

Growing Tomorrow Grant



Frequently Asked Questions

What inspired the creation of this grant?

This grant-making program is the brainchild of Mike Boyert, former Ohio Farm Bureau Trustee, and his wife Patti. Mike and Patti, residents of Medina County, remember well the struggles they encountered when they started their farming careers, and the difficulties they faced in starting, growing, and sustaining their farming business. The Growing Tomorrow Grant program is Mike and Patti's way of ensuring that creative young farmers can access opportunities they did not have, and enabling these young professionals to use their skills to alleviate the difficulties facing agriculture today, including a lack of public education regarding the importance of farms within the US food system and the significant economic hardships facing rural communities and farm workers.

Do applicants need to have a registered LLC or C-Corp to be eligible?

No. Agricultural businesses structured as a sole proprietorship, LLC, partnership, or C-corp are all eligible to apply.

Are non-profits eligible for the grant?

Yes, as long as they meet all eligibility requirements.

Does a proposal need to address all four challenges, or can it focus on just one?

Yes, grant proposals are only required to address one of the four challenges outlined in the requirements document. However, you may address multiple challenges as it makes sense for your specific situation.

Are these grant dollars taxable?

Please consult your financial advisor or tax professional.

More questions? Contact Mary Klopfenstein at mklopfenstein@ofbf.org

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How do I approach the financial section of the application when I have a start-up LLC with some personal cash invested to acquire essential equipment and inventory for start up?

Consider completing both an LLC balance sheet and a personal balance sheet to submit with our application. Remember, a balance sheet is just a static document of your assets/liabilities, so anything to do with your LLC as far as equipment, supplies, livestock, etc should be on the LLC balance sheet. If desired, you can show intent for the LLC to one day pay back the personal dollars invested by including the personal dollars as an account payable on the LLC balance sheet.

When documenting cash flow, there will be a spot for non-farm income. Completing this section will allow the review committee to see that although the operation may currently be operating in the red, it is brought to the black by off farm income. Know that this is very common for beginning farmers.

More questions? Contact Mary Klopfenstein at mklopfenstein@ofbf.org