

Frontera Farmer Foundation 2026

Application

Hello! Thanks for your interest in applying for a Frontera Farmer Foundation grant. Before proceeding, please review the eligibility guidelines below. In this form you'll be asked some information about your farm and your proposed project , as well as to uploaded specific financial documents, including Profit & Loss statements and the Schedule F tax form. The deadline to complete the application is 11 p.m. Thursday, March 5th.

**** Eligibility Guidelines • Read Carefully ****

Nonprofit groups and farms with nonprofit parent organizations are not eligible for an award.

Frontera Farmer Foundation will award grants for capital improvements of up to \$15,000 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, for a maximum of three total awards.

Each application is reviewed with consideration of the farm's long-term dedication to sustainable farming, the business' demonstrated need and financial sustainability, and the expected outcomes of this support. 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.

Yes, we accept mailed copies of the application. For that, you'll have to print out the application, fill it out and include all requested documents and mail it to: Frontera Farmer Foundation, 445 N. Clark St. Chicago, IL 60654

We have provided some sample financial forms and instructions, which you can find [HERE](#).

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

2. Your Name

3. Name of Farm

4. Address

5. Website

6. Phone Number

7. Email Address

8. What is Your Proposed Project? (Brief Description)

Tell Us About Your Farm

9. Type of Farm

Check all that apply.

- Cattle
- Poultry
- Hog
- Dairy
- Fruit and Vegetable
- Herb
- Other: _____

10. How Many Acres of Land are Being Farmed?

11. What products do you produce for the Chicago market?

The Chicago market is defined here as the counties of DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will in Illinois, as well as Lake in Indiana.

12. What is the dollar value, or percentage of total sales, of products sold in the Chicago market?

The Chicago market is defined here as the counties of DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will in Illinois, as well as Lake in Indiana.

13. What year was the farm founded? How long have you been operating it?

14. What Was Your Farm's Annual Gross Revenue for 2025?

15. What is Your Business Entity Structure?

Mark only one oval.

Sole Proprietorship

Partnership

Limited Liability Corporation

Other: _____

16. How Many People are Employed on Your Farm, Including Principals & Employees?

17. Upload the Resume of Your Farm Manager

Files submitted:

18. Where do you expect your business to be in 5 years? What is the goal/vision for your farm?

Farm Financials

In this section, we'll ask for some detailed information and documents.

We encourage you to prepare your **2025 Schedule F** tax form to attach to your application. You may still apply if that form has not yet been prepared. We do require submission of 2023 and 2024 Schedule F tax forms.

Profit and Loss Statements must be in a standard format, and provide a more detailed view of the business than a tax return. A sample P&L statement can be found [HERE](#), and should be customized to your business' income and expenses. A helpful "How-To" video can also be found on that page.

19. Have You Ever Received a Frontera Farmer Foundation Grant Before? If so, what year (or years) did you receive the grant(s)

22. If you answered 'Other' above, please describe.

23. Profit & Loss Statement 2023 (see note above)

Files submitted:

24. Profit & Loss Statement 2024 (see note above)

Files submitted:

25. Profit & Loss Statement 2025 (see note above)

Files submitted:

26. 2023 Schedule F

Files submitted:

27. 2024 Schedule F

Files submitted:

28. 2025 Schedule F

Files submitted:

29. If there were large increases or decreases to your income or expenses from one year to the next, please describe the changes that happened in your business, why they occurred and how you resolved them.

30. Do you currently have debt? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes *Skip to question 31*

No *Skip to question 32*

Debt Schedule

Upload page. Sample Debt Schedule form can be found [HERE](#).

31. Please upload a Debt Schedule

Files submitted:

[Back to Your Project](#)

Let's review the finer points of your proposal

32. What's the Size of the Grant You're Applying For?

33. Will You Have Other Sources of Funding for This Project?

34. 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?

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

36. What are the Biggest Challenges You Expect to Face in Achieving Your Project Goals?

37. In What Ways Will Your Project Impact Your Community? Please provide specifics.

38. 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.

39. Upload Supporting Documents (Estimates, Quotes, Brochures, etc.)

Files submitted:

40. 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 on investment (ROI). Putting some actual numbers into your proposal can help you (and us) make informed investment choices.

41. What Was Your Farm's Annual Gross Revenue for 2025? (same question as in section 2, question 14)

42. What is your Cost of Goods Sold for 2025?

COGS is the total **direct expenses** incurred in producing the agricultural products that are sold (including costs like seeds, fertilizer, animal feed, veterinary bills, labor directly related to production, packaging, etc.)

43. What were your Expenses for 2025?

Expenses here means costs that are **not directly related** to the production of crops or livestock (including administrative costs, salaries for farm management, property taxes, insurance premiums, utilities for farm buildings, marketing expenses, depreciation of farm equipment, etc.)

44. Total Cost of your new equipment

This should include the equipment purchase price for your proposed project, as well as additional and ongoing costs (including freight/shipping costs, commissioning and installation costs, training costs, annual maintenance and parts expenses, etc.)

45. Projected increase in revenue

This should include both the increase in revenue expected from the proposed project, and also the project's cost savings for direct expenses (labor, transportation, supplies, etc.)

46. OPTIONAL: Anything Else We Should Know?

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