context to those responses. This question is optional.

- Please list any questions you have about the grant program, application, or process.

Additional Informational Questions

The City is interested in understanding more about who is applying for the SLC Food Equity Microgrant Program and what kinds of projects they are interested in so we can continue to adapt our program, reach diverse applicants, support a variety of project types, and better serve the community.

The answers to the following questions will not be used to score your application and have no impact on whether your project is awarded a grant. These questions are optional.

- How long has your organization existed in Salt Lake City?

- Has your organization ever applied for a grant before?
    - ☐ Yes
    - ☐ No

- Will this grant be used to start a new project or support/expand an existing project?
    - ☐ Start a new project
    - ☐ Support/expand an existing project
    - ☐ Other: (specify)

- How much experience, if any, does your organization have producing food?
    - ☐ None or less than 1 year
    - ☐ 1-3 years
    - ☐ 4-10 years
    - ☐ 10+ years
    - ☐ Not applicable

- Would the proposed project do one or more of the following? (select all that apply)
    - ☐ Replace all or part of a grass lawn
    - ☐ Replace all or part of a paved or rock/gravel area with plants
    - ☐ Install a water efficient irrigation system
    - ☐ Plant one or more trees
    - ☐ Change the landscaping in a park strip
    - ☐ None of the above

- At what kind of location would the proposed project take place?
  - ☐ Single family home
  - ☐ Duplex or multifamily building
  - ☐ Apartment or condo building
  - ☐ Shared community or neighborhood space
  - ☐ School
  - ☐ Church
  - ☐ Business
  - ☐ Not applicable to project
  - ☐ Other: (specify)

- Does your organization own or rent the space where your proposed project is/would take place?
  - ☐ Own
  - ☐ Rent
  - ☐ Not applicable to project
  - ☐ Other: (specify)

- How did you hear about this grant program?

  _____

- Do you have any helpful information you'd like to share with other applicants? This could include local food resources, organizations, or funding opportunities. If yes, please list the names of the organizations or resources.

- Is there anything else you think would be helpful for the City to know as we seek to support residents and communities in promoting food equity through this grant or other City programs?

Acknowledging Next Steps

- *I acknowledge that if selected for a grant, our organization will have to sign an agreement with the City outlining the responsibilities, expectations, and requirements of receiving funding.
  - ☐ I understand this statement and agree to its terms.

- *I acknowledge that if selected for a grant, our organization will have to attend an orientation as a requirement of receiving the funding.
  - ☐ I understand this statement and agree to its terms.

- *I acknowledge that if selected for a grant, our organization will have to register with Salt Lake City to receive the funding. Receiving this funding may have tax reporting implications.
  - ☐ I understand this statement and agree to its terms.

- *I acknowledge that if selected for a grant, our organization will be responsible for reporting outcomes of the funded project to Salt Lake City's Sustainability Department.
  - ☐ I understand this statement and agree to its terms.

- *I acknowledge that if selected for a grant, our organization will be responsible for ensuring that the project complies with any relevant City, County, or State regulations.
  - ☐ I understand this statement and agree to its terms.

- *I acknowledge that our organization may be asked to provide information about and/or photos of our project to help with the publicity of the SLC Food Equity Microgrant Program. There will be an opportunity to opt out of the publicity request. Choosing not to participate in the publicity of this program will have no impact on whether our project is awarded a grant.
  - ☐ I understand this statement and agree to its terms.

END OF APPLICATION

Thank you for applying for a Community Grant through the Salt Lake City Food Equity Microgrant Program!

If the Selection Committee has any questions about your application or proposed project, you will be contacted via the preferred communication method and language you have indicated. Chosen applicants will be notified of selection decisions in the first week of April.

For more information about the grant program, please visit the program website: https://www.slc.gov/sustainability/food-equity-grant/

If you have any questions about your application, please contact the Program Manager, Maria Schwarz, by email – maria.schwarz@slcgov.com or by phone/text – (385) 271-7220.