



IN ALLIANCE WITH
community food centres
CANADA cfccanada.ca

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible to become a Good Food Organization?

Through the Good Food Organizations program, we want to engage a wide cross-section of organizations committed to pursuing food security work in their communities. That said, there are a few stipulations. Qualifying organizations must be non-profits and be working on food issues in some capacity. Charitable status isn't required to become a Good Food Organization, however a charitable registration number is required in order to receive any of our grants. For-profit organizations are not eligible. Examples of Good Food Organizations could include food banks, anti-poverty organizations, meal programs, or multi-program community organizations where food programs play a strong role.

Individuals are not eligible to apply; however individual staff members of a member organization will be able to access the members' website, download resources, and be able to attend trainings or events.

Organizations whose primary mandate is to facilitate networks, run public education campaigns or do policy work are not be eligible. However we hope to involve such organizations in our future campaigns, so if being involved in this way is of interest, please let us know and we would love to keep you in the loop.

Please contact us if you are unsure if your organization qualifies for the program.

Why the application process?

This is by no means a certification process. The four steps involved in the application process (the self-assessment, goal setting, the cover letter, and sign-off on the cover letter by a senior level staff member) are ways to attest to your organization's commitment to the Good Food Principles and your desire to be part of this initiative. We want to support a group of committed and energetic organizations who want to make this initiative helpful and meaningful for themselves and fellow GFOs. As a result we've tried to develop a process that is straightforward but has the right steps to be able to declare your organization's commitment and interest in this initiative.

Are there any fees or costs associated with becoming a Good Food Organization?

No. All our resources and training sessions are free of charge. CFCC's Annual Food Summit is also free to Good Food Organizations, although travel and lodging is not covered.

What is the grants program?

We offer one or more competitive grant rounds annually whereby only registered Good Food Organizations can apply. The grants help organizations work towards the Good Food Principles through programmatic and/or capacity-building initiatives. Only registered charities are eligible to apply for the grants. Note that funds available for grants are dependent on CFCC's own successful fundraising efforts.

Are your materials and/or trainings offered in French?

We are pleased to be able to offer the public side of the GFO website, the application form, Good Food Principles, and FAQ document in French. While the training, resources, and other programming is run primarily in English at the moment, we will begin to provide training and resources in French as we build our capacity over the next few years, with the goal of eventually being able to offer a fully bilingual initiative. To view the website and associated downloads in French visit www.fr.goodfoodorganizations.ca.

Once we have a sense of what trainings and tools are the most sought-after we will prioritize the translation of these resources first.

How can I let people know I'm a Good Food Organization?

All Good Food Organization members receive a collateral package including the Good Food Organizations badge (and usage guidelines) for print/web, a sample announcement, a Good Food Principles poster, and a Good Food Rules! poster. These resources are available in both French and English.

How will Community Food Centres Canada communicate about member Good Food Organizations?

We promote the program and highlight the great work member organizations are doing to tackle food insecurity via media, our websites, e-newsletters, social media, and print materials (e.g. progress reports, posters, flyers). Also through these channels, and that of the Good Food Organizations website, we foreground the great work happening at member organizations across the country through stories,

project/member profiles, and testimonials. For all of these purposes we will ask you to share your stories with us from time to time.

How does Community Food Centres Canada communicate with member Good Food Organizations?

We keep all member organizations in the loop through an e-newsletter that features relevant news/updates from the GFO website, including upcoming training sessions, deadlines, and stories that profile the great work fellow GFOs are doing on the ground.

What is the relationship between a Good Food Organization and a Community Food Centre?

Community Food Centres Canada has received much interest from organizations wanting to partner to build new Community Food Centres. However, given how resource-intensive a new CFC is, there is a limit to the number of new Centres we can develop. Building a new form of affiliation is a way for us to apply the resources we have to build capacity and impact with a wider network of organizations.

CFCC and CFC staff make up a knowledgeable team with lots of resources and experience to share that can increase capacity both for work on the ground and in the wider sector. To that end, exchange between GFOs and CFCs happens through virtual training sessions, our annual mini-conference, an overall opening of communication between organizations, and by using our collective voice to speak about the value of our work and the issues affecting our communities.

Can we give input and feedback into the Good Food Organizations initiative?

Offering an initiative that adds value to organizations and sees measurable outcomes is extremely important to us. As a result, we seek member feedback and input along the way through a few different methods. The self-assessment you complete as part of the application to become a Good Food Organization is one of the tools we use to collect feedback. Annually we use the self-assessment and your identified goals to follow up with organizations to find out what changes, if any, have taken place at the organization, what tools/supports have helped facilitate these changes, and how the initiative might better serve your organization in the future.

We incorporate plenty of opportunities to provide input throughout the year via the workshops you attend, the downloadable resources you access, and the grants you may receive. Your feedback here will be invaluable in helping us refine the initiative to ensure you're getting as much as possible out of your involvement.

Still have questions?

Contact Emily Van Halem, Knowledge Exchange Manager at Community Food Centres Canada at 416-531-8826 ext. 223 or email us at goodfoodorganizations@cfccanada.ca