



2025 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

PARTNERSHIP CIRCLE GRANTS PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY-BASED CULINARY ARTS TRAINING PROGRAMS

OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND

Jacques Pépin is a culinary icon and one of the most influential culinary educators of all time. Through his decades of teaching, dozens of published cookbooks, 16 James Beard awards, and hundreds of individual television episodes, Chef Pépin has inspired multiple generations of cooks and made the art and craft of cooking seem easy and approachable.

Utilizing the generous body of work by Jacques Pépin and his extensive networks in the food industry, and drawing upon his lifelong dedication and passion for culinary professionalism, skills, and technique, the Jacques Pépin Foundation (JPF) advances Jacques Pépin's love of culinary arts education and supports the teaching of culinary skills through various channels to many communities.

The JPF's mission is in part realized by supporting non-profit, community-based, culinary arts training programs (CBCATs) that offer free life skills and culinary training to individuals with high barriers to employment. The JPF is uniquely positioned to add to the curricula and capacity of existing organizations, helping to raise awareness about this important work and the organizations that offer opportunities for individuals detached from the workforce to gain confidence, skills, and employment in the food industry.

The JPF disburses grant funding nationwide and supports culinary training organizations by providing curriculum materials from Jacques Pépin's publications and videos and kitchen equipment from industry partners. An interactive map and listing of organizations that have received JPF support is on the Programs page of the JPF [website](#).

The JPF strongly believes that culinary training is valuable for personal growth, improves health outcomes, develops a deeper understanding of the food system, and provides essential skills necessary for both professional and personal kitchens.

Mission: The Jacques Pépin Foundation promotes Jacques' generosity and passion for cooking by supporting individuals that seek, and organizations that create pathways to success, through culinary professionalism and technique.

Vision: Enriching lives and strengthening communities through the power of culinary education.

PARTNERSHIP CIRCLE GRANTS PROGRAM: CRITERIA & REQUIREMENTS

This RFP is for the JPF 2025 Partnership Circle Grants Program.

Applications are welcome from organizations that have previously received funding from the JPF and meet *Criteria* as outlined below.

A single award will be given to one Partnership Circle recipient providing \$25,000 for two sequential years for a total of \$50,000 to help advance an organization's core mission in culinary training and build a deeper relationship with the JPF. The 2-year funding may be proposed for unrestricted, general operating support or a specific project as outlined in an accompanying JPF **Principal Grants proposal (part of the submission for consideration in the JPF Partnership Grants proposal)**.

The goal of the multi-year JPF Partnership Circle Grants Program is to develop deeper relationships with established community-based culinary training programs that have previously received funding from the JPF. The Partnership Circle Grants Program will create a longer-term space for communication and collaboration between the JPF and the awardee, providing a more engaged level of learning and involvement that will help the JPF further invest in the community-based culinary training program systems.

Partnership Circle Grant proposals must be received by **October 1, 2025**. Award will be announced in December 2025 and the 2-year funding period will begin in January 2026.

Please reach out to us at info@jp.foundation if you have questions about the 2025 RFP for the Partnership Circle Grants Program.

CRITERIA

- Applicants must be existing non-profit, community-based organizations that offer culinary training to those with barriers to employment that have been funded by the JPF in previous grant cycles and already have all criteria in place from the *Principal Grants Program* (educational credential and food safety handler certification for graduates, proven record of success obtaining employment for employees and commitment to foster justice, equity, inclusion, and belonging practices).
- Applicant's program has systems in place to support their alumni after graduation and have formal or informal criteria and employer vetting in place to benefit graduates.
- Applicant's program has a social enterprise component that benefits students with real work experience AND/OR provides students with real-work experience, internships or externships as part of the training program.
- Applicant's program graduates at least 15 students/year.
- Applicant's program leaders have willingness to form a collaborative partnership with the JPF over a two-year period to help inform and provide specific feedback for which programs (as models for the community-based culinary training industry) need to succeed and grow. Awardees will provide best-practice examples and success stories that can be promoted and shared with other organizations.

- Applicant's program leaders are willing to work with JPF to develop plan for promotion of partnership on website, social media, traditional media and use of photography or video.
- Applicant's program leaders will work with the JPF to schedule quarterly funding impact conversations (over Zoom or in-person) over the two-year period.
- All photography and video from learning or fundraising events will be shared by the JPF and the Partnership Circle Awardee with unrestricted licensing.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS (2 parts)

- 1) **Please submit a 2025 application for the Principal Grants Program to be considered for the Partnership Circle 2025 Grants Program.** If 2025 Principal Grant submission has already been sent in, JPF program staff will attach it to a Partnership Narrative (see #2 below).
- 2) **Please submit a (3-page, 750 word maximum) Narrative to accompany the Principal Grants Program application** outlining how your organization will use JPF Partnership multi-year funding to expand on your Principal Grant proposal and commit to building a multi-year relationship with the JPF based on mutual learning, dialogue, and a spirit of growth and innovation.

A Partnership Circle awardee will help inform the JPF, as we work to uphold our founder's lifelong legacy of integrity, generosity, and purpose in culinary training, where the resources and dollars are needed most and how the JPF can continue to have a positive impact on the lives of the students your organization serves.