



Kansas Healthy Food Initiative Predevelopment Technical Assistance Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated February 18, 2026

This document will be updated as additional questions are received.

Will you provide feedback to applicants who were not selected for funding?

Yes, we will offer written feedback to applicants who were not selected, allowing them to strengthen their applications for future rounds.

Is funding available only for projects in Kansas?

Yes, funding is exclusively available for projects located within Kansas.

Are large national chains eligible for this grant program?

The intent of this grant program is to support independent and locally owned entities. As such, large national chains are not eligible for funding.

Do I already need to know who I want to hire to complete predevelopment activities?

While not required, it is highly recommended that projects have already identified the individual(s) or firm(s) they wish to hire using grant funds. Additional points are available to applicants who have completed this step. For example, if a project is applying for funds to complete architectural renderings, ideally the project has already obtained quotes from an architectural firm.

Are there known consultants who could complete predevelopment activities?

The North American Food Systems Network has created a database of food systems consultants that could be a good starting point. You can filter by area of expertise: www.foodsystemsconsultants.org. Another option would be to ask other grocery stores or other resource providers like the Small Business Development Center if they know of individuals with the expertise you're looking for.

My project delivers healthy food to several outlets. What location should I include in my application?

If your project involves multiple locations, please share all locations in your application. For instance, a distributor that delivers food to grocery stores should include the location of their warehouse and locations of the grocery stores they serve. We will check "low-resource" and "underserved" criteria for those locations and use this in determining eligibility.

If we are awarded funding in Round One, can we apply for further funding in Round Two?

Projects may receive only one predevelopment technical assistance grant award in 2025.

Can funds be used for predevelopment activities that support the expansion of agricultural production or processing?

Production and processing activities are not eligible for funding. In addition, predevelopment activities related to the expansion of production or processing are not eligible. Producers can still apply to this



program if their proposed projects align with programmatic goals. For example, a producer may be interested in opening a retail outlet or they may be interested in starting a distribution company. Those types of projects would be eligible for this program. Proposed predevelopment technical assistance grant activities must be focused on the retail outlet or distribution efforts needed.

Would a CSA model be eligible for this grant program?

Predevelopment costs associated with a CSA could potentially be eligible if there was clear connection to a retail outlet (i.e. pickup at a retail location). No production-related expenses are allowed. Furthermore, predevelopment activities related to the expansion of production or processing are not eligible.

Would predevelopment activities related to a Food is Medicine program such as a produce prescription program be eligible?

Predevelopment costs associated with a produce prescription program could potentially be eligible if there was clear connection to a retail outlet (i.e. pickup at a retail location).

Can you include multiple services in one proposal such as including architectural design assistance and community engagement?

Yes, you can have more than one technical assistance provider included in your grant proposal.

Is a match required for this grant program?

No.

Do you have an anticipated number of applicants and awards?

In 2025, we offered two rounds of funding which had a similar number of applicants (15-20) and a similar number of projects funded (4-5). The total amount of funding available to be provided for each round in 2026 is slightly over \$100,000.

The guidelines state that awards will typically range between \$5,000 to \$40,000, though a larger amount may be considered for projects that demonstrate significant need. What would constitute a significant need and what potential amount would be considered?

Requests slightly higher than \$40,000 may be considered if there is documentation backing up the need, including a quote that shows the extent of services that will be provided for that amount. If we receive a request in that range that comes back as highly rated, it may be partially funded or not funded at all.

Is the webinar from 2025 still relevant?

Yes, the guidelines used to inform the 2025 webinar are largely the same as the 2026 Guidelines. This webinar can be found here: <https://youtu.be/jjg5Ep5Z0FU?si=3-oQPLHs-sFCnBQI>

How has the application changed from 2025 to 2026?

The 2026 guidelines are available online [here](#) and include a few updates. These include:

- Updated guidance on the budget. The budget provided in the submitted application should be as accurate as possible. KHFI will not increase the grant size after an initial application has been selected for funding.



- A question was added to assess broader funding and financing implications of the project. Question #23 was added to the application to ascertain if projects intend to seek additional funding or investment within the next 12-36 months to support their business startup or growth. The answer to this new question will be used to understand broader implications and fundraising needs of the project, and plans to address these needs. It is not required that you seek a loan after receiving this grant or that you connect with KHFI for future funding, however, the intent of the predevelopment TA grant program is to support projects' readiness for loan financing, potentially even KHFI financing.

Is there a specific start-date and/or end-date for projects?

Projects should aim to be completed in about one year. Applicants should not plan for their technical assistance providers to receive payment any sooner than 10 weeks after the application deadline.

Can I start my application and come back to it later?

Once you start your application in Qualtrics, you are not able to save or exit and return to it. If you exit the application, you will have to start over. The full set of questions are available in the [Grant Guidelines](#). You may consider drafting responses in a separate document in advance in order to complete the Qualtrics form in one sitting.

I have more questions about my specific project. Who should I contact?

Please email khfi@k-state.edu and we will be happy to answer questions about your specific project. We are also hosting open office hours every other week when the application is open to answer questions. In 2026, those office hours will be held from 11 AM to 12 PM Central Time on the following dates:

- **Round One:** January 29th, February 12th, and February 26th
- **Round Two:** August 20th, September 3rd, and September 17th

[Register here for the Zoom link to attend office hours.](#)