

FY 2021 Nourish DC Fund Information Session

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FY 2021 DC Local Equity, Access and Preservation Funds (DC LEAF)

DC LEAF is a **\$5.185 million** funding opportunity in FY 2021 composed of three programs to invest in underserved areas. DMPED will continue to leverage all available economic development tools to bring **fresh food, community services and retail, affordable housing, jobs and recreational spaces to neighborhoods.**

1. Neighborhood Prosperity Fund - \$3.185 million
2. **Nourish DC Fund - \$1 million**
3. Locally Made Manufacturing Grant Program - \$1 million

Nourish DC Fund

About: The purpose of the Nourish DC Fund is to support a robust ecosystem of locally-owned small food businesses in communities in the District where decades of disinvestment have left such communities underserved by grocery and other food amenities. The Nourish DC Fund was a priority of the DC Food Policy Council in response to resident engagement and input on improving DC's food system.

The funding opportunity seeks a **Fund Manager** who will provide emerging and existing locally-owned small food DC businesses with:

- flexible loans
- catalytic grants
- technical assistance

Award: \$1 million, with an expectation for at least a 2:1 match of private investment

Timeline: The deadline to apply is Monday, **March 15, 2021 at 4:00 pm (ET)**.

Nourish DC Fund

Eligible Applicants:

- Qualified Community Development Financial Institutions (“CDFIs”)
- Community Based Non-Profit Organizations (“CBOs”)

Applicants do not need to be headquartered in DC but must be registered and licensed to do business in DC and not have any outstanding tax obligations.

NOTE: This Request for Applications is for the Fund Manager only. Fund Manager will then be responsible for outreach to food businesses who may be able to benefit from the Fund’s grants, loans, and technical assistance.

Nourish DC Fund

Role and Responsibilities of the Nourish DC Fund Manager

- Leveraging the District's investment with private and philanthropic investment at a ratio of at least 2:1
- Developing the eligibility criteria, program evaluation metrics, and community engagement strategy for the Fund, in close collaboration with the District interagency advisory board
- Sourcing the businesses who will benefit from the Fund through targeted communications and outreach
- Collaborating, partnering, and subcontracting with other CDFIs and CBOs, as needed, to successfully implement the Fund
- Disbursing the funds, including through grant and loan processes and the development of technical assistance services
- Providing quarterly reports to the District Board on progress towards meeting the Fund program evaluation metrics

Nourish DC Fund

Fund Terms and Structure

- 2:1 private-to-public leverage
- District funds will be used for administration, grants, and technical assistance.
- District funds will not be used for loans.

District Interagency Board of Advisors

Will meet regularly with the fund manager and will play an ongoing role in advising the fund manager on:

- Fund priorities
- Administration
- Evaluation

District Board will not have veto power over the fund manager's investment and grant selection decisions

Nourish DC Fund

Fund Manager Qualifications

- Commitment and Experience in Investing in Small Businesses in Communities that Have Experienced Historic Disinvestment
- Commitment and Experience in Supporting Small Food Businesses that Improve Local Food Systems
- Fund Management Experience
- Capital Development
- Organizational Capacity
- Governance

Nourish DC Fund

Fund Manager Qualifications

Commitment and Experience in Investing in Small Businesses in Communities that Have Experienced Historic Disinvestment

- Significant history of investing in small businesses located in and owned by members of communities that have experienced historic disinvestment, preferably in the District of Columbia.
- Commitment and experience in community engagement and racial equity-informed decision-making for other Funds they have administered.
- Understanding of other District grants and resources for small businesses, including the DMPED Great Streets Program and Neighborhood Prosperity Fund, as well as DHCD, DDS, and DISB programs.

Nourish DC Fund

Fund Manager Qualifications

Commitment and Experience in Supporting Small Food Businesses that Improve Local Food Systems

- Experience and desire meeting the following priorities:
 - (1) increasing access to healthy food in communities that have experienced historic disinvestment and are currently considered “food deserts”
 - (2) providing wealth building and ownership opportunities for District residents, particularly Black and Latinx residents
 - (3) creating high quality job opportunities that create career pathways for District residents. Applicants should be able to show a plan for understanding the food-related priorities of neighborhoods and leveraging the Fund to meet those key needs

Nourish DC Fund

Sample Projects the Fund Could Support:

- An entrepreneur or current business owner to open a new small format grocery store
- A food incubator in need of tenant improvements and equipment to provide commercial spaces for small food entrepreneurs
- An urban farmer purchasing higher-capacity equipment that would improve yield and increase sales
- A corner store looking to renovate their store layout and acquire necessary equipment to sell fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats
- A food purchasing cooperative or buying club seeking working capital and/or business planning assistance
- A farmers market seeking financing for infrastructure or other costs associated with operating year-round or more days/hours of the week

Nourish DC Fund

Prepare these documents before you apply:

- A. Organizational documents
- B. Organizational chart
- C. Board resumes
- D. Staff resumes
- E. Tax-exempt status determination letter
- F. List of contractors and subcontractors
- G. Certificate of Clean Hands from OTR
- H. Evidence of Good Standing from DCRA
- I. Financial statements
- J. Basic Business License
- K. References
- L. Disclosures

Next Steps

View the Request for Applications and access the online application at dmped.dc.gov/service/grant-opportunities

Email Questions to dcbizgrant@dc.gov by 2/25 at 5:00pm

Application Deadline: Monday, March 15, 2021 by 4 PM ET

Any Questions?