

Who We Are

The Frontera Farmer Foundation is committed to promoting small, sustainable Midwestern farms serving the Chicago area, by providing them with capital development grants. Small local farms, which often struggle financially, are more likely to promote biodiversity by planting a wide range of produce and operate using organic practices. By their artisanal approach to agriculture, the freshness of their product and the variety of their offerings, these farmers insure the highest quality food while they add immeasurably to the fabric of their local rural community.

Eligibility Requirements: The Frontera Farmer Foundation will award grants for capital improvements of up to \$12,000 to small and mid-size farmers in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin that sell their food products to customers in the Chicago area at farmers markets and otherwise. Farmers must have been in business for at least three years and must demonstrate how the grant will improve both their farm's viability and the availability of locally grown food products in the Chicago area. Farms that have been awarded grants will be eligible every other year.

Grant applicants will be judged on the basis of demonstrated need, long-term dedication to sustainable farming, creative and business acumen, and commitment to sustainability. Applicants will also be judged on their past history with the foundation. Additional grants will be approved only after a farm has demonstrated the initial grant had a measurable impact on the farms infrastructure and ability to provide locally grown food to the Chicago area.

The Basics

Contact information and the essentials.

* 1. Contact Information

Your Name

Name of Farm

Address

Address 2

City/Town

State/Province

ZIP/Postal Code

Email Address

Phone Number

* 2. Type of Farm

* 3. What is the total size of your land in acres?

* 4. How many acres are being farmed?

5. What is your farm's annual gross revenue?

* 6. What is your business entity structure?

Partnership

Nonprofit

Corporation

Other (please specify)

* 7. How many people are employed on your farm, including principals and employees?

8. Resume of Farm Manager (Upload Document)

Choose File

No file chosen

* 9. What is your proposed project?

Farm Financials

Now, it's time to get some more of your farm's financial information. To complete this section, you will need to upload PDF files of the following documents:

- Profit & Loss forms for 2016, 2017, 2018
- Schedule F forms for 2016, 2017 and 2018
- Current debt schedule

If you don't have these, you'll have a chance to explain why on the last page of the application.

10. 2016: Profit & Loss

Choose File

No file chosen

11. 2016: Schedule F

Choose File

No file chosen

12. 2017: Profit & Loss

Choose File

No file chosen

13. 2017: Schedule F

Choose File

No file chosen

14. 2018: Profit & Loss

Choose File

No file chosen

15. 2018: Schedule F

Choose File

No file chosen

16. Debt Schedule

Choose File

No file chosen

Your Relationship with Frontera Farmer Foundation

* 17. Have you received a grant in the past?

Yes

No

18. If yes, please provide a detailed statement including a description of the project(s), and assessing the status and impact of past Frontera Farmer Foundation grant(s) on your farm operation.

19. If you have received a prior grant, how does this new request relate to the prior?

Picture Time!

We'd love to see a photo of you on your family farm.

20. Upload photos

Choose File

No file chosen

Project Goals and How You'll Achieve Them

Here we'd like to know your goals, path to success, project outlines and other important information.

* 21. What is the size of the grant you are applying for?

* 22. Please outline your goals for the project and describe your methods for reaching them.

* 23. Give a detailed outline for each phase of the project.

* 24. Give a detailed budget for how the money will be used. If the project includes buying some off-the-shelf equipment, include the details of the item (description, model number, current price, etc.) If labor is needed to complete the project, include the specifics of the labor. If the project includes something custom built, make certain to have a design in place and a quote for the work.

25. Upload Supporting Documents (Estimates, quotes, brochures, etc.) here

Choose File

No file chosen

26. Upload Supporting Documents (Estimates, quotes, brochures, etc.) here

Choose File

No file chosen

27. Upload Supporting Documents (Estimates, quotes, brochures, etc.) here

Choose File

No file chosen

More About Your Proposed Project

These are some open-ended questions designed to learn more about how you envision your proposed project, the operations and local impact of your farm, as well as any additional sources of funding.

* 28. Will you have any other sources of funding for this project?

* 29. What are the biggest challenges you expect to face?

* 30. How will this new asset increase your capability to continue farming, increase your farm income and increase the sustainability of your farming operation? Please supply a simple model showing your assumptions on how the foundation's investment is going to provide a return. Putting some actual numbers into your proposal can help you (and us) make informed investment choices.

* 31. In what ways will your project have an impact on your local community?

* 32. Do you have any plans to become, or are you now certified for organic production?

* 33. Are you applying for other financial assistance in this calendar year? If yes, how will this relate to the project for which you want this grant?

What else should our board know about your application? Is there a reason why you *couldn't* include some of those financial documents we asked for up top? Here's your chance to let us know.

34. Anything Else We Should Know? (Totally Optional)