



Washington State Organic and Sustainable Farming Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) What is the purpose of the Washing State Organic and Sustainable Farming Fund (WSOSFF)?
 - a. WSOSFF provides grants up to \$10,000 to fund small but high impact on-farm projects and practices that will:
 - i. Reduce the environmental and/or climate impacts of farm operations.
Examples include projects intended to:
 1. Reduce green-house gas emissions
 2. Increase Biodiversity
 3. Reduce the use of off-farm inputs
 4. Decrease reliance on tillage
 - ii. Increase the climate resilience of the farm.
 - iii. Improve on-farm soil health
 - iv. Support the transition to Certified Organic or Certified Regenerative Organic
 - v. Support the adoption of an organic/regenerative management plan for the farm.
 - vi. Improve the efficiency and/or effectiveness of farms that currently operate in compliance with an organic/regenerative management plan, whether Certified or not.
 - vii. Are led by or emphasize working with women, BIPOC, veterans, immigrants, and members of the LGBTQ+ community
- 2) What will WSOSFF **not** fund?
 - a. WSOSFF will **NOT** fund Certification Cost Share.
 - b. WSOSFF will **NOT** provide grants to organizations that primarily provide support services to farmers.
 - c. WSOSFF will **NOT** fund equipment.
 - d. WSOSFF funds may be used to cover *contractual* labor costs for specific project work that falls outside the regular operations of the farm. **Project funds CANNOT be used to pay wages to owners, employees, or interns of the farm.**
 - e. WSOSFF is intended to help cover the cost of specific investments that will lead to the outcomes listed above. Grants cannot be used to fund farm overhead or contribute directly to net farm revenue.
 - f. WSOSFF grants are intended to have immediate impact. Therefore, funds are not available to fund research that will not yield results within the timeframe of the grant cycle.

3) Is this grant competitive?

- a. Yes, in 2021 we were able to fund about 38 percent of the proposals we received with partial and full funding.
- b. Here is a breakdown by year:

Year	Number of Applicants	Number of Projects Awarded	Percent of Projects Awarded	Total Amount Awarded
2015	38	33	87%	\$265,833
2016	57	46	81%	\$503,195
2017	58	27	47%	\$163,144
2018	90	37	41%	\$405,511
2019	101	38	38%	\$350,000
2020	79	42	53%	\$399,929
2021	93	35	38%	\$251,763
2022	62	34	55%	\$249,873

4) I have received a grant before. Am I eligible to apply again?

- a. An individual farm business is eligible to receive up to \$20,000 in grants over a five-year period. For example, if in 2018, a farm business received a grant of \$5,000 they would be able to apply for up to \$10,000 in 2021 and \$5,000 in 2022. Please note: While previous grantees are eligible to apply, *priority will be given to new applicants.*

5) Is partial funding available?

- a. Yes, projects can be partially funded *if the project can easily be broken down into specific components.*

6) Are non-profit farms eligible?

- a. WSOSFF grants are intended to have a direct impact on a farm's operation. Therefore, non-profits that are directly engaged in farming are eligible to apply for grants to improve their farm outcomes. Non-profits who primarily work in support of farmers are **NOT** eligible to apply.

7) I operate a cannabis farm. Am I eligible to apply?

- a. Although it is legal in the state of Washington to grow marijuana with certain permits, cultivation of these plants is currently still illegal at the federal level. Therefore, at this point, Tilth Alliance is not able to fund projects related to marijuana production.

8) Are individual farm businesses allowed to submit multiple applications?

- a. No, the review committee will review and consider one application per farm business.

9) Are multiple projects allowed within one application?

- a. No, only one project per application is allowed. For example, if a farm was hoping to find funding for a hedgerow planting and a solar project, they would only be allowed to submit an application for one of those.

10) Are multi-year grants available?

- a. Not at this time. Funds will be awarded in March 2024 and must be spent by December 31, 2024.

11) Are matching funds required?

- a. Matching funds are not required for this grant but are greatly appreciated and encouraged.

12) Are group projects eligible?

- a. Group projects are eligible as long as they have direct on-farm impact. There must be one person who serves as the point of contact for the project. Group projects must submit a single proposal, but each farm needs to fill out the first page of the application which includes farm and contact information.

Tips for writing a competitive proposal:

- Read all instructions carefully. Be sure that if submitting proposal by email that entire application (cover sheet, narrative questions, and letters of support) are submitted as a single document (PDF or Word).
- This is a competitive grant program. Successful proposals are straight-forward, make a clear request for what project funds will be used for, and are well thought out including contingency plans if things don't go as planned.
- Using exact or precisely estimated numbers in the budget demonstrates a well-researched proposal that uses project funds efficiently.
- If farming on leased land, we highly recommend including a letter of support from landowner or indicate landowner buy-off on project elsewhere in proposal.
- The goal of this grant program is to support as many farm businesses as possible. If partial funding of the project is feasible, indicate in the proposal the highest priority for project components to fund and how the project can still be carried out with partial funding.