**SOIL Sangre de Cristo**

Farmer/Food Enterprise Micro-Loan Application

SOIL Sangre de Cristo is a member-driven investment organization dedicated to supporting local food producers in Colorado's South-Central Region.

SOIL Sangre de Cristo offers 0% interest loans to support individuals starting or expanding food-related for-profit businesses. These loans aim to enhance the economic, health, social, and environmental well-being of food systems in the Arkansas Valley, San Luis Valley, and nearby communities.

**What?** Micro-Loan amount: Any amount per farmer will be considered.

**Who?** Farmer Members of SOIL Sangre de Cristo are eligible and recommendations will be prioritized largely on the following criteria:

● Makes the greatest impact on our local food economy

● Utilizes ethical business and regenerative land practices

● Demonstrates a strong commitment to community and collaboration

● Shows the ability to repay the loan within the agreed terms

*\*Please become a member for $25 before submitting the application.*

**Application Process:**

1. **Complete and Submit**: Fill out the application form and email it to **loans@soilsangredecristo.org**. Applications are due at the end of each calendar quarter (March 31st, June 30th, Sept 30th, and Dec 31st) but we recommend submitting them at least 2 weeks ahead of those dates to give us time to make sure your application is complete. All applications must be fully completed with no outstanding follow-ups by the last day of each calendar quarter to enter the que for review.
2. **Review:** Our committee will carefully evaluate all submissions. There may be follow ups for additional information or an ask to schedule a brief meeting.
3. **Recommendation:** Selected applicants will be recommended for a loan to the SOIL Sangre de Cristo members and invited to present their proposal to the membership.
4. **Voting:** SOIL members will vote on each application.
5. **Contact Info**
   1. Company
      1. Name
      2. Address
      3. Location
   2. Primary Contact
      1. Name
      2. Mailing Address
      3. Email
      4. Phone
   3. Company website and/or social media (if applicable)
6. **Business Description**
   1. Summary of the farm/food enterprise (one paragraph)
   2. Your farming/business practices
   3. Mission Statement
   4. History (number of years in business)
   5. Significant milestones (list)
   6. What’s your marketing plan/strategy?
      1. How do you reach your customers?
      2. How do people know you?
      3. How will you increase capacity to reach more customers?
   7. What is your market geography?
   8. Describe your target market/customers.
7. **Loan**
   1. How much funding are you looking for? $
   2. Please include a detailed plan of how you will spend the funds requested over the term of the loan. (Loan funds are meant for projects and infrastructure improvements, rather than paying off debt.)
   3. How many people are needed to run your operation?
      1. Is this paid labor?
      2. Family/friends (i.e., volunteer)?
      3. Are there seasonal labor requirements?
   4. Please describe your proposed payback schedule.

Suggestions for Payback Schedule:

* + 1. Quarterly Installments over the life of the loan, each the same amount
    2. Quarterly installments over the life of the loan, with smaller payments the first year and larger payments going forward through the life of the loan.
    3. One yearly payment for 3 years, each the same amount, or weighed more for the last year.

SOIL Sangre de Cristo will work with each individual loan awardee creating a payment schedule to fit their financial needs. The loan will be paid back within 3-5 years, depending on the amount and scope of the project

1. **Financials**
   1. Please submit a financial statement showing revenue/expenses for the last year. If this is a new business, please provided estimated revenue and expenses for an entire year.
   2. List Assets/Liabilities for the least year, ending (Date)
   3. Please project cash flow for the next year
   4. How much total funding have you had to date?
      1. From whom/How much?
      2. From whom/How much?
      3. From whom/How much?
2. **References**
   1. Please provide three professional references, your working relationship with them, and their contact info.
3. ***Optional***

Additional comments for consideration by the review committee

**I verify that the information given in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.**

**Applicant Full Name (print)**

**Applicant Signature**

**Date**

*Non-disclosure statement: All information submitted on the loan application is held in strictest confidence. Only members of the review committee will see the financial information on the application.*

**Thank you for applying and all that you do to contribute to a healthy local food system!**

**Send questions and application to:** [**loans@soilsangredecristo.org**](mailto:loans@soilsangredecristo.org)

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**https://**[**www.soilsangredecristo.org/**](http://www.soilsangredecristo.org/)