Food Policy Catalyst

State & Local Policy | Industry Accountability
2025 Subgrant Opportunities

Welcome!

Agenda

- Logistics
- Overview of CSPI, CSPI Action Fund, & Food Policy Catalyst
- Eligibility
- Funding priorities
- State & Local Policy subgrants
- Industry Accountability 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.

CSPI & CSPI Action Fund

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.

CSPI Action Fund: CSPI's affiliate 501(c)(4) advocacy organization.

CENTER FOR
Science IN THE
Public Interest

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.

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

Geography:

For State & Local Policy subgrants, we will only review proposals from organizations located in and/or for projects focused in the following locations:
* Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Mexico, New York, or Washington, D.C.

For Industry Accountability subgrants, we welcome proposals for campaigns with national reach/impact. We will prioritize applications from organizations located in the priority locations, and/or from organizations with strong community engagement in these states.

CENTER FOR
Science IN THE
Public Interest

Subgrant Eligibility continued...

These geographies have been prioritized based on learnings from past subgranting efforts by CSPI and CSPI Action Fund, and accounting for considerations related to health equity, political readiness, policy replicability, and population impacts of potential policy interventions. If your organization operates in multiple states or locations, proposals for work in the priority locations are welcome.

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

CENTER FOR
Science IN THE
Public Interest

Funding Priorities

Priority areas for this funding opportunity include:

State & Local Policy
Aimed at pursuing policy campaigns aligned with CSPI's policy priority areas to improve food environments.

Industry Accountability
Aimed at campaigns to hold corporations responsible for the negative health impacts of their food and beverage products and marketing tactics.

CENTER FOR
Science IN THE
Public Interest

Funding Priorities continued...

In our commitment to responsible stewardship of philanthropic dollars and to more effectively address inequities in funding, we will prioritize applications that:

- Are from diverse organizations who are either representative of the population for which a campaign is focused, or are directly partnering with individuals and/or community organizations representing the population,

- Are from organizations in communities experiencing health disparities,

- Include community or field organizing and engagement that centers the participation and involvement of community members,

- Incorporate a strong focus on health equity in project design, and

- Demonstrate a collaborative and innovative approach.

CENTER FOR
Science IN THE
Public Interest

Funding Priorities continued…

Food Policy Catalyst is focused on supporting community engagement to advance innovative solutions to improve the food environment. Through this funding opportunity, we will **not** support the following:

- Direct service provision or pilot projects
- Capital projects
- General operating subgrants

State & Local Policy Subgrants

We are specifically interested in the following proposals to improve food environments:

- Increasing access to nutritious food in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP**), including incentives, D-SNAP, immigrant access

- Increasing access to and improving the nutritional quality of food and beverages served in **Child Nutrition Programs**, including Healthy School Meals for All

- Reducing consumption of added sugars through state-level **sweetened beverage tax** campaigns or exploratory work/coalition building

- Increasing **values-aligned food procurement** in public institutions, including K-12 schools and carceral settings.

- Improving food and beverage ingredient transparency through better **labeling**

- Restricting marketing of harmful ultra-processed foods (**UPFs**), especially by removing harmful UPF advertising from public institutions and property

CENTER FOR
Science IN THE
Public Interest

State & Local Policy Subgrants

- Anticipate awarding approximately six (6) State & Local Policy subgrants

- Applications may be submitted for **up to $250,000**, inclusive of indirect costs for a period of 18 months

- Can support non-lobbying and lobbying activities (i.e., hill days, meetings with elected officials, lobbying consultants)

Industry Accountability Subgrants

We are particularly interested in funding projects with community engagement at the local, regional, or state-wide level focused on:

- **Ultra Processed Foods (UPFs)**
  - Corporate campaigns to pressure industry to reduce the marketing of harmful UPFs and increase the marketing of healthy products.
  - Policy campaigns to restrict the food industry's marketing of UPFs, especially to youth, including through digital rights advocacy and through requiring companies to disclose online marketing practices and advertising expenditures for harmful UPFs.
- Corporate and policy campaigns that challenge corporate **food price discrimination**, such as discriminatory pricing by grocery retail chains.
- Corporate campaigns to pressure food manufacturers to reduce **added sugars and sodium** in their products.
- Corporate campaigns demanding that **carceral food service** contractors meet higher standards to improve the health and dignity of people impacted by the carceral system.
- Campaigns to limit food industry interference in the development of the 2030 **Dietary Guidelines for Americans** (DGA).

Industry Accountability Subgrants

- Anticipate awarding approximately four (4) Industry Accountability subgrants

- Applications may be submitted for **up to $200,000**, inclusive of indirect costs for a period of 18 months

- Can support non-lobbying and lobbying activities (i.e., meetings with elected officials)

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.

CENTER FOR
Science IN THE
Public Interest

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

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

- **Alignment with the funding opportunity.**

- **Organizational experience leading policy or corporate campaigns.**

- **Projects with a goal of policy passage should include a comprehensive plan to achieve the policy objectives, including a reasonable timeline. Plans should be inclusive of strategies for legislative engagement, grassroots community engagement, communications, and litigation, as applicable.**

- **Centering the voices and needs of Black, Latine, Indigenous, immigrant communities, and/or individuals with socially stratifying identities.**

- **Organizational approach to addressing health equity.**

- **Strong applications will have a well-developed community engagement plan. This includes having diverse project partners involved in your project, properly funding your community engagement activities/staffing, and the inclusion of people with lived experiences throughout the project in a meaningful way.**

CENTER FOR
Science IN THE
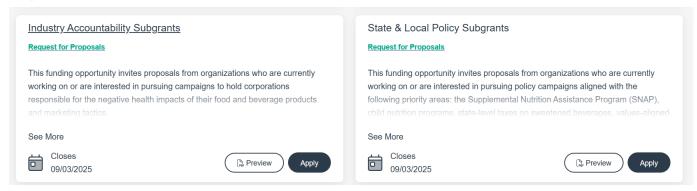Public Interest

Key Dates

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

Subgrant Application Submission and Decision Timeline	
September 3, 2025 at 11:59pm EST	LOIs due
September 26, 2025	LOI decisions announced
October 27, 2025 at 11:59pm EST	Full applications due (for applicants moving on to next round)
November 14, 2025	Full application decisions announced
December 1, 2025	Start of new subgrants

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, and a list of applicant resources.

- Reach out to grants@cspinet.org with any questions or to request technical assistance.

Q & A