Washington State Organic and Sustainable Farming Fund

Overview
In partnership with HumanLinks Foundation, Tilth is accepting applications to grant funds to farmers seeking financial assistance to sustain their farm operations and make necessary improvements for success. The goal of this grant program is to support organic and sustainable farmers practicing responsible and progressive methods such as sustainable soil management, crop diversification, pollination enhancing practices, climate change mitigation and environmentally-safe waste management practices.

Eligibility

This grant program is open to all Washington State farmers, but preference will be given to farmers located in the Snoqualmie, Sammamish and Snohomish valleys. Eligibility is limited to farmers who are sustainable or organic, and are seeking to expand and/or improve their operation, make environmental impact improvements, or become a more sustainable business.

Previous grantees are not eligible to apply. Grants are for one year, and multi-year projects will not be considered at this time.

Funded Topics

Grant funds are available under the following areas of sustainability:

1. Environmental and sustainable impact
2. Social impact
3. Economic impact

Applicants may select one or multiple areas of sustainability that fit their proposed project.

Example Projects

Proposals on these topics are likely to receive consideration:	Proposals on these topics will not be
- Composting, soil control, erosion prevention, permaculture practices - Conserving and restoring natural habitats by protection of native pollinators - Production and/or use of renewable energy - Integrated Pest Management planning - Organic farming practices and certification - No till or minimal tilling planning - On farm seed saving and regional resiliency	considered unless they include a robust renewable energy/recycling plan: - Tractors - Refrigeration projects - High tunnels - General operating funds - Proposals that are not for organic or sustainable farms

Funding Levels

Funded amounts will be between $2,000 and $10,000. Proposals should have objectives that are realistically achievable with this level of funding in a 9-month period. The total granted amount should be spent by December 31st, 2017. The granted amount will depend on use and need of applicant pool. Multi-year projects will not be funded at the current time. We recognize the importance of multi-year projects, but cannot guarantee funding for projects beyond a single year.

Proposal and Review Criteria

In order to fairly evaluate grant proposals, all submissions should follow the requirements stated below. Proposals that surpass the page limit or otherwise do not meet these requirements will not be considered for funding.

The primary audience for your proposal is the grant review committee. This group is comprised of HumanLinks Foundation Board Members and employees of Tilth, all of whom bring a wide range of expertise to the evaluation process.

The narrative should be no more than 3 pages in 12-point font with 1 inch margins (cover page brings total pages to 4). Required attachments do not count towards the three (3) pages.

To Apply:

1. Complete the grant application form, including cover sheet (provided), complete proposal narrative questions, and all required attachments.

   The successful application will provide a clear rationale for the project and demonstrate a significant need for the proposed project. It is important that the objectives for your project be clear, well-structured and succinct. Demonstrate why your project is necessary, present measurable outcomes, and explain specifically what you hope to accomplish with the funds within the project period.

2. Number the pages of your proposal. Limit the proposals to no more than 4 pages (including cover page on application).

3. Submit your application by online, email, or mail. Online submissions are preferred, but not required.

Email option:	*Online submission:*	*Paper option:*
Email application to **applications@tilthalliance.org** -Send proposal as a Word of PDF attachment -We will not accept proposals submitted in the body of an email -Please make subject line **"Grant Proposal"**	Submit application online here: https://seattletilth.wufoo.com/forms/tilth-alliance-humanlinks-foundation-farm-grants/	Tilth Attn: Grant Applications 4649 Sunnyside Ave N, #100 Seattle, WA 98103

Applications must be postmarked or received electronically no later than February 28, 2017.

Review
Project proposals are reviewed and awarded by the granting committee. The committee reserves the right to seek outside technical expertise as necessary. Decisions made by the committee are final.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposals:

1. Deliverables that will foster improvement of sustainable or organic farming practices, and specifies measurable outcomes

2. Presents a well-justified and detailed budget detailing direct project costs and showing any matching funds applied for or secured

3. Project falls into one or more of the areas of sustainability including:
   a. Environmental and sustainable impact
   b. Social impact
   c. Economic impact

4. Proposal is well-written and clear; follows the requirements including page limits and font size; demonstrates the conceptual adequacy of the project, and presents a realistic timeline for each of the project's activities.

If Your Project is Funded
Applicants will be notified by March 21, 2017 of award. These awarded funds will be paid out in full after grantees sign agreement and submit a W9 to Tilth. All awards should be paid out no later than March 31, 2017.

Final Reporting Requirements
Unless other arrangements have been made, grant recipients are required to provide a project final report by January 15, 2018. Evaluation involves analyzing whether or not the original project objectives were met, not the success or failure of a project.

The specific format for reports will be shared with grant recipients in December 2017. In general, however, preparation of a final report should require no more than two hours, and the report should include the following:
- Details on how the money was spent as well as actual cost of the project vs. original budget.
- Any formal evaluation data.
- Project challenges and successes from the recipient's perspective.