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ILLINOIS LOCAL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT  
CSFA NUMBER 406-01-3252  
SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO APPLICANT QUESTIONS

Questions received by February 25, 2026 at 4:00 PM (CST)

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

How will the grant be reviewed?

Response:

Grant applications are reviewed through a process involving initial checks for completeness, followed by a programmatic review by experts to assess merit against established criteria. Reviewers evaluate and score proposals based on a scoring matrix, providing feedback to the Department before final review. All applicants will be notified in writing by the grant administrator that their application has been accepted or rejected.

Projects will be evaluated by the grant administrator based on the following considerations:

- 1) *Reasonable assurance of increasing the availability and accessibility of Illinois agricultural products among Illinois communities* [505 ILCS 92/20(d)]
- 2) *Adequate and realistic budget projection* [505 ILCS 92/20(d)(2)].
- 3) Eligibility requirements.
- 4) Cost eligibility.

Points will be awarded for:

- 1) *Proposals that have established favorable community support* [505 ILCS 92/20(e)(1)].
- 2) *Proposals that increase the availability of Illinois agricultural products to underserved communities in Illinois* [505 ILCS 92/20(e)(2)].

- 3) *Proposals that positively impact underserved farmers in Illinois* [505 ILCS 92/20(e)(3)].
- 4) *Proposals from established farmers and food businesses* [505 ILCS 92/20(e)(4)].
- 5) *Proposals that facilitate long-term economic development in the local food sector* [505 ILCS 92/20(e)(5)].
- 6) *Proposals that demonstrate comparable investments by the anticipated recipient* [505 ILCS 92/20(e)(6)].
- 7) *Proposals for high need projects* [505 ILCS 92/20(e)(7)].
- 8) *Proposals that are submitted by small and very small farms and food businesses* [505 ILCS 92/20(e)(8)].
- 9) Proposals from organizations led by historically underserved farmers and food business owners.

**Day Submitted: 2/25/2026**

Question:

How will points be awarded for each section? Where is the evaluation point system matrix for the grant review?

Response:

1. Points will be awarded for each section as follows:

Project Summary & Purpose (15 points)

Project Impact (11 points)

Long-Term Economic Development (24 points)

Grant Specific Criteria - Advancing Equity (40 points)

Budget (10 points)

2. The scoring tool is located within the LFIG NOFO within the Euna Grants powered by AmpliFund system (“Euna”):

[https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/482c857e-6783-47bb-b473-](https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/482c857e-6783-47bb-b473-9de57fbe7024)

9de57fbe7024. It was included in Euna when the LFIG application was published but was

not visible to applicants due to a technical error. The error has now been corrected, and the scoring tool is visible at the link provided.