

Food Policy Catalyst

2025 Powerbuilding Subgrants

Welcome!

Agenda

- Logistics
- Overview of CSPI & Food Policy Catalyst
- Eligibility
- Powerbuilding subgrants
- Application process and how to apply
- Q & A

Logistics

- We will have an approximately 20 to 30-minute presentation followed by Q&A.
- Microphones and videos have been automatically set to off.
- For Q&A, please submit any questions to the webinar hosts.
- Recording and copy of the slides will be sent to all those registered and posted on CSPI's website.

Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) advocates for evidence-based and community-informed policies on nutrition, food safety and health; holds government agencies and corporations to account; and empowers consumers with independent, unbiased information to live healthier lives.

Vision: CSPI envisions thriving communities supported by equitable, sustainable, and science-based solutions advancing nutrition, food safety, and health.

Food Policy Catalyst

An initiative of CSPI and affiliate CSPI Action Fund aimed at exploring federal, state, and local food and nutrition policies and campaigns that improve public health and provide innovative models that can be replicated and scaled.

- Stewards philanthropic investments received by CSPI and CSPI Action Fund.
- Seeks and supports partnerships with organizations and advocates at the local and state levels to:
 - facilitate changes to improve the food environment.
 - strengthen the power of people experiencing the greatest inequities and build the capacity of organizations to address unique food system challenges in their communities.

Subgrant Eligibility

To be eligible for Food Policy Catalyst subgrants, organizations must:

- Be a nonprofit with a 501(c)(3) public charity or other tax-exempt designation from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS),
- OR**
- Be fiscally sponsored by a nonprofit organization as described above

Powerbuilding subgrant applicants may be located in any U.S. State, U.S. Territory, or Tribal Area.

We commit to prioritizing funding for smaller and/or less resourced organizations and seek partners with an annual operating budget not to exceed \$5 million.

Powerbuilding Subgrants

- Seek to build on the strengths of cultural traditions and community connections as participating organizations identify ways to address the systemic and power structures that drive health and racial inequities.
- Organizations receiving support through Powerbuilding subgrants under the Food Policy Catalyst initiative will commit to participating in an eight (8)-month participatory cohort with other subgrant recipients.
- Cohort will meet monthly for 1.5-hour long sessions with peers, CSPI staff, and invited experts and leaders to build relationships, share resources, discuss food system issues, and explore opportunities for future advocacy within the context of their local communities.

We anticipate awarding approximately ten (10) Powerbuilding subgrants at \$20,000 each.

Powerbuilding Subgrants

We will prioritize support for organizations which meet the following criteria:

- Organizations that are founded by, led by, and mission oriented to serve Asian, Black, Indigenous, Latine, Middle Eastern/North African (MENA), Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and/or Multiracial people to support populations that have been subject to chronic underinvestment.
- Organizations with extensive experience leading or collaborating on culturally responsive community engagement projects and activities.
- Organizations that center and advance an intersectional approach in their work, prioritizing the communities that experience overlapping oppressions in addition to race and ethnicity, including gender identity, immigration status, sexual orientation, access to housing, people with disabilities, and people impacted by the carceral system.
- Organizations that have little or no previous advocacy campaign experience and have a goal to build capacity and skills to eventually pursue food- and nutrition-related policy or industry accountability campaigns.

CSPI's Approach to Subgrant Partnerships

As a re-grantor, we are bound by guidelines and parameters under which these financial resources can be disbursed and used. We view our partnerships as long-term, mutually beneficial, and trusting relationships and strive to uphold the **following core principles**:

We are inclusive. We actively welcome and value partners with different experiences, backgrounds, attributes, abilities, and perspectives.

We are open. We are honest and direct in how we communicate with each other.

We are kind. We communicate and treat one another in a respectful, generous, considerate, and compassionate way.

We are collaborative. We work together for the common good, seek input from those impacted by our work, and celebrate our shared successes.

We are accountable. We acknowledge and assume responsibility for our actions, learn from our mistakes with humility, and change course when circumstances warrant.

Application Process

- 2-stage application process
 1. Letter of Intent (LOI)
 2. Full application (for organizations moving to next round)
- **LOIs are due by 11:59pm ET Wednesday, September 3rd**

Application Process continued...

Not requesting formal budgets as part of the application process. However, applicants should internally consider where they might use the funds if awarded, such as for staff time to participate in the cohort, direct programmatic expenses, and/or other organizational expenses.

Application Review Process

LOIs and full applications will be reviewed and scored using the following criteria:

- Organizational alignment with the funding opportunity.
- Experience centering the voices and needs of Black, Latine, Indigenous, immigrant communities, and/or individuals with socially stratifying identities. This prioritization will be based on organizational demographic data and priority populations identified in the application.
- Organizational approach to addressing health equity.
- Organizational approach and practices to community engagement.
- Strong applications will include: an overview of your organization as it specifically relates to work within food systems, why you have an interest in building capacity for policy advocacy, and what you hope to achieve/what new skills or knowledge you are hoping to gain by participating in the Powerbuilding cohort.

Key Dates

Please note that these dates are tentative, and we will provide status updates to every applicant as soon as possible.

September 3, 2025 at 11:59pm EST	LOIs due
September 26, 2025	LOI decisions announced
October 13, 2025 at 11:59pm EST	Full applications due (for applicants moving on to next round)
October 24, 2025	Full application decisions announced
November 1, 2025	Start of subgrants
June 30, 2026	End of subgrant term

How to apply

- All LOIs should be submitted through **CSPI's Online Subgrant Portal**
- Visit our website (www.cspi.org/subgrants) for more information, links to Requests for Proposals, FAQs, and a list of applicant resources.
- Reach out to grants@cspinet.org with any questions or to request technical assistance.

Q & A