

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

October 12, 2022

FY 2023 FOOD WASTE INNOVATION GRANTS



The graphic features a blue background with white and green text. On the right, there is a circular inset photo of a group of people holding a large check in front of a building labeled 'MLK DELI'. Below the photo is a circular inset showing various food items. The text includes the title 'Food Waste Innovation Grants', a green 'OPEN' tag, a deadline of 'December 22, 2022 at 2pm', a list of supported activities, and the application URL 'dslbd.dc.gov/foodwastegrant'. Logos for DSLBD and the District of Columbia are at the bottom.

Food Waste Innovation Grants **OPEN**

Deadline: December 22, 2022 at 2pm

The Food Waste Innovation Grants will support District small businesses by helping them to:

- Increase food security, productivity and economic efficiency
- Improve environmental impact & reduce rodents
- Cut businesses costs in purchasing & waste

To apply, visit: dslbd.dc.gov/foodwastegrant

DSLBD DEPT. OF SMALL & LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

The Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) is excited to announce that we will be soliciting applications for the second annual Food Waste Innovation Grants. These grants will provide support for restaurants, food manufacturers, shared commercial kitchens, and commercial corridors like Main Streets and Business Improvement Districts, to minimize their food waste going to landfill and minimize urban rat populations. This will help businesses meet the future requirements of the Zero Waste Omnibus Act while reducing costs in both food purchasing and waste disposal expenses.

Eligible applicants are food businesses that are appropriately licensed and with fewer than 25 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees. Nonprofits are also eligible when providing direct support for multiple eligible businesses.

DSLBD intends to award \$300,000 in direct grants to Food Waste Innovation Grantees.

How do I apply?

Full guidance and instructions will be available in the Request for Applications (RFA) that will be released the week of October 24, 2022, on the DSLBD website: <https://dslbd.dc.gov> under current grant opportunities <https://bit.ly/dslbdgrantopportunities>.

Deadline

The deadline to apply online is December 22, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Applications will only be accepted through the online application system.

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Who can apply?

For-profit, licensed businesses that are producing, processing, and/or serving food or beverages are eligible for this grant. This includes restaurants, food & beverage makers, cafes, and caterers. Multiple applicants can also apply together for increased funding, and will need signed letters of support from each other food business.

Nonprofits will be considered only if they are applying on behalf of a group of two or more businesses who are themselves eligible for the grant. Nonprofits will need to submit signed letters of support from these food businesses. Eligible nonprofits include Main Streets and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), as well as waste-related or food-focused nonprofits that will serve eligible businesses.

See the Request for Applications for complete eligibility requirements.

How can the funds be used?

The grant funds can be used for technological or process investments, such as: refrigeration and freezing infrastructure to reduce wastage; investments in software to measure and manage food production and better track inventory; equipment and staff training to improve food preparation and serving to reduce waste; food preservation tools like vacuum sealers, dehydrators, and freezers; food transportation to enable another business to upcycle or cross-utilize underutilized ingredients; food donation programs; or waste programs that will compost food waste, compact non-biodegradables, and effectively recycle all that can be recycled.

Additional allowed uses and restrictions will be outlined in the RFA.

How will awardees be selected?

Grant recipients will be selected through a competitive application process. All applications from eligible applicants received on or before the deadline will be forwarded to an independent review panel to be evaluated. There will be preference for businesses in rodent hot spots identified by DC Health: see below for location details. As outlined in the RFA, applications will prioritize reducing food waste, followed by increasing donation of edible foods, followed by food waste processing.

A program team will review the recommendations. The Director of DLSBD will make the final determination of grant awards. Grantees will be selected by March 1, 2023.

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Questions?

We will be offering a virtual Information session as well as a Grant Paperwork Bootcamp. Both will be virtual and will be recorded. Please refer to the DSLBD Eventbrite at http://bit.ly/dslbd_events for the most accurate information about the date, time, and location of these meetings.

Questions may be sent to the Innovation & Equitable Development Team at the Department of Small and Local Business Development at Inno.ED@dc.gov. All questions must be submitted in writing. We will not respond to questions over the phone.

Reservations

DSLBD reserves the right to issue addenda and/or amendments subsequent to the issuance of this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) or RFA, or to rescind the NOFA or RFA at any time.

DEPARTMENT OF SMALL AND LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

