

2024
Santa Barbara County
Food Justice Microgrant
Application





About SBCFAN

The Santa Barbara County Food Action Network (SBCFAN) works to connect, advocate, and build capacity with a network of food system actors to foster an equitable and robust local food economy, a healthy and just community, and a well-stewarded, resilient foodshed.

We envision a future for the California Central Coast where locally grown, nourishing, and culturally relevant food is accessible to all; where equity, sustainability, and wise practices are championed; where both local food businesses and workers thrive; and where our communities share in the responsibility of fostering economic, physical, and environmental resilience.

Why does SBCFAN exist?

Launched in 2019, SBCFAN operates as a bridge between actors in the regional food system, including where food is grown, processed, distributed, consumed, and disposed. The network supports capacity building and resource sharing across the food system on the California Central Coast and acts as a force amplifier to promote systemic change in practice and policy. The community-driven Food Action Plan, first published in 2016, was framed around four pillars — investment in our food economy, health and wellness, community, and foodshed — and is a roadmap for food system resilience for generations to come.

2024 Food Justice Microgrant Program

The 2024 Food Justice Microgrant Program seeks to address inequities and vulnerabilities in our local food system. It will put resources directly into the hands of individuals striving for food justice and building resilience in Santa Barbara County.

SBCFAN is providing flexible funding of up to \$5,000 per grant (with an expected 6-8 grants) to support projects or programs that build a resilient food system through the power of **food justice**, **food sovereignty**, and/or **agroecology**. The project or program can be in its beginning stages or already established - this includes new ideas, piloting, or improvement.

SBCFAN believes the solution to addressing the continuation of inequity and vulnerability in our regional food system is by putting resources directly into the hands of individuals and communities with bold visions to build justice and resilience. In its process of learning and applying a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Justice (DEIAJ) lens, SBCFAN developed a Food Action Plan 2.0¹. As a result, advancing the plan goals means:

- Historically marginalized individuals and communities are centered in the work, directly informing and benefiting from food system projects;
- create and share resources and tools equitably; and
- equitably amplifying voices and creating space for self-advocacy.

With the support of our corporate partner and seed funder of the Food Justice Microgrant program, Clevr Blends, we have also determined that the microgrants need to be responsive and therefore address both emergencies as they take place and root causes to systemic issues.

¹<https://www.sbcfoodaction.org/#history-focus>

What We Mean By...

Food Justice

SBCFAN defines Food Justice as the right of all people to access, grow, sell and consume nutritious, affordable, and culturally-appropriate food. This includes advocating for the well-being and safety of food system workers from production to point of consumer sale.

Food Sovereignty

SBCFAN defines Food Sovereignty as the placement of control of territory, land, grazing, water, seeds, livestock, and/or fish populations into the hands of local food providers and producers. It asserts their right to use and share these resources in socially and environmentally sustainable ways.

Agroecology

SBCFAN defines Agroecology as the ancestral practice of Indigenous food systems and the study of whole agroecosystems. Agroecology promotes equity, decentralizes power, fosters new social relations for ecological resilience in local food systems, and supports the science of sustainable agriculture.

Grant Criteria - General

- Projects or programs must be led by and for the same community in Santa Barbara County.
- Funded projects must address one or more of the Santa Barbara County Food Action Plan Goals (see page D, or sbfoodaction.org/action-plan-goals)

Grant Criteria - Usage

- Grant funds cannot be used for:
 - ✗ Endowments
 - ✗ Fundraising events or sponsorships
 - ✗ Existing debt re-payments [funds may be used to leverage or match grants and/or loans, such as Economic Development Collaborative's Food System Resilience Loan Program]
 - ✗ Political campaigns that support a candidate or a political party
 - ✗ Influencing legislation (within the meaning of section 4945(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code); except as that activity may be related to the purpose of the grant and permitted for 501(c)(3) organizations by applicable law or Internal Revenue Service regulations. Funding cannot be used to promote a specific piece of legislation.
- Funds must be spent within 12 months from the grant award date noted on the award letter.



Reporting Requirement

- Awardees will be interviewed to capture their journey.
- Additionally, we invite you to share stories at a future gathering of grant recipients (date TBD).
- Reports can be submitted in a format of your preference, i.e. video, photos, slide presentation, or a short written summary.

Who Is Eligible to Apply?

Anyone striving for food justice, food sovereignty, and agroecology in Santa Barbara County is encouraged to apply.

- Non-profits, schools, for-profit businesses, homeowner associations, collaborations & coalitions, grassroots movements, or individuals. Applicants are not required to be a 501(c)3 or 501(c)19 entity.*
- There are no bonding or insurance requirements for this grant, although any program or project's use of land must be permissible by the owner.

What does a successful applicant project look like?

- The project or program is of the Community, by the Community, for the Community it intends to serve.
- The project or program is led by those most impacted by inequities in our local food system, such as groups historically marginalized and/or underserved in the County; this includes but is not limited to Black Americans, Indigenous Peoples, Women-Owned Businesses, People of Color, Veterans, or People with Special Needs.
- The project or program addresses upstream barriers that prevent communities from accessing healthy and nutritious food, especially marginalized communities that have perpetually faced food insecurity and limited resources due to systemic inequalities.
- The project or program activates one or more of the Food Action Plan Goals and is already, or intends to, partner with others in their community.

How to Apply

Complete this PDF application or complete the online application at sbcfoodaction.org/grants

Deadlines

- Applications will open / become available for download on **April 29, 2024**.
- The online application will close on **May 31, 2024 at 11:59 pm** Pacific time.
- Print applications must be received via email or regular mail no later than **May 31, 2024 at 11:59 pm** Pacific time.
- Applicants will be notified of the final decision in July 2024.
- A gathering of grant recipients will be announced at a later date.

Please return this completed form to:

2024 Food Justice Microgrant
Santa Barbara County Food Action Network
133 E De La Guerra St, # 268
Santa Barbara CA 93101
grants@sbcfoodaction.org
(805) 203-6234

All applications must be received no later than
11:59pm, Pacific time, on May 31, 2024.

What if I am unsuccessful in this grant program?

SBCFAN cherishes every relationship and will work with County Environmental Services, Economic Development Collaborative, and other partners to provide resources, capacity-building support, and referrals to support applicant projects to the best of our ability.

I have more questions. How can I get help?

- Watch our information session recording at youtube.com/@sbcfan
- If you have need additional support to complete your application, please email grants@sbcfoodaction.org or call **(805)203-6234** during regular business hours.

Food Action Plan Goals

INVEST IN OUR FOOD ECONOMY

- 1** Train the next generation of farmers and food system entrepreneurs.
- 2** Build access and encourage entry into the local food economy.
- 3** Develop a local food purchasing policy.
- 4** Strengthen distribution systems for local produce.
- 5** Facilitate investment in food systems development.

INVEST IN OUR HEALTH & WELLNESS

- 6** Support peer-to-peer health education and empowerment for food insecure communities.
- 7** Facilitate the adoption and implementation of workplace wellness policies.
- 8** Integrate food literacy into school campuses.
- 9** Establish “Food as Medicine” programs.

INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY

- 10** Establish community food access centers.
- 11** Increase affordability and accessibility to locally grown food.
- 12** Support fair compensation and affordable housing for food system workers.

INVEST IN OUR FOODSHED

- 13** Increase the food system’s climate resiliency.
- 14** Protect existing and potential farm and ranch land.
- 15** Reduce food waste.
- 16** Promote and incentivize Best Management Practices for farms and food system businesses.

2024 Santa Barbara County Food Justice Microgrant Application

All applications must be submitted by 11:59pm Pacific time on May 31, 2024

Pre-qualification Information

***All questions in this section are required of all applicants**

Do you live in Santa Barbara County? Select one.

Yes

No

Will this project be implemented within the community you live?
Select one.

Yes

No

STOP & CHECK

If you answered **NO** to either of these questions, your program is not eligible for this place-based grant.

Which area(s) of Santa Barbara County do you or your organization primarily work with?
Select all that apply.

North County (Cuyama, Guadalupe, Los Alamos, Maricopa, New Cuyama, Nipomo, Orcutt, Santa Maria, Vandenberg AFB, Ventucopa)

Mid County (Buellton, Lompoc, Los Olivos, Santa Ynez, Solvang, Vandenberg Village)

South County (Carpinteria, Gaviota, Goleta, Isla Vista, Las Cruces, Montecito, Santa Barbara, Summerland)

Applicant Information

***All questions in this section are required of all applicants**

Applicant Name

Applicant Gender & Preferred Pronouns

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FIRST

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LAST

Mailing address (please enter a US address where you will receive checks)

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STREET

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CITY

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STATE

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ZIP

Email address

Preferred method of contact. Select one.

Email

Phone

Text (mobile data rates may apply from your provider)

Phone/mobile number

Applicant's preferred language. Select one.

What language(s) beyond the stated language does your staff prefer to communicate in? Select all that apply.

Arabic

Cantonese

English

Filipino (Pilipino, Tagalog)

Hmong

Mandarin

Mixteco

Spanish

Vietnamese

Zapotec

Please self-identify if not listed.

Arabic

Cantonese

English

Filipino (Pilipino, Tagalog)

Hmong

Mandarin

Mixteco

Spanish

Vietnamese

Zapotec

Please self-identify if not listed.

Applicant race. Select one.

- Asian American / Pacific Islander / Asian
- Black / African American / African
- Hispanic / Latino / Latina / Latinx
- Native American / American Indian / Indigenous
- White / Caucasian / European
- Multi-Racial/Multi-Ethnic (2+ races/ethnicities)
- Decline to state
- Please self-identify if not listed.

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Does the applicant publicly self-identify as the following?
Select one.

- A person with a disability
- A person without a disability
- Decline to state

Organization Information

***Please fill out this section ONLY if applying on behalf of an organization, business, coalition, or collaborative. All questions are required.**

Name of Organization

Name of contact person for application

.....

.....
First Name Last Name

Organization website or main social media page

Organization email address

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What is your organization's mission? Please use this space to share general information about your organization and what you do overall. Information about the work proposed in this application should be addressed in the next section.

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Who is leading this project/program/initiative if not the person filling out the application?

Name of program lead

Title of program lead

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First Name Last Name

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Email address of program lead

Phone/mobile number of program lead

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Title of Project / Program / Initiative / Creative Endeavor (official or informal)

Identify the focus area(s) your project addresses. Select all that apply.

Food Justice The right of all people to access, grow, sell and consume nutritious, affordable, and culturally-appropriate food. This includes advocating for the well-being and safety of food system workers from production to point of consumer sale.

Food Sovereignty The placement of control of territory, land, grazing, water, seeds, livestock, and/or fish populations into the hands of local food providers and producers. It asserts their right to use and share these resources in socially and environmentally sustainable ways.

Agroecology The ancestral practice of Indigenous food systems and the study of whole agroecosystems. Agroecology promotes equity, decentralizes power, fosters new social relations for ecological resilience in local food systems, and supports the science of sustainable agriculture.

Which SBC Food Action Plan goal(s) do(es) your project address? Select all that apply.

- 1 Train the next generation of farmers and food system entrepreneurs.
- 2 Build access and encourage entry into the local food economy.
- 3 Develop a local food purchasing policy.
- 4 Strengthen distribution systems for local produce.
- 5 Facilitate investment in food systems development.
- 6 Support peer-to-peer health education and empowerment for food insecure communities.
- 7 Facilitate the adoption and implementation of workplace wellness policies.
- 8 Integrate food literacy into school campuses.
- 9 Establish "Food as Medicine" programs.
- 10 Establish community food access centers.
- 11 Increase affordability and accessibility to locally grown food.
- 12 Support fair compensation and affordable housing for food system workers.
- 13 Increase the food system's climate resiliency.
- 14 Protect existing and potential farm and ranch land.
- 15 Reduce food waste.
- 16 Promote and incentivize Best Management Practices for farms and food system businesses.

***All questions in this section are required of all applicants**

Is this a new or existing program or project? Select one.

New

Existing

What is your proposed project? Describe the problem this project addresses, your vision for it and its inspiration, how your lived experience has informed the proposed project plan, and why you believe this issue is important.

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ALTERNATIVE
Instead of writing about your proposed project, share a 90-second to 3-minute video describing it. If you elect to share a video, please add the YouTube, Vimeo, or other website link here. We cannot accommodate file uploads of video files.

Project Information

***All questions in this section are required of all applicants**

How will you collaborate with your community to achieve your goals? Describe some of the people you will be working with, their role(s) in the project, and how you are or will be working together.

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ALTERNATIVE
Instead of writing about your collaborations, share a 90-second to 3-minute video introducing your community members and how you will be working together. If you elect to share a video, please add the YouTube, Vimeo, or other website link here. We cannot accommodate file uploads of video files.

How will you know if this project is successful or if change has started to be made?

Describe how the funds will be used. You may list or attach expense items in a summary budget.

Is there anything else you would like the grant review committee to know?

Please check the boxes and sign to indicate your agreement.

I certify that all information contained in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate. If applying on behalf of an organization, I also certify that this application is submitted with our Board of Directors' and/or Governing Body's full knowledge and endorsement.

I agree and authorize the Santa Barbara County Food Action Network (SBCFAN) to share the project in this application with potential donors and supporters.

Agreed and acknowledged by:

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Signature

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Date

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First Name

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Last Name

.....
Title (if applying on behalf of an organization)

Please return this completed form to:

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Santa Barbara County Food Action Network
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