



## **State of Delaware Community Investment Venture Fund Frequently Asked Questions**

Questions and answers will be added to this document on a rolling basis. New additions will be added to the bottom of this document, including a date indicating when they are added.

For additional questions and information, please email [DCIVF@delaware.gov](mailto:DCIVF@delaware.gov) or visit [www.banking.delaware.gov/DCIVF](http://www.banking.delaware.gov/DCIVF).

### **1. Who is eligible to apply?**

- a. Banks, credit unions, and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) properly registered and authorized to conduct business in the State of Delaware may apply for one or more grants to support proposed programs that:
  - i. invest in the development of financial product or financial product underwriting innovations that will enhance access to capital, funding, and other financial services for businesses in low- to moderate-income tracts in Delaware;
  - ii. deploy, test, and evaluate these innovations for providing capital and funding to businesses in low- to moderate-income tracts in Delaware; and
  - iii. promote and make these innovations available to a variety of banking organizations, credit unions, and CDFIs for use in enhancing access to capital, funding, and other financial services for businesses in low- to moderate-income tracts in Delaware.

### **2. What is the maximum amount of funding an eligible institution can apply for?**

- a. The maximum aggregate amount of funding per applicant, per round, is \$1,000,000.

### **3. If an institution receives an award in this round, can it apply again in a future round?**

- a. In order to apply again for a future round of funding, grantees must have disbursed at least 50% of any prior DCIVF grant funds received, and be in compliance with its existing DCIVF grant agreement(s), if any.

### **4. Are there any restrictions on what can be funded?**

- a. Examples of the types of expenses cannot be funded include:

- i. Salaries and benefits for staff other than those providing technical assistance to eligible businesses;
- ii. Debt service on loans, costs associated with fundraising, programming, and operating costs;
- iii. Costs involving the application for/administration of funds awarded through this grant program; and
- iv. Brick and mortar construction costs.

**5. When is the deadline to apply?**

- a. The application deadline is 5:00pm EDT on June 16, 2025.

**6. How much is available for funding between all applicants this (first) round? When will the next round take place?**

- a. Currently, the fund has about \$3,000,000 in funding allocated to it. Depending on the volume of requests and decisions made by the Council during this round, it is possible for the Council to award all \$3,000,000 in funding during this round. In accordance with the DCIVF statute, on July 1, 2025 the DCIVF will receive an additional \$500,000 and the DCIVF will receive an additional \$500,000 annual allocation each year through June 30, 2028.
- b. As of May 22, 2025, the Council has not set a timeframe for the second round of funding. The timeframe will be determined by how much funding has been allocated during this first round, and how much funding remains.

**7. Are nonprofits an eligible business?**

- a. Businesses that are the subject of proposed grant funding can include nonprofit entities as long as it is located in a low- to moderate-income census tract.

**8. Do CDFI applicants need to demonstrate an established pipeline before applying? May other Delaware organizations provide support in business development efforts?**

- a. Applicants do not need a defined pipeline prior to applying, but as part of the application process, the applicant will need to define the use of the funds and the timeline in which the funds will be deployed. An applicant can apply without a pipeline built at the time of submission.
- b. Organizations can have supportive partnerships as long as the applicant is a bank, CDFI, or credit union, and the applicant is the organization deploying the funds.

**9. Can the funds be used for operational expenses?**

- a. Salary/expense for staff members and/or consultants providing technical assistance to an eligible business would be an acceptable cost. Staff overhead and other operational costs are not allowable. Examples of acceptable and excluded costs are detailed in Section C of the [Grant Guidelines](#).

**10. Our CDFI is headquartered in another state, but we also operate in Delaware with staff on the ground in the state. Would we be eligible?**

- a. Yes, a bank, credit union, or CDFI doing business in Delaware but headquartered in another state is eligible to apply for a grant.

**11. Because applications are reviewed on a rolling basis is there a benefit to applying earlier?**

- a. No. There is an open window for applications from May 15, 2025 to June 16, 2025. All applications will be reviewed for this round of funding after the deadline for submissions closes, and approved applications and funding amounts will be determined following a review of all timely submitted applications.

**12. Our CDFI operates a bit differently than many others and the primary financial products we offer are equity investments in startups, usually either a convertible note or SAFE. Would all or any of these financial products qualify as an allowable use of funds since they aren't a traditional loan?**

- a. Yes, this is an allowable use of the funds. The spirit of the fund is to provide access to credit and capital for businesses in low- to moderate- income census tracts in Delaware.