

Gamechangers Laboratory: FAQ

Funding and Finances:

Are there restrictions for how we use the funds?

No, funds are unrestricted. It's up to the teams to determine how to best utilize the funds – this could include staff time, a community event, supplies/materials for testing an idea, etc.

Do you want to see a prospective allocation of how the funds will be used?

The application does not ask for a breakdown of how the funds will be used. However, it's important that the teams have a shared agreement around how funds will be allocated. Selected teams will be provided with a sample Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) template that will include sections on team agreements, including decision making and grant fund allocation.

Who pays for travel to the Retreat and Conference presentation?

In addition to the \$25,000 awarded to each team, the Wallace Center has set aside funds to support travel stipends (airfare and lodging) for the full team to attend the Leadership Retreat in October 2019 and the National Good Food Network Conference in March 2020, both located in New Orleans, LA.

Teams:

Can the team members all be from the same organization, or do different orgs need to be represented?

Team members can all be from the same organization or multiple organizations/entities. However, if your team is from one organization, please be sure to explain in your video application how your team includes diverse perspectives and lived experiences. It is important for each team to have a variety of perspectives and points of view on the systems challenge in order to come up with holistic, systems solutions.

Alternatively, can team members be from different communities and organizations?

Yes! You're defining your community. There needs to be a shared purpose amongst team members, but you do not necessarily need to be place-based or part of the same organization. National organizations can also apply just please elaborate on your community and how your organization serves them. You can use the video & written application to tell us where you're located why you'll be a great team. Just splice your video together and upload with your application.

Can one person be part of multiple teams applying?

Initially we had said that would be acceptable; however, upon further consideration we do not recommend one person applying as part of multiple teams and instead ask you to stick to one team, one application.



My team is currently working on its first project together. Will that qualify or, should we have a finished project under our belt?

We are looking for teams that have an established, collaborative relationship – this does not necessarily mean that you have implemented a project together, but that you are familiar with one another and have a healthy working relationship. We ask that Gamechangers is *not* the first time that you are working together. Please use the video application to tell us more about your team and how you are connected.

How many teams will be awarded the grant?

Three teams of 3-5 individuals each will be selected to participate in this inaugural year of the Lab. Funds will be directed to *one* organization and that organization will manage further disbursement.

Could you imagine a team having more than 5 members? Or members and “advisory members”?

We are able to support a maximum of 5 official team members to participate in the kickoff calls, retreat, etc. That said, we love the idea of having an advisory team or additional informal members of your team. Just keep in mind that we will not be able to accommodate their full participation in the lab. Use your video application to tell us more about your team and any advisory/community engagement roles you envision partners having.

Can one person/organization be the financial point and another be the communications point?

Yes, that’s fine. In the written application there is a space for additional information, please include this there.

What is the anticipated workload or time commitment in terms of hours/week?

We anticipate teams committing 5 hours per week to the Gamechangers Laboratory; this includes calls with advisors, working with your teams, administrative work, etc. Some weeks this might be more (like during the 3-day Leadership Retreat in October) and some might be less (like during the holiday season).

Eligibility:

Who is eligible to apply? Do you need 501c3 tax status?

The lead organization must be a 501c3 nonprofit, but other team members can represent different entities. Organizations with a third-party fiscal agent can qualify as the lead organization.

What if we are established as an LLC but have a mission completely dedicated to addressing food security and eradicating food deserts? What if we are a government agency?

We recommend that the lead organization be a 501c3 nonprofit; however, please email or call us directly and we can talk through your situation.

Does the region where the project is located have to be a "food desert"?



No, not in the USDA sense of the term, but the proposed project does need to address food insecurity through community-based food systems. And, as an aside, let's have a conversation about that term and how we as a national community of food systems can shift the narrative about communities who do not have adequate access to healthy food.

How important will the history of the applicant agency be?

It is important for team members to have a history of working in and with the community and in building community-based food systems; if a new perspective or different area of expertise and experience is needed to address your systems challenge, let us know why in the video application.

Ideas:

How established should our innovative idea be for the purpose of the video?

The beauty of the Gamechangers Laboratory is that you don't need to have an established idea! In fact, we'd prefer that you don't have a preset idea or model in mind as you apply. What we want you to come with is a challenge to food security that you've not been able to solve to date. The Lab will provide the opportunity to dig deeper into that challenge and come up with a new or different strategy to address it. The application does not ask for your team to have an identified solution; we want to see that you have the capacity, willingness, and curiosity to experiment and co-create a new solution.

How big of an impact should our project have? Scope and reach?

You won't be asked to present your project/idea in the application. During Phase 1 and 2, your team will be guided and supported to more deeply understand your community's challenge and develop an innovative idea that addresses food insecurity through community-based food systems. We do intend for the ideas developed through Gamechangers to be broadly shared, and hope they will have the potential to be scalable, replicable and/or adaptable. The end result may be a new project or a new policy strategy, or the process might redefine a problem and shape a new narrative about it.

The only constraint is that the solutions/ideas/new strategies must address food insecurity through community-based food systems—defined as community-led solutions to developing equitable health, wealth, connection, and capacity through food, based on a community's unique set of assets, opportunities, challenges, and priorities. This is a working definition that may be refined or re-defined through this initiative.



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