



2026 Seed Awards

Request for Proposals (RFP) from Michigan Growers, Aggregators/Distribution, Infrastructure, Products/Value Added, Food Service and Grocery/Retail Businesses

Michigan Good Food Fund is a partnership of lenders and technical assistance providers that support food and farm entrepreneurs across the state, offering flexible financing and tailored business assistance. We meet entrepreneurs where they are, connect them with what they need, and build long-term relationships to help their businesses thrive.

Michigan Good Food Fund is governed by a Stakeholder Board of entrepreneurs, lenders, and technical assistance providers. Together, this Board identified a set of priorities to guide investments, including this RFP. Together, we aim to support food and farm businesses whose success will grow economic development, healthy food access, racial equity, and/or resilient climate practices in Michigan.

BUSINESSES REQUESTED

Michigan Good Food Fund is seeking Michigan-based growers, aggregators/distribution, infrastructure, products/value added, food service and grocery/retail businesses that can benefit from seed (grant) funding to grow their business and/or help prepare for financing. With this RFP, Michigan Good Food Fund invites Michigan-based business owners to apply for a seed grant to take their business to the next level. Michigan Good Food Fund anticipates providing 10-15 seed grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Details of the application process are outlined below.

What type of businesses fall under the categories of growers, aggregators/distribution, infrastructure, products/value added, food service and grocery/retail?

Food businesses that fall under these categories either grow, aggregate, distribute, process, manufacture, prepare, or sell food and agricultural products, or provide the infrastructure necessary to support these activities. Here are some examples of food businesses in these categories:

1. **Farms:** Businesses that grow crops or raise livestock for sale to consumers, retailers, institutions, processors or other markets.
2. **Specialty Crop Producers:** Businesses that grow fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, mushrooms, or other specialty agricultural products.

3. **Food Hubs:** Businesses or organizations that aggregate, store, market, and distribute products from multiple farms or food producers to wholesale, retail, institutional, or consumer markets.
4. **Packaged Food Producers:** Businesses that produce food that is packaged and sold through retail, wholesale, or direct-to-consumer markets.
5. **Food Manufacturers:** Businesses that process ingredients or agricultural products into finished or value-added food for commercial sale.
6. **Restaurants:** Businesses that prepare and sell meals and ready-to-eat foods directly to consumers for dine-in, carryout, or delivery.
7. **Incubator Kitchens:** Shared commercial kitchen spaces where food entrepreneurs can rent time and equipment to produce their products. Examples include community kitchens, culinary incubators, and commissary kitchens.
8. **Grocery Stores:** Retail businesses that sell a variety of food, beverages, fresh produce, and other grocery products directly to consumers.
9. **Markets:** Retail food businesses that sell fresh, local, specialty, or other food products directly to consumers, including neighborhood markets.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for funding, businesses should apply by September 28, 2026, at 5:00 PM EDT by clicking on the link below. Businesses will be asked to describe the following in their response:

1. A brief description of your business: name and location, community(ies) served, and product(s) and/or service(s) provided.
2. The current status of your business, for example – customer base, revenue, start-up or established operations, etc.
3. Business owner's name(s) and demographic information.
4. The specific amount you are seeking, up to a maximum of \$20,000. This will help us understand your financial needs and how we can best support your business.
5. Intended use of the requested funds. Be as specific as possible regarding how these funds will help you grow your business, prepare for additional financing, and/or meet your business goals, and positively impact the Michigan food system and your community.

PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

To apply, please [click here](#). Applications must be received by Monday, September 28, 2026, at 5:00 PM EDT.

A committee of Michigan Good Food Fund Stakeholder Board members will review the proposals and decide which will receive funding based on the proposed use of funds and mission alignment. Applicants can expect to hear whether their proposal has been selected for funding by November 16, 2026. Please direct any questions or requests for information about the 2026 Seed Awards to info@migoodfoodfund.org.