

## Food Waste Innovation Grants: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Last updated: January 12, 2022

### Application Basics

1. I missed the information sessions. Is there a way I can view the recorded sessions?
  - o You can watch the recording of the Information Session here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0MkvqcSqA4>
  - o You can watch the recording of the Bootcamp here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8j-8DM7dqY>
  - o You can also watch a video of navigating ZoomGrants here: <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/b6d1bc22-63ed-4c4b-a944-d5e0b342624e>
2. Someone indicated that they are most concerned about at this time they want to apply for trash contractors. They believe there was a rumored trash compactor grant is that this grant or is there still a trash compactor grant pending?
  - o There is not a separate trash compactor grant coming from DSLBD. Onsite waste processing – trash compactors, onsite composters, and other equipment – are considered eligible costs under this grant, but all applications will be evaluated on the same criteria in the RFA.
3. How are food waste assessments conducted?
  - o They will be conducted virtually for all businesses, with onsite visits if necessary. These virtual assessments are best done with applicants onsite to show their waste systems over video, but can be done verbally, as well.

### Eligibility

4. My business does <X, Y, Z>. Can I apply? (Such as: My business does composting. / My business makes tea. / My business is a grocery store. / My business brews beer. / My business makes skincare products from edible substances.)
  - o The RFA defines a food business as one working throughout the food system, that produces, processes, or serves food and/or beverages. If you produce food and beverages, process food and beverages, or serves food and beverages to customers, then you qualify as a food business for the grant's definition.
  - o Please review the other eligibility criteria in the RFA to make sure you meet the other criteria.
  - o RFA: [https://dslbd.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dslbd/page\\_content/attachments/Food%20Waste%20Innovation%20Grant%20RFA%202012-10-21.pdf](https://dslbd.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dslbd/page_content/attachments/Food%20Waste%20Innovation%20Grant%20RFA%202012-10-21.pdf)
5. Can nonprofits apply for this grant?
  - o Nonprofits can apply if they are coordinating programmatically or infrastructure for two or more businesses that meet eligibility criteria of local ownership and District-based businesses. Nonprofits still need to be officially registered and provide alternative confirmation other than a business license. Nonprofits will still need to provide a W9 and their EIN.
  - o The first eligibility check will include information about the nonprofit itself, but at the final application, the RFA describes what they will need to include in the letters of support. There is a template to cover that information in that section of the application online.
6. I am looking to start a business/nonprofit/organization focused on food waste. Am I eligible for this grant?

- Eligibility for food businesses includes having a District business license. If you have a District business license and meet other eligibility requirements listed in the RFA, such as regarding ownership and being a food business, you would be eligible to apply.
  - Nonprofits need to be registered and recognized entities, and have letters of support from District-based businesses that meet eligibility criteria.
7. We currently partner with local food businesses in DC to rescue their excess food, and some of the businesses that we already rescue food from meet the eligibility requirements for this grant. Are we able to apply for funding to support the work that we are already doing to rescue excess food or are you looking only for new projects?
- The RFA does not require projects to be new. However, [on page 9](#), you'll see the criteria for innovation and additionality, 20% of the grant scoring. Please review those criteria, along with the other criteria that will be evaluated.
  - *V: Tell us what makes this project innovative: how does it add on or build from what is already happening in the business, community, and/or District as a whole. (20 points, 20%)*
    - *1. How does this project build on or add to what is already happening in your business, in terms of food waste reductions and community impact? (2500 characters)*
    - *2. How does this project push your sector and the District further in food waste reduction? How is this project new for the District? Feel free to include how you are applying lessons from other cities or sectors to your own or to DC. (2500 characters)*
8. Some of the businesses that we plan to partner with are also applying for this grant to support another piece of their food waste reduction practices. If our two applications do not overlap and funding is not being requested for the same work, can we both submit applications and can we still apply as a nonprofit for the work we do to recover their excess food?
- Businesses can submit multiple applications: individually and as a part of one or more group applications. The RFA references that each eligible application will be reviewed on the same criteria, but if a business or the same group of businesses submit multiple applications, we will only review the one submitted last.
  - Any and all businesses, regardless of whether they submit a Food Waste Innovation Grant competitive grant application, can submit their eligibility documentation to qualify for the Compost Credit.
9. Are composting businesses where food waste ends up limited to those in the District?
- That is not a requirement in the RFA. The only requirement is that the food business that is applying is based in the District. If they are working with a farm, farmer, or composting business to process their food scraps, there are not requirements about the location of that business listed in the RFA.
10. Are DC for-profit organizations that are not food businesses eligible to be coordinators and consolidators of businesses, as nonprofits are? If not, please consider allowing DC-based for profits to be a consolidator of businesses.
- Based on the FY2022 RFA, both eligible food businesses and nonprofits can consolidate or coordinate other businesses. Non-food businesses cannot do so for the FY2022 Food Waste Innovation Grant.
11. If a business has 4 part-time employees, do these employees count toward the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employee limit?
- To count FTEs, add up part-time employee hours: two 20-hour-a-week employees is equivalent to one FTE. One 10-hour-a-week employee is equivalent to 0.25 FTE.
12. Do food businesses have to be adjacent to each other to be “coordinated” by a nonprofit or another food business?

- o No, food businesses do not need to be next to each other to partner on a grant application.

### Compost Credit Questions

13. Are businesses applying for Compost Credit limited to District businesses?
  - o Yes, any food business looking to benefit from any aspect of the grant – free food waste assessments, Compost Credit, and/or the competitive Food Waste Innovation Grant, must have a District business license and meet eligibility criteria regarding ownership and operations that verify being “District-based.” They demonstrate this by answering affirmatively the attestations regarding District based businesses.
14. Are businesses that are already having their food scraps composted eligible for the Composting Credit or just companies that are starting the service?
  - o Businesses that are already recycling some or all of their food scraps are eligible to apply for Compost Credit, but they are also strongly encouraged to apply for a Food Waste Innovation Grant to be able to expand their ongoing composting and expand their food rescue work to move up the food reduction hierarchy, from recycling to repurposing or reducing food waste overall.
15. Can my food business choose how to use my Compost Credit?
  - o Compost Credit will be provided by Compost Cab: funds are not going to the businesses directly, but to Compost Cab to provide the service of both food waste reduction support *and* food scraps collection funded by the Compost Credit.

### Grant Details

16. Can this grant cover operational costs of a project after the period of the grant?
  - o The funding can only be spent in the Period of Performance, from March 1 to September 30, 2022. As listed [in the RFA](#), allowable costs do include many operational expenses. See page 7 for allowed and disallowed use of grant funds.
17. What type of insurance is required?
  - o The only insurance we know will be required for all grantees is general liability insurance. Other insurance may be required, based on assessments from the Office of Risk Management, based on specific and individual things that are happening in an individual grant, such as vehicle insurance or workman’s compensation.
  - o We are not requiring documentation of insurance before applying, but we do expect businesses will be covered for the period of performance – March 1 to September 30, 2022.

### Eligibility documentation

16. I am applying for the Food Waste & Innovation Grant and am concerned about the ‘Dun & Bradstreet’ number that was required for the application. I requested to receive my DUNS number, but it says it could take some time. Since the deadline for this grant is January 31, 2022, we want to ensure the DUNS number doesn’t hold us back.
  - o Businesses do not require their DUNS number for the initial eligibility check, and can add that in before submitting their final application.
17. I am applying for the Food Waste Innovation Grant and I was hoping to add our SAM Code and our CAGE Code, but it won't allow me to. I was looking for a solution to that.

- Those numbers aren't required for the application, but you can submit them as an additional upload in the application for the funded grant once your eligibility is confirmed.
18. Do businesses need to submit their tax records or is that just for nonprofits? Do they need a Certificate of Good Standing? Do they need to submit a business license?
- Businesses *do* need to submit their Certificate of Clean Hands, which you can get for free at [mytax.dc.gov](http://mytax.dc.gov), which verifies they are up to date with tax payments and filing taxes. That is different than the Certificate of Good Standing from DCRA. Businesses do not need to submit their tax records.
  - Businesses that have a Business License number verifiable in DCRA's Scout system ([scout.dcra.dc.gov](http://scout.dcra.dc.gov)) do not need to upload their business license. If organizations have a different type of license, they should upload their license.