The Northeast’s regional food economy is home to hundreds of nonprofit, policy, advocacy, philanthropic, and industry leaders who work on a range of issues related to food and farming. And yet, there is no organized food movement to offer a unified vision or coordinate a response to the various inequities happening all along the food chain.

Instead, food work is often siloed by sector and issue area, with no entity holding space for collaboration and cross-sector dialogue. How do we build power to advocate for and bring about a regionally-responsive strategy to create a just food system? The Seeding Power Fellowship is our response.

WHAT IS THE SEEDING POWER FELLOWSHIP?

The newly redesigned Seeding Power Fellowship is a nine-month cohort-based food justice fellowship program for experienced leaders working across sectors to build equitable food systems. For this relaunch year (2023-2024), it will accept applications from movement leaders and philanthropic partners in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

Seeding Power is unique in both the region it serves and the focus on effective collaborations and equitable relationships, while including fellows from the philanthropic sector. Racial equity, social justice, active communication, and collaboration form the core of a tested yet tailored curriculum designed by Emerging Equity.

By creating a community of practice that develops a shared analysis of the issues plaguing our food system, this Seeding Power cohort will graduate with strengthened cross-sector relationships and skills and the opportunity to develop projects together.

AT-A-GLANCE

- $10,000 stipend
- 12 diverse leaders from NY, NJ, and CT
- Community of practice approach with philanthropic peers
- Three in-person retreats, 13 virtual sessions
- Individual coaching hours
- Collaboration teams for project-based learning

HOW TO APPLY

- Seeding Power is open to movement leaders and philanthropic partners in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut
- Applications will be accepted May 16 - June 16, 2023
- Visit communityfoodfunders.org/seedingpower

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**HOW IT WILL WORK**

Seeding Power will achieve its goals and objectives by developing skills that: 1) create an effective community of practice; 2) form practices based on a foundational understanding of power and relationships; and 3) support successful and equitable team collaborations.

By investing in leaders, centering those most marginalized, and creating a shared analysis, Seeding Power can grow the effectiveness and capacity of a unified food justice movement.

In addition to a core curriculum, fellows will be placed in collaboration teams and given ample time and coaching to ideate and dream together about how their work may align, and be strengthened by one another.

Philanthropic partners will be part of the cohort mix in acknowledgement of the influence funders exert in the food movement, and to allow for more meaningful examination and dialogue about the potential of this influence.

The program is designed to foster collaboration across sectors and regions by providing opportunities to interact and align with each other’s work, while also being grounded in healing, gratitude practices, and restorative justice.

Seeding Power will provide a space to have challenging conversations among organizations and sectors that are not always totally aligned, in order to find common ground and build consensus.

**TIMELINE**

Applications

- May 16 - June 16, 2023: Application period
- June - July: Selection process
- August: Fellows identified & introductory webinar

Fellowship Schedule

- September ’23: 2-day in-person kickoff retreat
- October: 2 virtual sessions & 1 cohort panel
- November: 1 virtual session & 1 cohort panel
- December: 1 virtual session & 1 cohort panel
- January ’24: 1 virtual session & 1 collaboration meeting
- February: 1 virtual session & 1 collaboration meeting
- March: 3-day in-person midpoint retreat
- April: 2 virtual sessions
- May: 1.5-day in-person culminating retreat
- June: Virtual debrief and listening sessions

**SUPPORTERS**

Emerging Equity led the redesign and will facilitate this iteration of the Seeding Power Fellowship.

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