Growing Impact Award
Request for Applications

Match is Required for This Funding Opportunity

Full Application Invitation: September 24, 2025 Full

Application Due: November 12, 2025 by 5pm EST

Award Notification: Winter 2026

Anticipated Project Start Date: Spring/Summer 2026

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) projects.

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, or
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.

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

Eligible matching funds must be identified with the Growing Impact Award proposal. 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

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.

Application Details

All applicants must submit their full proposal through FFAR's online Grant Management System. The components are described below to assist in preparing the application.

Application Components

Organization Information
- Authorized Organizational Representative
- Grant Administrator

- Press Contact
- Governmental/Legislative Contact

Contact Information
- Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators
- Key Personnel Contact Information
- Additional Key Personnel
- Current and Pending Support

Proposal Information
- Justification for follow on funding
- Project Title (up to 250 characters)
- Priority Area
- Key Topics (key topics or areas of research to be covered in the nominee's program, up to 50 words)
- Project Start and End Dates
- Geographic Location(s) (city, state and congressional district where the proposed research will be conducted)
- Abstract (up to 250 words)

Project Narrative
- Project description and approach, text only (up to 3,500 words)
- Project objectives and goals (up to 250 words)
- Anticipated outcomes or outputs (up to 500 words)
- Data management plan (up to 250 words)

Stakeholders
Funding Overlap
Intellectual Property Management Plan, if applicable (up to 500 words)
Budget Details
- Total proposed budget (FFAR request + match)
- Total FFAR funds requested
- Total matching contributions

Budget overview and justification (up to 1,000 words)
- Yearly budget requests (up to 5 years)
- Subawards, if applicable

Match Information
- Matching Funder Information
- Organizational Assurances (research involving human subjects, vertebrate animals, recombinant DNA (RDNA), national security implications, hazardous materials, human fetal tissue and NEPA review).
  - Institutional Review Board (IRB)
  - Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
  - RDNA
  - National Security
  - Hazardous Materials
  - Fetal Tissue
  - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Required Attachments

Failure to provide these attachments using FFAR templates, when applicable, will result in the application's disqualification.
1. Budget Spreadsheet
2. Current and Pending Support (required for PI and Key Personnel)

3. Project timeline (by year), with tasks organized by project objectives
4. References cited (will not count towards total word limit)
5. PI and Key Personnel Bio-sketches (five-page limit per individual)
6. Matching Funds Contribution Letter(s)

Optional Attachments

1. Additional Key Personnel
2. Supporting figures, tables, graphics or equations (will not count towards total word limit, five-page limit per individual)
3. Letters of Support. Applicants may provide letters of institutional, collaborator or stakeholder support for the proposed project. Please combine all letters of support into a single PDF document before uploading as an attachment.
4. Three-Slide Summary or Description of the Project

V. How to Apply
Full applications must be submitted by November 5, 2025, through FFAR's online application Grant Management System. Applications submitted outside of this System will not be considered.

Please log in to the Grants Management System to complete the full application. Please be sure to save your work often.

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

VI. Peer Review Criteria
Strategic Impact (20%)
- Does the application adequately address how the proposed research topic relates to scientific advances made during the applicant's previous FFAR-funded research project?
- Does the application adequately discuss the significance of the challenge being faced by the proposal and how the research will contribute to a solution?
- Has the applicant demonstrated that this research will achieve at least one of the following: 1) extend the original FFAR-funded work in a new dimension, 2) expand a previous FFAR-funded approach to include new interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary research approaches, and/or 3) translate and apply the previous FFAR-funded research into a commercial application, product or service?

Feasibility (30%)
- Are the overall program approach, strategy and design feasible and clearly described as well as supported by established theory and practice?
- Are the proposed objectives and activities feasible within the duration of the award?
- Are possible risks addressed and approaches for overcoming them proposed?
- Are the timeline and budget commensurate with the proposed work?
- Is the data and dissemination management plan outlined by the applicant adequate?

Potential Outcomes and Outreach (25%)
- Does the proposal build on outcomes achieved during the previous FFAR-funded research project?
- Did the applicant align the proposed project with FFAR's Priority Areas and Research Strategy and identify how FFAR is uniquely positioned to fund this project?
- If the research project is successful, will it create new paradigms or challenge existing ones in the United States and/or global food systems?
- Did the research team outline tangible outcomes of this project?
- Does the proposed research plan include training or education for the next generation of food and agriculture scientists and stakeholders?
- Did the applicant address the impact of their research output, including any potential for commercializing (if applicable)?

Qualifications (15%)
- How well qualified is the individual, team or organization to conduct the proposed activities?
- Does the proposal demonstrate that project personnel would have adequate resources (for example, institutional support, appropriate infrastructure, equipment and/or other physical resources) to conduct the proposed research or associated activities?
- Does the proposal detail partnerships involved in the project? If so, did the applicant build a diverse team featuring industry, nonprofit, state or local partnerships? Are those partners integral to the proposed project?

X. 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 Thursday, October 2, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM (EST), and you can register here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PoXg1nh0TTa2oAHMGI0z6g#/registration 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.