



NOFA-VT

Farm Share Program

Application Scoring Rubric

Last updated September 2025

This rubric indicates how Farm Share applications will be assessed, with the goal of identifying applicants with the most significant barriers to accessing local food. The rubric is divided into three sections and your total score is the sum of the scores in each section. Applications with higher scores will receive funding priority. You may choose not to answer any question you are not comfortable answering.

1. Financial Information	Possible Points (max points for this section = 12)	Your Points
Determine your % FPL using the Federal Poverty Level Assessment tool, based on your household size and pre-tax income.	<50% FPL = 6pts 50-100% FPL = 5pts 100-150% FPL = 4pts 150-200% FPL = 3pts 200-250% FPL = 2pts 250-300% FPL = 1pt >300% FPL = 0pts	
Do you have access to savings, emergency funds, or other financial support?	0 = sufficient access (access to 3+ months of expenses) 1 = some access (1-3 months worth of expenses) 2 = no access	
Do your routine financial expenses place a burden on your ability to purchase local food? Some examples of routine expenses include childcare, medical, rent/mortgage, utilities, financially supporting non-dependent family members, etc.	0 = do not impact access 1 = somewhat impact access 2 = prohibit access	
Do you experience additional barriers in accessing local food? Some examples of barriers include but are not limited to mental or physical health, transportation or geographic location, etc.	0 = no barriers 1 = some barriers 2 = significant barriers	
2. Demographic Information	Possible Points (max points for this section = 4)	
Is anyone in your household a senior, veteran, or have a disability?	Yes = 1, No = 0	

Does anyone in your household identify as BIPOC, New Americans, or have a primary language other than English?	Yes = 1, No = 0	
How many people in your household identify as LGBTQ+?	If > 0 = 1	
Does anyone in your household identify as a survivor of domestic abuse or violence?	Yes = 1, No = 0	
3. Household Information	Possible Points <i>(max points for this section = 8)</i>	
Is anyone in your household a single parent (i.e., one person caring for a child(ren) without another care-giver)?	Yes = 1, No = 0	
How many dependents is your household supporting?	1 point per dependent, max of 5 points	
Is your household composed of individuals under 18 living without parents or guardians?	Yes = 1, No = 0	
Is your household facing housing insecurity or eviction?	Yes = 1, No = 0	
4. Additional Information	Possible Points <i>(max points for this section = 1)</i>	
Are you a first-time applicant? Or have you been waitlisted with a previous application?	Yes = 1, No = 0	
	Overall Score = <i>(max total points = 25)</i>	

- All applications will be evaluated based on this rubric.
- Applications with higher scores will receive funding priority.
- If funding will not cover all applications of the lowest eligible score, applications of this score will be selected using a lottery system (random selection). For example if there are 20 applications with a score of 15 points but funding only allows for 10 applications to be approved, 10 of the 20 applications will be selected using a lottery system.
- If an applicant selects “prefer not to answer” for a given question, it will not impact their score.
- Your score is calculated by dividing the number of points you receive by the total number of points you could have possibly received. If an applicant selects “prefer not to answer” for a given question, that question and its associated points will no longer count towards the total number of points that that applicant can receive. For example if an applicant selects “prefer not to answer” on one demographic question, the maximum number of points will decrease from 24 points to 23 points.