Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Eligibility:

What qualifies an organization to apply for the Nourish the City Grant?

- Eligible organizations located in Norfolk, VA including 501c(3) organizations, civic league or neighborhood association that are state legal entities with non-profit status or non-stock entity, and local businesses who are participating with a non-profit partner.

If we are based in Virginia Beach or other neighboring cities but work in Norfolk, are we eligible to apply?

- Priority will be given to organizations based in Norfolk. Organizations based in neighboring cities who work in Norfolk may be eligible but are encouraged to partner with a Norfolk organization to apply for this grant.

If my organization received PICC funding, can I still apply for the grant?

- Yes, organizations who have previously/currently received funding from the City of Norfolk remain eligible for this program. Please be sure to include the various types of funding received from the City of Norfolk.

I'm interested in starting a community garden at a Norfolk City public school and would like to apply for the program. Are we eligible?

- As public schools are government entities, they are not eligible to apply directly. However, we encourage schools to partner with a qualifying non-profit or community based organization. Please note that in this case, the partnering organization will be the official applicant, assume responsibility for the funds, and handle all required documentation.

Application:

Can an organization submit multiple applications?

- No, we are only considering one application per organization.

Is the program focused on a specific area?

- The grant is open to the entire city, but special consideration will be given to areas prevalent with food swamps and food deserts, such as parts of wards 3 and 4.

Is there a particular area that should be focused on within Norfolk?

- The Nourish the City Grant is for projects throughout the City of Norfolk, however, we have found that Wards 3 and 4 are in most need based on recent studies. Example data can be found here: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/09eccc2dd6bf482897ab77a2a8b2becb.

I'm working on the application, but I can only view the full question when I hover over it. How can I fix this issue?

- This issue is likely caused by your screen being too zoomed in. To view the entire question without hovering:
    - Press **Ctrl** and **– (minus key)** on your keyboard to zoom out.
    - Repeat until the full question is visible on the screen.

Do I need to include the contact information for a City of Norfolk employee?

- Only projects taking place on City property, such as, but not limited to, recreation centers, offices, or schools, must include permission and coordination from a designated City employee. Please be sure to include their title and contact information on the application.

Funding:

The Nutritional Equity Fund released $287,000 to address food and health disparities in Norfolk. This includes three grant cycles, each providing $80,000 in funding, totaling $240,000. How will the remaining $47,000 be allocated?

- The remaining $47,000 will be used for program-related expenses such as marketing, printing, and other administrative needs. Additionally, these funds may support future grant cycles, reflecting increased community demand.

What if I need more than $10,000 for my proposed project?

- For this application cycle, mini-grants will range from $2,500 to $10,000. We recommend requesting the maximum amount available through the Nourish the City Grant and exploring additional funding sources to cover the remaining costs. Here are a few helpful resources to get started:
  - https://www.grants.gov/search-grants
  - https://www.governor.virginia.gov/constituent-services/grants/

Evaluation Criteria:

How will applications be scored?

- A review committee of individuals from various City departments will evaluate all applications. The scoring rubric is currently being developed and as previously mentioned, projects located in areas of higher need will receive special consideration. Examples of criteria that will be assessed include:
  - Whether the project serves high-need areas
  - The scale of food support provided (e.g., frequency of service, population supported)
  - How the project builds on existing efforts to expand capacity
  - Long-term plans for project sustainability
  - How success will be measured and evaluated

Background Information:

The City of Norfolk, through the Office of Resilience, recognizes the importance of addressing food disparities among our residents. Nourish the City is a grant program providing opportunities for Norfolk organizations to contribute to easy and affordable access to nutritious food options, such as, but not limited to, community gardens, co-ops, farmers markets, and food pantries. Recipients are awarded mini-grants from $2,500 - $10,000.

The grant was initialized with strong support from the community, including the Norfolk Food Policy Council, a community-led coalition in Norfolk with participation from the City, dedicated to addressing food system issues and improving food access and sovereignty for all residents. Based on statistics from Feeding America for 2023, the City of Norfolk has an overall food insecurity rate of 15.4%, with data showing that 26.6% of children in our community live in households which experience food insecurity. This grant will work to ensure that our community is given the resources to address this issue while nourishing our citizens.