

## FAQs: Food is Medicine State Officer Program LOI

The [Food is Medicine State Officer Program](#) is a new initiative that will help states strengthen their FIM capacity and advance policies that improve access to healthy food for people with diet-related health conditions. The Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) is facilitating the program and leading a competitive selection process to identify up to 10 states to receive funding to hire FIM state officers within their Medicaid, public health, or other government departments or agencies. This three-year project is made possible by the [Food is Medicine Impact Fund](#), a joint philanthropic initiative designed to integrate proven food and nutrition interventions into the U.S. health care system as covered, reimbursable medical benefits. The fund is led by The Rockefeller Foundation and Builders Vision and hosted by RF Catalytic Capital, Inc. (RFCC).

The following FAQs respond to questions raised about the recently released [Funding Announcement](#) and request for Letter of Intent (LOI).

**LOIs are due February 27, 2026, 5 pm ET.** Please email [fimso@chcs.org](mailto:fimso@chcs.org) for additional questions.

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### Eligibility

- **Are the District of Columbia and U.S. territories eligible to apply?**  
Yes. Public agencies in the District of Columbia and all U.S. territories are eligible to apply for this opportunity.
- **Are cities/localities eligible to apply?**  
No.
- **Are community-based organizations (CBOs) and state universities eligible to apply?**  
No. However, CBOs and state universities are encouraged to engage and coordinate with the applicable state agency leading the LOI submission.
- **What happens if multiple applications are submitted from the same state?**  
Only one LOI per state should be submitted for the opportunity. Please work with your state agency partners to ensure that only one LOI per state is submitted. We welcome cross-agency collaborations.

### Funding and Grant Amounts

- **Can you provide an anticipated grant amount or funding range?**  
The RFP asks each applicant to request a funding amount and provide justification. Applicants will be expected to ground their request in applicable salary bands for similarly situated roles within state government and to clearly describe how the funds will be used based on the scope of responsibilities and proposed work plan. Applicants may also include reasonable expenses regularly associated with hiring and employing a FIM state officer, such as benefits and other common employment-related expenses. Finally, because this is a three-year opportunity, funding should reflect anticipated expenses across the full three years.

- **How will the funds be distributed, and what are the parameters of the funding?**

Grant funds will be approved by RFCC for disbursement on receipt of an executed grant agreement and any required grant deliverables. Funds are distributed via Tipalti, a third-party global payment automation service. All organizations and individuals receiving funds from RFCC will receive an invite to Tipalti's Supplier Hub Portal to provide their banking details and tax information.

- **Will funding cover the employee's benefits?**

Yes. Funding may include salary, benefits, and other reasonable expenses commonly associated with hiring and employing the FIM state officer.

## Hiring and Staffing

- **Can the FIM state officer be hired as either an employee (civil service) or a contractor?**

Yes. States may hire the FIM state officer as a state employee or retain one as a contractor. In either case, the state will be solely responsible for oversight and management of the employee or contractor. In the LOI, please verify your state's ability to hire or retain a FIM state officer within six months of program launch and any relevant legislative or state-specific hiring approval or other requirements that may impact the hiring timeline.

- **Does the state choose and hire the individual?**

Yes. The state is responsible for finding and hiring the FIM state officer, in accordance with state rules and requirements.

## LOI Selection Criteria

- **What are the selection criteria, and what makes an LOI competitive?**

LOIs will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Leadership commitment and support;
- Current FIM efforts and readiness;
- Capacity to hire;
- Proposed role of the FIM state officer; and
- State affirmation of FIM state officer's full participation in program activities.

- **Will states be penalized depending on what office the state chooses to put the officer in?**

No. The [FIM State Officer Program](#) is designed to accommodate the unique needs and priorities of each state. States are encouraged to determine the best placement to maximize the officer's impact. In the LOI, states should describe their rationale for the chosen agency and outline how they will ensure effective cross-agency coordination.

## Program Participation and Expectations

- **What are the required deliverables and participation expectations?**

States are expected to have an FIM state officer in place within the first six months of the project (between June-December 2026). The officer is expected to participate in all program activities, including one-on-one technical assistance, bi-monthly virtual trainings, leadership coaching, site visits, and in-person meetings over the three-year period.

- **What is the anticipated timeframe for the program?**

This is a three-year project, starting in June 2026 and concluding in May 2029.

## **Stakeholder and Community Engagement**

- **How can community groups and nonprofits interact with this process?**

Community groups and nonprofits play a pivotal role in advancing FIM efforts throughout the state. Community groups are encouraged to interact and collaborate with the state as part of the application process.