

COMMUNITY FOOD FUNDERS

How COVID-19 Spurred A Collective Philanthropic Effort in Food Justice

October 28, 2020

Co-sponsored by Surdna and Philanthropy New York

We'll begin momentarily. Please introduce yourself in the chat

- *Name, pronouns, organization, location*
- *What's your favorite fall pastime / activity?*



Community Food Funders (CFF) is a philanthropic organizing project for funders, donors, and investors in NY-NJ-CT

CFF Programs



Funder Briefings



Site Visits & Tours



CFF Champions
Award



Seeding Power
Fellowship

Communityfoodfund.org



Covid-19

- Programs Cancelled
- Weekly funder calls
- Emergency relief
- Racial justice protests
- What next?



Kellie Terry

Senior Program Officer,
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**CFF 2020 Food
Movement
Support Fund**

Food Movement Support Fund

Goals

Support the groups, and the work,
that weren't getting relief

- Focus on movement building and power shifting
- Select BIPOC-led groups whose leadership reflects their constituency
- Prioritize smaller budgets

Remove barriers to participation

Inspiration

6 Principles of Trust-Based Philanthropy

- 1 Give Multi-Year Unrestricted Funding
- 2 Do the Homework
- 3 Simplify & Streamline Paperwork
- 4 Be Transparent & Responsive
- 5 Solicit & Act on Feedback
- 6 Offer Support Beyond the Check

www.trustbasedphilanthropy.org



Check out
our new
podcast!

Our Approach

- General operating, no reporting
- Selection committee includes food movement partners
- Application with few questions, no word limit, options for budget info
- Selection ctte encouraged to review website and other sources for more info
- Offer resources: budget template, fiscal sponsors directory
- Optional feedback section on application
- Denied applicants can opt-in to shareable database

North Star Fund

Checklist for Grantmaking Decisions

- Consistently applying guidelines?
- Any dominant voices? Anyone not speaking have a different opinion?
- Power issues or oppression dynamics that we haven't named?
- Decision fatigue (break/snack)?
- Any patterns in chosen groups?
 - Are we supporting Black-led orgs?
 - Organizations with POC EDs?
 - Orgs without grantwriters or back office support?
 - Start-ups? Orgs with small budgets?
 - Range of issues and constituencies? Is anyone missing?

Application Questions

Narrative

- What is the mission/vision of your organization?
- Describe your ongoing campaigns or projects that are changing food systems
 - What is/are the root cause of the injustice(s) you seek to address?
 - How does this effort fit into the larger work of your organization?
- Describe the makeup of your organization's membership, staff, and leadership
 - How is the organization led by communities most impacted by the injustice they seek to address?

Application Questions

Budget

“If you need help identifying a fiscal sponsor, check out our resources for a directory”

- Would you like to upload a budget document or answer questions about your organization's finances?
 - Tip: You can preview the questions before deciding to upload a budget.
 - You may upload your own budget form, or use the North Star Fund budget form (download)
- Is there anything else that you would like to share about your organization's current fundraising or financial state?

Application Questions

Optional Feedback

“We welcome feedback about what you liked and what you hope might change in the future.”

- Tell us what you think about the clarity of information/instructions on our website and application system.
- How much time did it take to complete this application?
- Anything else?

Feedback Highlights

- Nested questions pose challenges
- Word limits are oppressive
- Fewer questions and more clarity are appreciated
- Additional prompts and examples of answers eliminate guesswork
- *‘After years of grant writing I find this application process a total dream. The instructions were succinct and the format was clear and crisp.’*
- *‘We truly appreciate an uncomplicated funding application.’*
- *‘Very straightforward - I was actually confused, looking for the project description and evaluation sections.’*
- *‘A model for others to follow!’*

Thank You!

Contributing Foundations

- Lawson Valentine Foundation
- Lily Auchincloss Foundation
- NYS Health Foundation
- Surdna Foundation
- Shachar Foundation
- The Elmezzi Foundation



Selection Facilitator
Simran Noor, Noor Consulting

Join Us!

Join Community Food Funders

Learn More About Trust-Based Philanthropy

Get Involved with North Star Fund