Food Access and Recovery Infrastructure and Equipment Grants Program Guide

What are the Food Access and Recovery Infrastructure and Equipment Grants?

Food Access and Recovery Infrastructure and Equipment Grants enhance community access to nutritious food by improving the ability of organizations to safely and efficiently recover, store, process and distribute perishable and non-perishable food to better serve individuals and families in need.

This new program aligns with the Columbia Basin Management Plan 2024-2034, which includes a goal to help Basin communities take action to continue to be incredible and vibrant places through increasing opportunities for Basin residents to learn about and access affordable, locally grown, healthy food.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants include registered non-profits, local governments and First Nations in the Columbia Basin Trust region involved in food recovery and processing.

Food Banks that received support through the 2025 intake of Columbia Basin Trust's Food Bank Infrastructure and Equipment Grants are ineligible for this program.

When is the application deadline?

The deadline to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) is Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. PT / 3:00 p.m. MT.

When will organizations hear the results and when can projects begin?

EOIs will be reviewed when received. Applicants will be contacted by email, at the address provided on the EOI form, to confirm if the project has been approved to proceed. The applicant will then be asked to supply a finalized budget with any required supporting quotes.

To finalize funding, both parties will sign a Contribution Agreement. Projects must aim to be completed within one year of the date of the signed Contribution Agreement.

What types of projects and costs are eligible?

Eligible projects include:

- Infrastructure upgrades that expand capacity or improve operational efficiency. Examples include, but are not limited to, renovations to reconfigure inefficient layouts, installing lifts, adding or expanding cold storage or food preparation spaces, and/or accessibility enhancements.
- The purchase of equipment that improves operational efficiency. Examples include but are not limited to refrigerators and freezers, ovens, steam kettles, cooling units, shelving and storage systems, forklifts, software, and/or scales.

What types of projects or costs are not eligible?

Costs that are not eligible include the following, but are not limited to those that:

- support projects outside the Basin;
- support projects that involve political advocacy;
- cover ongoing costs like food, disposables, staff wages, utilities or other operating costs;

- take place on private land (e.g., land owned by individuals or for-profit companies);
- are considered routine maintenance of an existing asset or infrastructure; and
- primarily benefit the applicant itself or the members of a membership-based organization.

These grants are not intended to support the production of food for commercial use or resale.

How much will the Trust fund?

Up to 85 per cent of total project costs can be requested from the Trust. The expected maximum amount of Trust funding for any one project is $40,000.

How does the Trust select projects for funding?

The Trust often receives requests for more funding than what is available and will prioritize requests from Applicants that demonstrate:

- the organization meets the program eligibility listed above;
- the project shows it is ready to move forward in the stated timelines; and
- the project will benefit the public or broader community.

The Trust strives to distribute program funds across communities, organizations and project types and will consider this as part of the adjudication process.

What else to keep in mind?

Even if a project meets eligibility criteria, it may not be selected for funding as the Trust often receives requests for more funding than what is available. The Trust retains the right to determine project eligibility and the amount of funding allocated to each project; this may be all or part of what was requested.

Depending on the nature of the project, Applicants may have to obtain specific permits and approvals prior to receiving Trust funds.

Ready to apply?

1. Review the Program Guide.
2. If you would like to work offline, download the Worksheet here.
3. Complete the online Expression of Interest Form here.

Questions?

Any additional questions should be directed to the program contact, Melissa Johnson, at localfood@ourtrust.org.