



FY 2021 FOOD ACCESS FUND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When is the application due?

The Submission Deadline for Applications has been updated from Wednesday, August 18 at 5:00 p.m. EST to Wednesday, September 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. EST.

Has the eligibility areas been changed?

Per the RFA released on July 19, 2021, areas identified as having low food access would be subject to any subsequent temporary or permanent legislation. On August 10, 2021, the DC Council amended the eligible areas defined in the authorizing legislation. Please confirm your location eligibility using this [updated map](#).

What technical assistance resources are available for completing the application?

For technical assistance with the application, contact one of the CBOs listed here: <https://greatstreets.dc.gov/node/1184575>

Is a food truck eligible?

Yes, food trucks are eligible to apply, provided you have 2+ years of revenue generating operations.

Is a brick-and-mortar mobile hub of mobile food market eligible?

A mobile hub would be considered eligible provided there is a market component included in the concept of the physical location. The main business must have at least two years of revenue generating operations.

What is a Local Business Enterprise eligible food operator?

A food operator that is also designated as a Local Business Enterprise, a Certified Business Enterprise category. For more information, visit: <https://dslbd.dc.gov/page/cbe-certification-frequently-asked-questions-faqs>

Are funds eligible to pay for permits?

Yes, funds are available to pay for permits, provided it is construction related permits and part of the Construction budget.

Is the maximum award for each individual component (construction, rent, or security) or inclusive of all three components?

The maximum award per SF is the total amount to subsidize the total of all three components: construction, rent and/or security (if applicable)

If I have a food related business operating for 2+ years, and plan to open a new food-related business/concept under a different name/brand, am I eligible for the fund despite the two-year of revenue generating operations requirement?

No. The second location must be the same as an existing Name/Brand with two+ years of revenue generating operations.



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Does a business itself need to have two years of operating history or can the applicant have 2+ years of history?

The business, not the applicant, must have two years of operating history.

Can the requirement of at least two years of revenue generating operations be waived?

No, the two+ years requirement cannot be waived. This fund is for businesses that have proven a successful business model.

Can one application include multiple prospective locations?

No. Each location must have a separate application submission.

Will an operator be eligible to be awarded multiple grants or multiple sites?

Yes, an operator is eligible for grant awards for multiple locations. Each location must be submitted through a separate application.

Can I apply if I do not have a location identified?

No, a location must be identified, and proof of site control must be provided with the application. Please refer to the RFA for specific examples of proof of site control.

If I want to expand my business outside of Ward 7 & 8, can I use these funds to do so?

When expanding a business outside of Wards 7 & 8, please refer to the Food Access Fund Eligibility Map to determine if the location is within an eligible area.

How long of a lease term or prospective lease term is required for the grant?

A minimum of 10 years is required for the grant

Do you need the Letter of Intent (LOI) or the Landlord affidavit?

Both a LOI and a landlord affidavit is required to be submitted with the application.

Can I use my current Basic Business License (BBL)?

No. If you are a new business that will not yet have a BBL, upload a blank page with the following "As a new business establishment/concept, a BBL is not available at this time. BBL expected by MM/YY"

Can the application be submitted without the Certificate of Clean Hands?

No, the Certificate of Clean Hands must be received and submitted at the time of application.

Does the Certificate of Clean Hands need to be obtained at the time of application or at the time of awarding of funds?

The Certificate of Clean Hands must be obtained by the time of application and submitted at the time of application.

Can I apply for the grant if the Certificate of Clean Hands is being held up by unresolved issues or in process solutions?

No, all issues must be resolved, and a Certificate of Clean Hands obtained by the time of application.



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Does the Certificate of Occupancy milestone apply to the building or the business itself?

The business itself must obtain a Certificate of Occupancy.

Does the Community Impact, Market Feasibility, and Financial Viability need to be completed by a third party?

Community Impact and Financial Viability sections do not need to be completed by a third-party. Only the Market Feasibility section is *recommended* to be completed by a third-party, for preference in the scoring criteria.

For the Community Impact, Market Feasibility, and Financial Viability, are there recommended or pre-approved third-party providers?

The District cannot show preference to any District businesses. We do not have a list of recommended or pre-approved third-party providers. Also, only the Market Feasibility section is *recommended* to be completed by a third-party analyzer.