



Forty Acres Activation Fund

July 13, 2026

[Forty Acres Fresh Market](#) is an independent, Black-woman-owned grocery business dedicated to making high-quality, fresh food more accessible to Chicago residents regardless of zip code. Founded by Liz Abunaw in 2018 in response to a lack of nourishing food options on Chicago's West Side, what began as a produce delivery service has expanded into a brick-and-mortar grocery store at 5713 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago's Austin neighborhood that opened in September 2025.

As the store approaches its one-year anniversary, [The Christopher Family Foundation](#) is launching a **Forty Acres Activation Fund**, a \$100,000 fund to support programming that activates the space and introduces Austin residents of all ages to the store. Here are some examples of applicable programs: renting a bus to bring residents from a senior housing center to shop for groceries together; a nutritionist leading a walkthrough to highlight diabetes-friendly options for program participants; in-store cooking demos or tasting events; youth cooking clubs shopping for their ingredients, etc. These examples are not exhaustive. We welcome additional ideas and encourage applicants to bring forward creative approaches that align with the goals of this fund.

Eligibility:

- Applications will be considered from 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.
- Priority will be given to organizations based in Austin and/or serving Austin residents, and to activities that take place before the end of 2026.
- Proposed activities must take place at Forty Acres Fresh Market.

Funding Range: Organizations may request up to \$10,000.

Timeline:

- Proposals will be accepted July 20 – August 17, 2026. Any proposal submitted on August 17, 2026 is due no later than 5:00 p.m.
- Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by September 8, 2026.

How to Apply:

- To access the application, please login to the [CFF grants portal](#). If this is your first time applying for a CFF grant, please create an account.
- For any support needed with CFF's grant management system, please email Monica Thorns, monica@christopherff.org.