



GRANTEE HANDBOOK EFOD COLLABORATIVE

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Welcome to the EFOD Collaborative. We are honored to partner with you and support the vital work you do every day.

This handbook is intended to be a living reference and a guide to the resources, opportunities, and shared commitments that shape our work together.



Mapping EFOD



♥ Steering Committee Member

* EFOD Fund Grantee and Partner



EFOD COLLABORATIVE NETWORK

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT AS A MEMBER

WHO WE ARE

Equitable Food-Oriented Development (EFOD) is a community-anchored development strategy that centers the food and agriculture projects of diverse and historically marginalized communities as vehicles for shared power, cultural expression, and community asset-building.

OUR GOVERNANCE MODEL

EFOD is governed by an Executive Committee (EC) and a Steering Committee (SC) on 2-year terms, ensuring a diversity of perspectives and leadership. The EC is our de facto Board, and provides strategic direction and sets budgets. The SC functions as our agenda-setting body, publicly representing EFOD's work. EFOD's four "backbone" staff lead fundraising, financial administration, documentation, network building, and communication.

OUR COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

EFOD is not just a funder, we are also a national community of practice bringing organizations together to build authentic relationships, share expertise, and amplify our collective impact through direct collaboration and narrative change.

Non-Extractive Capital

Up to \$500K in 0% loans on 7-10 year terms

Technical Assistance

Up to \$15K annually of additional support for your EFOD project Monthly webinars to build capacity, deepen knowledge, and bridge connections across the EFOD Network, small and targeted in-person gatherings, and our all-network Unconference every other year

Collaborative Learning Opportunities

**\$12+ MILLION GRANTS
AND LOANS DISTRIBUTED
SINCE 2020**

**51 MEMBERS
ACROSS THE
U.S.**



Questions? | admin@efod.org

EFOD CRITERIA

1

Equity & Justice First

We evaluate projects based on their capacity to dismantle historical inequities and their connection to local organizing.

We assess whether organizations collaborate with systemic actors to transform the economic and social landscape.

2

Rooted in a Specific Community or Place

EFOD projects support organizations that are deeply rooted in their communities. We assess how well an organization understands, represents, and engages with local needs and strengths.

We consider the organization's longevity, respect for local culture, and efforts to amplify community voices—ensuring initiatives are driven by the community, not just for it.

3

Building Community Wealth

We prioritize projects that use market strategies to economically empower communities, addressing the unique challenges faced by community businesses and disrupting systemic inequities rooted in capitalism.

EFOD-aligned projects focus on strategic economic development, not only supporting but elevating the communities they serve.

4

Community Leadership Development

We prioritize projects where community members are not just participants but leaders, ensuring decisions reflect the genuine needs and aspirations of those they impact, authentically embodying the community's ambitions and values.

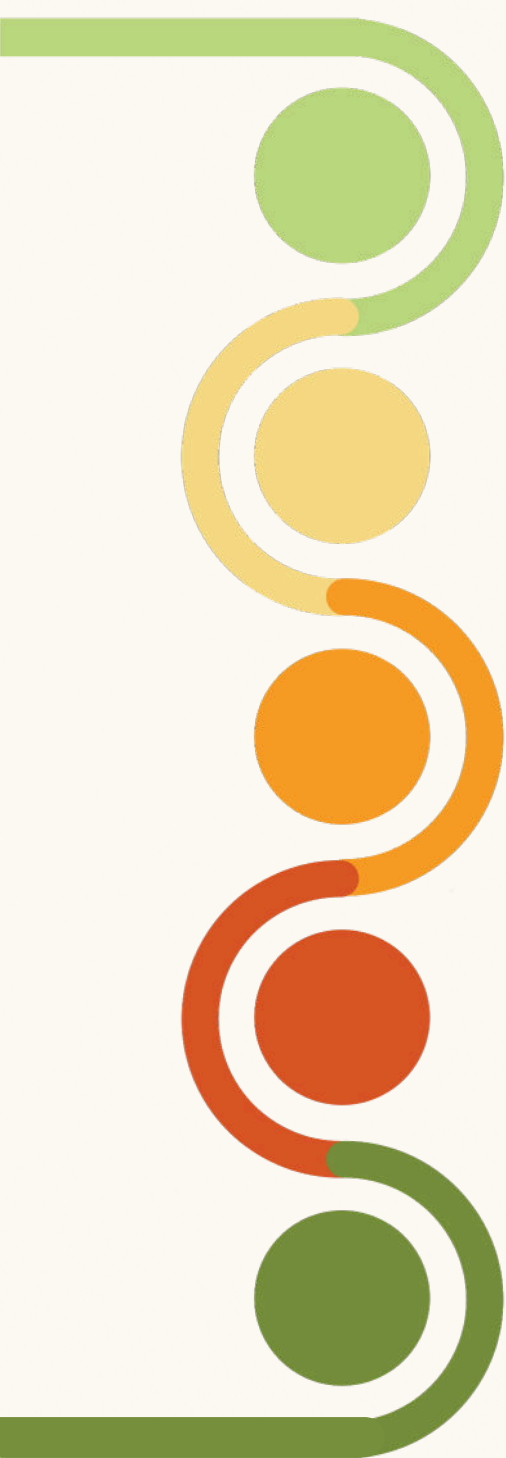
5

Community Ownership

We advocate for initiatives that secure real ownership of physical spaces and economic resources within communities, contributing to long-term wealth and resilience.

We prioritize projects that effectively distribute capital, develop sustainable business models, and cultivate a liberatory consciousness among community members.

OUR VALUES



REPARATIVE WEALTH BUILDING

Our approach to wealth building is rooted in addressing historical injustices that have impacted our communities. We create pathways for sustained, community-driven economic empowerment.

INTERDEPENDENCE AND RECIPROCITY

We embrace models of shared resourcing, knowledge, and support, valuing reciprocal relationships. We reject models that pit our communities against each other by prioritizing profit over community well-being.

NON-EXTRACTIVE PRACTICES

We prioritize economic practices that reinvest into the community rather than extract from it, ensuring that all initiatives uplift and empower local resources and people.

COMMUNITY SOVEREIGNTY

We root all decisions in the autonomy and leadership of the communities we serve, recognizing their right to self-govern and self-determine their own futures.

CULTURAL RESILIENCE

We value the culture and practices of each community, ensuring that economic and food systems development respects and preserves community traditions and knowledge.

EFOD Collaborative Theory of Change

THE PROBLEM

The prevailing food system - fueled by mainstream philanthropy and extractive finance - actively marginalizes BIPOC communities and organizations working to change the status quo, and perpetuates cycles of harm by disinvesting crucial resources from visionary change-makers.

At stake is not only the essential need for food, but the preservation of culture, the pursuit of justice, and the autonomy of BIPOC communities in shaping their economic and political destinies.

OUR FOCUS OF CHANGE

We move integrated, non-extractive capital to organizations that are intentionally created by and accountable to their communities. These organizations are committed to wealth and resiliency building in underserved and neglected neighborhoods, and emphasize transformative practices over the mere reformation of harmful systems.

By building a community of values-aligned practitioners, we enact bolder and more powerful strategies that serve as alternatives to extractive approaches to community development and investments.

OUR VALUES

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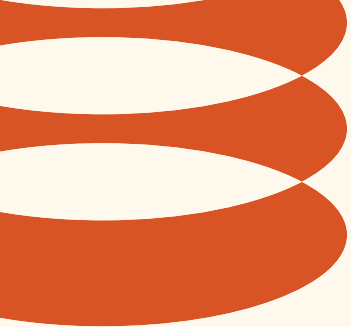
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OUR STAFF



EFOD FUNDING & SUPPORT

EFOD Fund - Zero Interest Loans

Loan Amount: Up to \$500,000 at 0% interest

Repayment Term: Up to 7 years

Required: Completion of organizational self-assessment

The EFOD Fund provides zero-interest loans to support a wide range of organizational needs, including operational costs, capital projects, and program expansion.

Loan Enhancements

- \$250,000–\$500,000: Available based on demonstrated organizational need and potential impact
- \$500,000–\$1,000,000: Considered for highly impactful projects with strong potential for scale or systemic change

Eligibility:

All EFOD grantees with a proven track record of financial sustainability and a clear repayment plan.

Apply Here:

[EFOD Fund Loan Application](#)

Sunny Day Fund - Emergency Rapid Response Dollars

Funding Amount: Up to \$50,000

Eligibility: EFOD members in good standing

The Sunny Day Fund provides rapid-response emergency funding to organizations facing urgent or unexpected challenges. These funds are intended to ensure organizational continuity during times of crisis or transition.

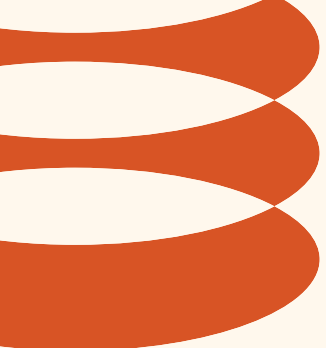
Eligible Uses Include:

- Natural disasters
- Emergencies that disrupt operations (e.g., sudden loss of funding or key personnel)
- Emergency repairs or critical operational costs

Apply Here:

[EFOD Sunny Day Fund Application](#)





EFOD FUNDING & SUPPORT

Aligned Organization Technical Assistance (TA) Fund

Funding Amount: Up to \$15,000

EFOD provides annual paid Technical Assistance (TA) to help organizations achieve their goals more effectively. This support is meant to enhance organizational capacity, strengthen programs, and provide specialized expertise in various areas.

Apply Here

[Technical Assistance \(TA\) Fund](#)

Wellness Funds

Funding Amount: Up to \$500 per organization

EFOD recognizes the importance of staff and leadership well-being as part of long-term organizational sustainability. Wellness Funds are available to support activities that promote physical, mental, and emotional health.

Examples of Eligible Uses:

- Mental health services
- Yoga or mindfulness classes
- Health and wellness workshops
- Physical fitness programs

Apply Here

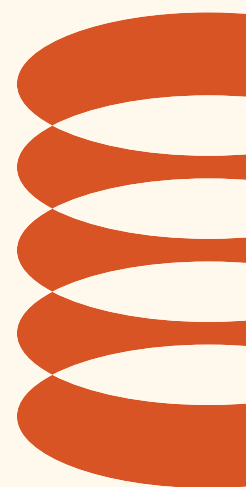
[EFOD Self Care Fund](#)

Reporting Requirements & Annual Grantee Check-In

All EFOD grantees are required to participate in an annual check-in to support accountability, relationship-building, and ongoing alignment.

[Annual Grantee Check-In Form](#)

This annual process helps EFOD better understand grantee needs, measure impact, and identify opportunities for additional support.



TOOLS & RESOURCES FOR EFOD GRANTEES

CLICK EACH RESOURCE TITLE TO ACCESS

1

EFOD FUND DASHBOARD

An interactive dashboard and map visualizing EFOD grantee distribution across the network to support transparency, learning, and ecosystem insight.

2

TA PROVIDER DIRECTORY

A curated directory connecting EFOD grantees and partners with trusted, values-aligned technical assistance providers across capacity building, operations, funding, evaluation, and organizational development.

3

KNOWLEDGE LIBRARY

A centralized resource hub offering EFOD materials, grant tools, technical assistance directories, revenue diversification resources, and shared community contributions to support learning and capacity building across the network.

4

EFOD GOOGLE GROUP

A shared online space for EFOD grantees and partners to stay connected, ask questions, exchange resources, and collaborate in support of equitable food systems work.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This EFOD Collaborative Grantee Handbook serves as a comprehensive guide to understanding the funding and support available to help organizations achieve their mission. We are here to support your growth, sustainability, and success as you work toward creating lasting, positive change.

Equitable Food Oriented
Development (EFOD)

www.efod.org
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WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO
OUR SHARED WORK