

# Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund Application - 2024

These funds are specifically targeted to Black growers in the cities of Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck to purchase land they are currently farming or plan to farm on. Funds may be used for land purchases, as well as infrastructure projects and/or equipment needs for land where they are currently farming or plan to farm on. Funds will be dispensed directly to the Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA) for land purchases, with a signed purchase agreement or other proof of impending purchase, and/or directly to contractors for infrastructure or equipment funds.

Also, awardees will have access to up to \$500 for skill building/professional development, in addition to their award. This includes opportunities such as, the Global Majority Farm Business class, the Black Urban Growers conference, the Organic Farmer Training Program, etc. These funds will be accessed by submitting the information about the opportunity directly to [detroitblackfarmerlandfund@gmail.com](mailto:detroitblackfarmerlandfund@gmail.com).

It is the intention of the Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund (DBFLF) to rebuild inter-generational land ownership for Black farmers in Detroit and applicants must share that mission. Further, we intend to cultivate a community of local Black farmers who can serve as co-stewards of not just farmland, but of the wisdom and knowledge necessary to feed and support the wider Detroit Black community at large. By applying for and receiving these funds, you are becoming a part of an intergenerational and intentional community of Black farmers who will ensure that the land is used to further this mission now, and in the future. Awardees are expected to use any land purchased with assistance from the DBFLF for gardening, farming or other agricultural purposes for at least the next five years. For more information on this application and how your responses will be weighted please see the DBFLF FAQ sheet (<https://tinyurl.com/DBFLFfaq>) or join us for one of our events (details below).

TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION, YOU MUST UPLOAD THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

- Photos or Video of you and your farm/garden

FOR INFRASTRUCTURE ONLY:

- Project Budget: Use this template: <https://bit.ly/3OapOWG>

FOR LAND PURCHASES ONLY:

- Plot Plan: <https://bit.ly/2TihDkn>

- Community Engagement Plan: <https://tinyurl.com/DBFLF2023>

## TIMELINE

**June 19:** application drops

**June 25 @ 6p:** Optional Class: Accessing & Purchasing Land Class w/ Tee via Zoom - REGISTER HERE: <https://www.detroitagriculture.net/events/land2024>

**July 29:** application due by midnight

**week of September 15:** notify awardees

**September 21 or 22:** Awardee Ceremony at DBCFSN Harvest Fest at DTown. If awarded, attend a mandatory orientation and schedule a one on one with representative from the fund.

**QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE?** If you have any additional questions, need to send additional application materials, would like to be interviewed or want to submit a video entry in lieu of completing this application, or generally need assistance completing the applications, send an email to [detroitblackfarmerlandfund@gmail.com](mailto:detroitblackfarmerlandfund@gmail.com)

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\* Indicates required question

## APPLICANT PROFILE

Help us to learn more about who you are as an applicant!

### 1. I am applying on behalf of... \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- myself/my family
- a for profit business
- a non-profit corporation
- an unincorporated community organization, block club, etc.

2. This fund is designed to support Black farmers in Detroit, Highland Park and Hamtramck. \*  
Do you and/or your business/non-profit/community organization identify as Black\* farmers/growers? \*NOTE: We recognize and honor everyone's right to self identify. In using the term "Black" we are referring to those Americans who, due to intergenerational racism, have had limited access to capital and land as a result of enslavement, racial violence, racial discrimination and racialized poverty. If you feel that you meet this standard, but do not identify as "Black", please clarify how you identify.

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Full Name \*  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Organization name, if applicable  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Email \*  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Phone \*  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the address and city of your primary residence? \*  
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8. If your primary residence is outside of Detroit, Highland Park or Hamtramck, describe your connections to the city.

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9. Please list website and social media channels related to your garden/farm operations. ***\*extra 5 bonus points\****

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10. Please describe in detail any training or classes that you have gone through to develop your gardening and/or farming skills. ***0-5 points*** \*

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11. Describe your lived experience with cultivating land. Did you grow up learning to grow food and plants? Have you always had a garden? Have you worked or volunteered on a farm? **0-5 points** \*

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12. T-shirt size? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- S
- M
- L
- XL
- XXL
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### LAND PROFILE

Tell us more about the land where you currently or hope to farm/garden.

13. Which best describes your current land situation? (This information will be kept confidential) \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- I currently farm/garden on land that I own AND want to expand and purchase more land
- I currently farm/garden on land that I own AND I am applying for support with Infrastructure or equipment only
- I currently farm/garden on land I do not own that I want to purchase
- I am applying to purchase land for for a new farm/garden project that I am planning
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

14. Garden/Farm Name, if applicable \*

\_\_\_\_\_

15. If you are currently growing, please list the Garden/Farm Address(es) - street address, zip code

\_\_\_\_\_

16. Are you a member of Keep Growing Detroit's Garden Resource Program? NOTE: Learn more about it here - <https://www.detroitagriculture.net/grp> \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No

17. Describe your mission/goals for your garden or farm. What are your plans for the land? \*  
What types of crops are you planning to grow? **0-5 points**

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18. I am applying for funding to purchase... \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Land
- Infrastructure/Equipment *Skip to question 34*
- Land + Infrastructure/Equipment

## LAND PURCHASE READINESS

We want to do as much as we can to leverage our relationships to help you navigate your land purchase and/or infrastructure project. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. **0-5 points**

19. Have you performed a soil test on the property you want to purchase? Please note: If you are awarded land or infrastructure, a soil test will be required before your purchase can be approved. Soil testing cost will be rolled into your final award amount. \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No

20. **Do you live in the neighborhood where you would like to purchase property? (There is no wrong answer!)** \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes - I live right next door
- Yes - I live within 500 ft
- Yes - I live close but farther than 500 ft
- No - I don't live in the neighborhood where I would like to purchase

21. What is the specific address(es) of the land you want to purchase? NOTE: This link will help determine parcel addresses and publicly owned land: <https://bit.ly/3y3Vt48> \*

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22. Who owns the property you want to purchase? Use this tool to research <https://bit.ly/3y3Vt48> \*

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23. How is the property zoned? Use this tool to research <https://bit.ly/3y3Vt48> \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Residential
- Commercial (note: commercial property will be harder and more expensive to develop)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



24. Have you made any attempts at purchasing the land yet? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes, I have contacted the owner
- Yes, I have submitted a property application to the City or the Detroit Land Bank Authority
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

25. If you have attempted to purchase, please describe where you are in the process:

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26. To purchase land thorough the DLBA, they require that you are not delinquent on property taxes on ANY property you currently own. Please let us know if this is the case for you so that we can help.

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27. Average land purchases of a single lot can cost up \$3000. Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund would like to support as many growers as possible. If you are awarded, how much are you able to contribute toward the cost of the purchase price? (This question is for planning purposes only, there is no wrong answer!) \*

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28. Land ownership is power for our community. It also implies increased responsibility that we want to make sure you are aware of. This includes paying property taxes, keeping the grass cut, clean up after illegal dumping, any water bills associated with the property and possible liability if someone gets hurt on your property. Please check here that you are aware of the increased power and responsibilities of land ownership and this is something you can handle. \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Agree
- Disagree

29. We ask that the land remain in production for at least 5 years. Can you commit time and energy to this project for 5 years? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

- 30. Should something happen before 5 years, and you can no longer continue the project, can you commit to supporting another Black farmer and/or their project? \*

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

- 31. FILE UPLOAD: Copy of your Plot Plan - drawing that outlines the layout of your land. \*  
NOTE: Learn more about plot plant requirements here - <https://bit.ly/2TihDkn>

Files submitted:

- 32. FILE UPLOAD: Copy of your Community Engagement Plan - a worksheet that outlines the ways in which you're connecting with the neighbors surrounding your project - <https://tinyurl.com/DBFLF2023> \*

Files submitted:

- 33. Are you also applying for infrastructure funding? \*

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No *Skip to question 41*

### INFRASTRUCTURE / FARM DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT READINESS

These funds are specifically targeted to Black growers in the cities of Detroit, Highland Park and Hamtramck to support infrastructure projects (gardening supplies, storage, water catchment, etc.) and/or farm development (business or professional development) support needs for land where they are currently farming or plan to farm on. **You must already own the land to receive these funds.** Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund is able to award **UP TO \$2,000 for infrastructure**. Total project costs may exceed this amount, but the awardee would be responsible for the additional amount. **0-10 points**

34. **Do you own the land where this infrastructure project will be? \***

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

In process (ex: have signed purchase agreement, permission from current owner)

35. **What is the address of the land parcel where this infrastructure project is/will be? \***

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36. **How will you use this award money? \***

*Check all that apply.*

Gardening Supplies (compost, tools, etc)

Farm Infrastructure (storage, water catchment, fencing etc.)

Business services (special permitting, legal support, business planning or entity creation)

Professional Development (training, conferences, etc)

37. **Describe in detail how you will use these funds. \***

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38. What is the total amount needed for your project? \*

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39. What is the amount you are able to contribute? \*

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40. FILE UPLOAD: Project Budget - description of costs and estimated expenses. Please download this template: <https://bit.ly/3OapOWG>. If you need technical assistance developing your project, please contact us at [detroitblackfarmerlandfund@gmail.com](mailto:detroitblackfarmerlandfund@gmail.com) \*

Files submitted:

YOU'RE ALMOST DONE!

*0-10 points*

41. What would support from the DBFLF mean for you or your business/non-profit/community organization? \*

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42. If you are awarded money from the DBFLF, are you okay with this being public information? Are you okay with us telling your story on social media? \*

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

43. FILE UPLOAD: Optional - A photo or video of you in a farm or garden space! If video, it should be no more than 1 min

Files submitted:

44. Is there anything else you want the Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund to know?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Resources

Whether you are awarded or not, the DBFLF wants to connect you to technical assistance and resources to turn your vision into a reality!

- Keep Growing Detroit's Garden Development: soil testing, site visit, garden plan or design, community engagement, making a budget, opportunities to sell produce - <https://bit.ly/3xsYtIE>

- Detroit Community Markets: connect to local farmers markets - <https://www.detroitmarkets.org>

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