

Food and Nutrition Access Grant

Q&A

Questions and answers have been edited for brevity and clarity.

Q: Can sites that received an award last year apply again this year?

A: Yes

Q: Would planting fruit trees be an eligible activity?

A: Applicants must articulate how the activity and initiative will increase residents' access to healthy foods.

Q: What is the total funding amount for the grant program/how many programs will be funded?

A: There is a total of \$150,000 available for this initiative, with a cap of \$10,000 per site. Depending on the funding amounts requested, we anticipate funding 15-20 applications.

Q: Is this initiative being funded with any federal dollars?

A: No

Q: Will we receive an acknowledgement of receipt of the grant proposal?

A: Yes

Q: Is there a word count limit?

A: No. All responses should be completed on the fillable form. Additional supporting documents can also be submitted.

Q. Can we apply for two developments?

A: Yes. If there is one initiative that benefits multiple sites (e.g. community garden that residents at multiple sites can access) – then submit one application. If it is a distinct initiative (e.g. a community garden at two different sites), then two applications should be submitted.

Q: Is a Taxpayer Identification Number required?

A: Only the MassHousing Project ID is required for the application. All awardees will need to provide a W9 and ACH form to receive payment.

Q: Can we use our TAP ID number?

A: No, please use your MassHousing Project Identification number, which may be similar to the TAP number for sites financed by MassHousing. TAP is open to sites that are not financed by MassHousing; this grant opportunity is exclusively for MassHousing financed sites.

Q: Will initiatives that require structural repairs to a building be eligible?

A: Applicants must make the case on how the initiatives increase access to healthy food for residents and may include the expansion of an existing program.

Q: What are the criteria for food access?

A: We are looking for sites to describe and define what healthy food access may mean for each distinct community. This may include data from HUD's Standards for Success reporting or other site based or community surveys; income levels; proximity to grocery stores with affordable produce; access to transportation, etc.

Q: If you received funding for an Inclusion and Leadership Mini Grant, or other initiative, can you apply to this?

A: Yes. So long as the initiative supports a MassHousing Financed site.

Q: How many requests did you receive last year and how many were funded?

A: We received 9 applications. One applicant withdrew. All remaining 8 were funded.

Q: What is the turnaround time for a response

A: Applicants will be notified about the decision within 30 days of their application.

Q: When is the harvest season?

A: May – October of 2025

Q: Would a shared refrigerator, or frozen meals be an eligible initiative?

A: You can submit initiatives under the "Other" category and articulate how the initiative will increase access to healthy food. All initiatives will be considered.

Q: Could an initiative with multiple components be awarded partial funding, for example if a proposal includes three distinct initiatives at a site, could 1 or 2 be funded and not the third.

A: Multifaceted initiatives may be considered so long as the request does not exceed \$10,000, the use of funds are outlined in budget detail and the initiatives address food and nutrition insecurity amongst residents in MassHousing financed developments. MassHousing may award partial or lower amounts than the amount requested in any proposal to maximize the impact of the funding.