



## **Vital Village Community Food Systems Fellowship** *an initiative of Vital Village Networks at Boston Medical Center*

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1) What are the eligibility criteria?**

All applications will be screened for eligibility prior to their review.

- The fellow must be based in the United States or one of the US territories
- The fellow must have an established partnership with a nonprofit organization, coalition, network, group, cooperative, business, or institution that has a strategic focus on local food systems.

#### **2) What criteria will be used to select fellows to advance to the final round of the process?**

Applicants will advance to the final round of the application process based upon how clearly their application and recommendation can articulate details of the categories outlined below:

- Commitment to working to develop resilient and equitable local food systems
- Commitment to community leadership, engagement, and the leadership of caregivers and families
- Commitment to food justice, nutrition justice, racial equity and social transformation
- Interest in developing skills to measuring impact and success of local food systems
- Interest in developing collaborative leadership skills
- Ability to leverage the Fellowship Cohort experience to build community capacity

#### **2) What is the deadline for applications?**

The Fellowship application period ends on October 29, 2021.

#### **3) When will Community Fellows be selected?**

Applicants will be notified of their status on Monday November 22, 2021.

#### **4) Do fellows receive a stipend?**

Community Fellows will receive a \$2,000 fellowship stipend. Fellows also have the ability to apply for \$2,000 of project pilot funds.

#### **5) What should finalists expect from the virtual interview?**

The finalist interview will be no longer than 45 minutes and will take place virtually. Finalists can participate in the virtual interview independently. However, we recommend the finalist invite a member of their partner organization, coalition, network, program or group, who engages with them in food systems work, to join the interview.

#### **6) What will be discussed in the virtual interview?**



An overview of the goals of the interview will be shared with communities moving into the final phase of the application process.

**7) Is there a budget required for the pilot funding or a template we should use?**

Fellows are not required to submit a budget for the pilot funds at this time. If awarded, there will be an opportunity to submit a budget during the fellowship program

**8) What will participation in the Community Food Systems Fellowship include?**

Participation in the Community Food Systems Fellowship will include:

- **Community Design Labs:** Participation in two Community Design Labs focused on participatory research skills (December 2021 and May 2022) These workshops will be held virtually over 3, 90-minute sessions.
- **Monthly Virtual Learning Sessions:** Learning sessions will take place once a month. Fellows will convene for learning sessions that including webinars and peer-led sessions that allow fellows to dive into a particular subject and learn from and with one another around key topic areas.
- **Monthly individual check-in sessions:** with members of the Vital Village Networks team and/or a peer mentor
- **Virtual National Convening:** participation in a project stakeholder convening and cumulative project showcase during the Virtual 2022 National Community Leadership Summit, planned as a virtual meeting for October 2022.

**9) When will the Fellowship begin and end? What are the important dates?**

The Fellowship will begin in December 2021 and end in December 2022. Design Labs, planned in partnership with the cohort of fellows, will take place in December 2021 and May 2022. A cumulative project presentation for the full cohort of Fellows will take place at the *Virtual 2022 National Community Leadership Summit*, which is tentatively planned for October 17-18, 2022. Virtual Design meetings with the full cohort of all eight Community Fellows will take place in December 2021 and May 2022. Exact dates will be confirmed as soon as possible.

**10) Who in the community would the Community Fellows engage over the 12-month time period?**

Community stakeholders the Community Fellows engage may vary depending on their focus within the local food system. However, we strongly encourage Community Fellows have an aspect of their project that engages parents and caregivers to ensure inclusive and meaningful ways for families who face the largest inequities to be integrated in the participatory research process.

**11) Who is the main point of contact?**

Please direct inquiries to [vitalvillage@bmc.org](mailto:vitalvillage@bmc.org)

**12) Will there be a way for applicants who are not awarded the Fellowship to engage?**



Yes, we invite all applicants to sign up for our [mailing list](#) to continue to engage with Vital Village Networks and receive updates regarding future opportunities and to join our [NOW Innovation Network online forum](#), which shares stories, resources, and tools. We are eager to continue to learn about you and your community's work.