

SEEKING LETTERS OF INTENT

The Steering Committee of the Equitable Food Oriented Development (EFOD) Collaborative is seeking [Letters of Intent](#) from nonprofit organizations, social enterprises, and small food businesses (including farms and cooperatives) to participate in a pilot process to direct financial resources to an EFOD-aligned project that is building community-driven opportunity and wealth through investment in the food system. The goal of this pilot is to demonstrate principles of equitable, transparent, and participatory financing, and to allow for experimentation, innovation, and iteration as we create a model of justice in decision-making and capital ownership. The deadline for LOIs is **Friday, June 5th, at 11:59pm ET (EXTENDED)**.

LEARN MORE ABOUT EFOD:

Understand the values of the in-progress [EFOD Fund](#).

Read about [the nationwide field scan research](#) that contributed to the development of the EFOD field.

See [case studies](#) of example EFOD projects.

THE OPPORTUNITY:

The emerging EFOD field of practice recognizes that to realize the visions of impacted communities, existing funding sources - including grantmaking structures and finance products and underwriting mechanisms used by banks and community development lenders - are often insufficient, inaccessible, and extractive.

With this pilot, we plan to support one emerging EFOD organization with a catalytic investment to close a gap in operating or expansion funds as they develop a market-based initiative. We will provide an integrated capital package along with complementary step-by-step technical assistance and long-term support.

This pilot is a work-in-progress; while the EFOD Collaborative Investment Committee has determined the applicant process and criteria for advancement, we are looking to support an organization that will work with us as a partner, co-designing the financial package and providing extensive feedback along the way. A cornerstone of our process is a commitment to sharing the concepts, tools, and systemic approaches with all values-aligned practitioners.

BACKGROUND:

What is EFOD?

Equitable Food-Oriented Development (EFOD) is a framework that uses food and agriculture to create economic opportunities, healthy communities, and explicitly seeks to build community assets, pride, and power by and with historically-marginalized communities.

Who is on the Steering Committee?

The Steering Committee includes organizations that are both embedded in communities and are also leading national voices of equitable food- and justice-based development, as well as funding and finance allies. Our field research underlined what many of us have experienced in doing our work, and which led us to develop the EFOD field, that there is a need for a streamlined funding vehicle that does not hold organizations to funder-prescribed programmatic outcomes or require inflexible terms that stifle an organization's growth.

PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA:

We are interested in funding implementation, expansion or piloting of an innovative community-led project. We are looking for an organization that has fundraising experience, represents the EFOD values and framework, and is committed to working with us as a partner.

Organizations can use [this self-assessment form](#) as a guide in determining their alignment with EFOD criteria, before submitting an LOI. [The criteria](#) represent practitioner-defined intentions behind EFOD initiatives and the vision for community self-determination that builds on the histories of food-based struggles for economic autonomy and civil rights and recognition.

We will evaluate projects based on their alignment with EFOD and on the stage of their development. We are interested in supporting those that are beyond the planning and ideation stages, as we know that accessing capital is particularly difficult in the later stages of project or property development. Additionally, we are looking to support organizations with a track record of grant fundraising and management; our intention is that the \$100,000 from this pilot can be leveraged with other resources.

TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTENT, PLEASE USE [THIS FORM](#).

Should you have any questions, reach out to
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Selected organizations will receive a full application in June 2020.