Growing Impact Award
Request for Pre-Applications

Match is Required for this Funding Opportunity

Pre-Application Open: June 11, 2025 at 12pm EST

Pre-Application Due: September 3, 2025 by 5PM EST

Full Application Invitation: September 24, 2025

Full Application Due: November 5, 2025 by 5pm EST

Award Notification: Winter 2026

Anticipated Project Start Date: Spring/Summer 2026

I. Applications Requirements

The Growing Impact Award is a new competitive award program that provides funding to expand successful research from previous Seeding Solutions and New Innovator in Food & Agriculture Research Award (NIA) awards.

Growing Impact Award projects must be aligned with FFAR's Research Strategy and contribute to one of the three Priority Areas:

Cultivating Thriving Production Systems
Sustaining Vibrant Agroecosystems
Bolstering Healthy Food Systems

Proposals must also meet at least one of the following criteria:
1) Extends the original FFAR-funded work in a new dimension;
2) Expands the previous FFAR-funded approach to include new interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary research approaches; and/or
3) Translates and applies the previous FFAR-funded research into a commercial application, product or service.

All research must be conducted in accordance with standard research compliance requirements, such as approval from the relevant Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) or similar. If human subjects are involved, the research team should be trained in culturally appropriate methods to reach the target population and must have Institutional Review Board (IRB), or similar approval for the project.

II. Eligibility

The Growing Impact Award is open to investigators on FFAR-funded Seeding Solutions and NIA projects that either:

1) will complete 75% of the award period of performance by November 5, 2025 (including any no-cost extensions); or
2) were completed on or after November 5, 2023.

If invited to submit a full application, all required annual and final reports must have been submitted and approved by FFAR by the Growing Impact Award full application deadline of November 5, 2025.

Eligible matching funds must be identified with the Growing Impact Award proposal. If invited to submit a full application, matching funds must be confirmed by the deadline of November 5, 2025.

Any investigator from the original FFAR-funded project is eligible to be the Principal Investigator (PI) on the Growing Impact Award proposal, but only one application can be submitted from each previously funded award. We encourage you to contact other members of your FFAR-funded project research team to share news of this award opportunity.

If the Growing Impact Award PI is not the PI in the previous FFAR project, a letter of recommendation from the original PI to support your Growing Impact Award submission is required.

III. Funding Availability & Award Information

Individual proposal total budget requests may range from US $600k to $4M total ($300k to $2M requested from FFAR) for Projects ranging between 12-60 months. FFAR intends to award up to $10M in awards under this program. Applicants are required to identify and secure matching funds equal to or greater than the FFAR funding request. Matching funds must come from an entity other than the U.S. Federal Government. Any excess match is welcome, but it will not influence the potential

success of an application. Matching funds cannot supplement or supplant preexisting funds for projects initiated before July 1, 2025. Reasonable budgets work in favor of the applicant. Budgets that are not commensurate with the proposed work or poorly justified will negatively affect the application's overall evaluation.

Applicants are encouraged to contact FFAR's Grants Team to discuss any concerns related to the budgetary guidelines and matching requirements (see Matching Guidelines).

IV. How to Apply

Applications will follow a two-step process. The first step is to submit a pre-application through FFAR's Grants Management System by September 3, 2025. Submissions will be reviewed for eligibility including:

1) that only one proposal is submitted per previous FFAR-funded Seeding Solutions or NIA research project;
2) that the PI of the new project was an investigator on the previous FFAR-funded project;
3) that the described completion date of the project is eligible; and
4) that all required requirements from the previous FFAR-funded project have been submitted and approved or will be submitted by the full application deadline.

After verification, invitations to submit a full application will be sent by September 24, 2025, with full proposals due by November 5, 2025. Please see the Growing Impact Award webpage for a complete program timeline.

Pre-Application Details

All applicants must submit their pre-application through FFAR's online Grant Management System by September 3, 2025. Applications submitted outside of this System will not be considered.

To start a new pre-application or if you are a new user, please click here. If you are a new user, register for an account by clicking the "Create Account" button located under the "Sign In" button on the right side of the home page. Once you log in, you may begin working on the application. Please be sure to save your work often by clicking on "Save and Finish Later." To access a saved application, please do so through your Grant Management Account.

To be fair to all our applicants, FFAR will not grant extensions to applicants who miss the deadlines posted in the Key Dates section.

The components are described below to assist in preparing the application.

Previous Proposal
- What is the title of the previous FFAR-funded NIA or Seeding Solutions award which the submission will be related to?
- What is the reference number of the previous FFAR-funded NIA or Seeding Solutions award which this submission will be related to?
- Who was the Principal Investigator (PI) for the previous FFAR-funded NIA or Seeding Solutions award which this submission will be related to?

Growing Impact Award Proposal

- Organization Information
- Principal Investigator (name, affiliation, contact information)
- Project Title (*up to 50 words*)
- Project Timeline
  - Proposed project start date
  - Proposed project duration (*must be between 12-60 calendar months*)
- Geographic Location of Research

Proposal Information
- Which of the three FFAR research Priority Areas will the Growing Impact Award proposal most closely align with? (select 1 of the 3)
- Provide a short statement of Principal Investigator suitability, referencing their role in the previous FFAR-funded project. (up to 200 words) (It is recommended to include article links or other scientific output citations from the previous project).
- Provide up to five key words or phrases representing the core scientific concepts in the Growing Impact Award proposal.
- Provide a short description of the Growing Impact Award proposal topic (up to 500 words).

Attachments
If the PI for the Growing Impact Award proposal is different from the PI on the original FFAR-funded project, a letter of recommendation from the original PI is required.

V. Further Information & Assistance

For general details, please visit the [Growing Impact Award webpage](#) which includes a list of frequently asked questions. If you have questions regarding the scope of a research idea for this program, please contact your FFAR Scientific Program Director. For general

questions, eligibility for the program or if you are unsure who to contact at FFAR, please reach out to growingimpactaward@foundationfar.org.

FFAR will host an informational webinar on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 from 12:00 to 1:00 PM (EST), and you can register here https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EJMml_hFTfCTzTN_DdVHZQ. All registrants will be provided with a recording of the webinar.

For questions related to the online submission system, please contact FFAR's Grant Management team at grants@foundationfar.org. We only accept grant inquiries by email. We strive to respond to inquiries within two (2) business days, but our response time depends on the volume of questions received and the complexity of the questions asked. Please note that we do not monitor this mailbox on evenings, weekends or federal holidays.