



Mason CD's Community Harvest Grant

What is the Program?

Mason Conservation District seeks to address local food insecurity concerns by increasing access to nutritious, sustainable, local produce. This one-time grant program seeks to compensate farms for produce that will be delivered to local food pantries. Coupled with additional grassroots efforts through community gardening, seed banks, and educational activities Mason CD seeks to provide the tools for movement towards self-sufficiency.

Local Mason County farmers accepted into the program will be contracted to grow produce for Shelton food pantries. Farmers must invoice Mason CD to be compensated for produce.

Farmers who apply and are accepted into the program will be granted 25% of the total award up front for seed and amendment purchases, receipts and invoices must be provided. Upfront costs will be prorated to reflect produce invoicing.

Program participants will then provide documentation of produce delivery and invoices to Mason CD for payment.

This is a competitive grant program and participating farms will be chosen based on quantity, quality, pricing, relevant experience, and ability to reach program deliverables.

District staff will work with local farmers to coordinate deliveries to eligible food banks and food pantries.

The program ends in October 2024.

How do I apply?

See the program announcement for application questions, all questions must be answered in full. Application reviews will be completed by February 23rd, 2024. Awards will be announced by March 1st pending on-site review.

Requirements

All produce must be grown in Mason County.

A pre-award on site review is required to confirm food safety standards and local production.

To qualify for funds from the Mason Conservation District, farms need to meet eligibility criteria and should not have received notices of disqualification.

What are Culturally Relevant Foods?

Culturally relevant foods encompass crops connected to the culinary traditions of specific communities. These foods reflect the historical and agricultural heritage of a group, including staples like maize, corn leaves, chilies, beans, quinoa, yucca, huckleberries, and camas. Today, conventionally available produce like tomatoes is quickly replacing that of historic significance. Growing and consuming these crops not only sustains cultural identity but also contributes to the rich tapestry of diverse culinary practices. Foods of cultural significance can provide nutritional and mental health benefits for associated communities. Local production of these foods can benefit farms through new revenue streams and help promote a vibrant local agronomic economy.

How does this help farmers?

This program supports farmers by creating market opportunities, minimizing food waste, and establishing reliable income channels, contributing to the overall economic viability of local agricultural communities.

Pricing

Prices on the provided sheet are based on wholesale costs compiled by similar programs in the South Puget Sound region that originate from WSDA programming. These prices reflect a baseline guide for producers and may be supplemented or subject to change based on application responses. In your application, please identify the estimated costs for the produce you intend to contractually grow. Awards and selection will be based on lowest per uniting bidder and or closest to the baseline provided in the price sheet.