December 2020

**CoFUND**

We are excited to launch, CoFUND, our regranting program, aimed to support and build the collective resilience of food and land-justice based cooperatives; led by Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous People of Color of all ages. We have allocated a portion of grant funding received and grassroots funds raised to launch our very first round of this regranting fund. The following three sections outline the Grant Details (Section 1), the Eligibility Requirements (Section 2), and the Application Requirements (Section 3).

Through this fund, CoFED will re-grant funding to cooperative and farmer-based organizations that are building and working to transform the food system.

**Section 1. The Grant Details**

The purpose of this grant is to support co-ops and small farmers in the day-to-day operations to aid in the development of their organization. We encourage legally established cooperatives and other business entities at all stages (from start-up to scale-up) to apply! Please see our eligibility and Frequently Asked Questions for more information. If your questions are not answered there, reach out to grants@cofed.org and we will do our best to respond.

The grantee will receive up to **$5000.00**. In addition to grant funding, grantees will also **have access to 12 months of technical assistance in business management, financial and operational skills, and communications support.**

CoFED's, CoFUND Selection Committee, will select the grant recipients based on meeting the qualifications (as set out in Section 2) and on the ability of the applicant to communicate how the funds will be used. Selected applicants will sign a participation agreement that includes the grant agreement and reporting requirements, and commits the selected applicant to participate in and complete an educational webinar (or other format, to be confirmed) that offers education and insights to other co-ops.

**Section 2. Eligibility:**

To be eligible to apply for the grant, organizations must:

* **Be a legal US based entity or fiscally sponsored by a legal US based entity.**
* **Submit the complete application (Section 3) by the deadline (January 22nd, 2021 by 11:59pm PST).**
* **Applicants must submit a W-9 with their application to be considered for funding.** All grants distributed by CoFED will be reported to the Internal Revenue Services, per US reporting requirements.

**Section 3. Application:**

**CoFUND Application**

Name:

Contact information:

Name of organization:

Address:

Description/profile of organization:

Grants of (up to) $5,000.00 will be awarded.

What’s your organization’s annual budget?

How will this grant support your work in building an autonomous shift in food and land/or land sovereignty for B/I/POC, LGBTQIA+ people?

How will the funds from CoFUND be spent, if different from the question above?

How did you hear about the CoFUND?

How will you utilize these funds to give back to the co-op community?

Is your organization actively engaged in the community it serves?

How do you plan to cultivate leadership among co-ops?

What types of technical assistance are you hoping to gain through this process?

Anything else you want to share that we haven't asked?

Please email all questions to grants@cofed.org. We will do our best to respond. We will begin reviewing applications in January 2021. **All applications MUST be submitted by January 22, 2021.**

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

* Can I apply if I am waiting to become a legal US based organization?
	+ No, you must be an existing entity, with an active EIN in the United States
* Can I apply from outside of the US?
	+ You must be applying on behalf of a legal US Based organization
* What is the program timeline?
	+ January 22nd: Application are due
	+ January 22nd- February 1st: Applications are reviewed for qualification by CoFED
	+ February 2nd - February 12th: Applications are reviewed by selection committee
* How many grants will be awarded and what happens once we are selected?
	+ Up to 12 organizations are selected and notified by CoFED via email that they are ‘grantees’
	+ Grantees must sign the participation agreement; and provide financial details to CoFED (banking and W9) within 2 weeks from notifying the grantees or the grant may be forfeited.
	+ Grantees will receive two payments totaling $5,000.00 for the total grant amount by no later than March 1, 2021. The initial payment will be for 90% of the funds and the final payment will be disbursed upon the completion of the final report and webinar.
	+ Grantee will meet additional deliverables outlined in the Participation Agreement.
* When will we know if we were selected?
	+ All applications submitted by the deadline of January 22nd will be reviewed for selection. If you are selected to receive a grant, you will be notified as soon as possible. Once all grantees have been selected and awarded the grant, CoFED will send out a communication to notify all applicants of the grant selection status. We will endeavor to notify all applicants of their status by March 31, 2021.