

# Washtenaw County Black Farmers Fund (WCBFF)

## Application for Funding

Applications Due (by midnight) on February 18.

Please read the information below and then click Next.

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\* Required

### 1. Email \*

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#### Introduction

These funds are specifically targeted to current or aspiring Black Farmers living or farming in Washtenaw, Jackson, Ingham, Livingston, Oakland, Wayne, Monroe, and Lenawee counties of Michigan. Our focus is on supporting farmers who produce nutritious food and supply the Washtenaw County foodshed. Funds can be requested for land purchase, operational expenses, infrastructure and equipment, or other needed farm expenses.

It is the intention of the Washtenaw County Black Farmers Fund (WCBFF) to rebuild inter-generational land ownership for Black farmers in Washtenaw and applicants should share that mission. Awardees will be expected to use the funds within one calendar year to support farming and agricultural work that serves Washtenaw County. Additionally, they will be expected to submit a statement describing how they used the funds by the end of the calendar year of receiving funds. If purchasing land with the funds, additional reporting and management will be involved. Finally, awardees will be expected to participate in research or data collection to support future WCBFF endeavors.

For more information on this application and how your responses will be scored please see the WCBFF FAQ sheet or join us for the informational webinar (details below).

#### Timeline

January 1: Application Released

January 17: 8 AM and 6 PM Online Informational Meeting - register at [tinyurl.com/WCBFF](https://tinyurl.com/WCBFF)

January 28: 8 AM and 6 PM Online Informational Meeting - register at [tinyurl.com/WCBFF](https://tinyurl.com/WCBFF)

February 18: Applications Due (by midnight)

March 15: Awardees Announced

April 1: Cohort of Awardees attend a mandatory informational session and are matched with a champion

2. The Washtenaw County Black Farmers Fund's mission is to create a more equitable food system by investing in Black farmers. In so doing, we intend to help cultivate a community of local, Black farmers who can serve as co-stewards of the wisdom and knowledge necessary to feed and support the wider Washtenaw Black community at large. By applying for and receiving these funds, you are becoming a part of an intergenerational and intentional community of Black farmers who will ensure that the land is used to further this mission now, and in the future. Do you accept these terms? \*\*\*If the answer is NO, you shouldn't apply\*\*\*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

3. Do you identify as Black? (We recognize and honor everyone's right to self identify. In using the term "Black" we are referring to those Americans who, due to intergenerational racism, have had limited access to capital and land as a result of enslavement, racial violence, racial discrimination and racialized poverty. If you feel that you meet this standard but do not identify as "Black", please clarify how you identify.) \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any additional questions or need to send additional application materials, send an email to [wblackfarmer@gmail.com](mailto:wblackfarmer@gmail.com)

Basic Information (Required)

Please complete these questions and then click Next.

4. Full Name \*

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5. Organization or Farm Name (if applicable)

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6. Email \*

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7. Phone \*

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8. Mailing Address \*

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9. Farm Address(s) (if different from mailing address)

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10. Website (if applicable)

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11. Social Media (if applicable)

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Farm Experience (Required)

Please complete these questions and then click Next.

12. Are you currently gardening or farming? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

13. How many years have you been gardening or farming? (Please distinguish between years running a commercial business or a hobby-type business.)

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14. How much land are you currently farming/gardening in total (sq. footage or acres)?

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15. Do you own or lease the property you grow on?

*Mark only one oval.*

Own

Lease

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

16. What types of crops do you grow?

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17. Do you produce any value-added products (ex. pies, jams, pickles, salsa, etc)?  
Please describe.

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18. Are you a legacy farmer? Did your parents/grandparents have a garden or farm or farmland?

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

19. Please explain any of your story that relates to familial or intergenerational garden and farmland ownership.

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20. Please describe any training that you have gone through to learn gardening and/or farming.

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21. What happens (or will happen) to the products from your garden/farm (for family consumption, for the community, or are you selling it)? Please be specific.

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22. Tell us about your mission/goals for your garden or farm?

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General Funding Information  
(Required)

Please complete these questions and then click  
Next.

23. Generally, what would you like to use the funds for? Select all that apply \*

*Check all that apply.*

Land (note: Receiving funds for Land Acquisition is a longer process than the other funding types)

Operations

Equipment

Technical Assistance

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

24. How much money are you requesting from the WCBFF? \*

\_\_\_\_\_

25. If you have a budget for the use of these funds, please describe/list.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Land Request  
(Optional)

Please only fill out if you are requesting funds for land.  
If you are not requesting funds for land, please scroll down and click Next.

26. Which best describes your current land situation? (This information will be kept confidential)

*Mark only one oval.*

- Currently farming/gardening on land that I own, but I want to expand and purchase more land.
- Currently farming/gardening on land that I own, but I want to reduce my mortgage debt.
- Currently farming/gardening on land I do not own, and that I want to purchase.
- Currently farming/gardening on land that I do not own, but want to purchase land in a different location.
- I'm not currently farming/gardening on any land.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

27. Tell us about the land you'd like to purchase. What are the location and acreage? What features does it have?

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28. Do you have a purchase agreement with the current owner? (if applicable)

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

29. Have you explored financing? (If applicable)

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

30. If yes, who have you reached out to?

\_\_\_\_\_

31. If yes, have you been pre-approved for a loan? (If not, we can help connect you to appropriate lenders)

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Infrastructure /  
Equipment (Optional)

Please only fill out if you are requesting funds for equipment or infrastructure.  
If you are not requesting funds for infrastructure or equipment, please scroll down and click Next.

32. What type of equipment or infrastructure would you like to purchase with funds from the WCBFF?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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33. Please share with us how this type of purchase will improve your farm.

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Operating Expenses  
(Optional)

Please only fill out if you are requesting funds for operating expenses. If you are not requesting funds for operating expenses, please scroll down and click Next.

34. What type of operational expenses would you like to pay with funds from the WCBFF?

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35. Please share with us how funding for operational expenses will improve your farm.

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Technical Assistance  
(Optional)

Please only fill out if you are requesting funds for technical assistance. If you are not requesting funds for technical assistance, please scroll down and click Next.

36. What type of technical assistance would you like to pay with funds from the WCBFF?

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37. Please share with us how funding for technical assistance will improve your farm.

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Other Funding Requests  
(Optional)

Please fill out if you are requesting a different type of funding assistance.

38. What other expenses would you like to pay with funds from the WCBFF?

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**Thank you for completing the WCBFF application! Don't forget to hit the Submit button below.**

Awardees will be announced March 15, 2022. We will follow up with any remaining questions. If you have any questions or concerns please email [wcbblackfarmers@gmail.com](mailto:wcbblackfarmers@gmail.com). In the meantime, we encourage you to attend one of our upcoming information sessions:

January 17: 8 AM and 6 PM EST

January 28: 8 AM and 6 PM EST

We will be sharing information on how to join these meetings on our website, social media, and via email.

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