Equitech Growth Fund

Frequently Asked Questions 2026

1. How do I determine whether my project is Infrastructure or Workforce Development?

Infrastructure projects prioritize physical assets, equipment and systems. If most of the project resources and budget spend are dedicated to equipment purchases, site readiness, facilities, or physical infrastructure, the project should generally be categorized as Infrastructure.

Workforce Development projects focus on activities such as curriculum development, training delivery, certifications, talent development, hiring support, job placement activities, and workforce readiness. If most project resources support these activities, the project should generally be submitted as a Workforce Development proposal.

2. My project includes both infrastructure and workforce components. Should I submit two different applications?

Projects that contain both elements should generally be classified according to the category receiving the largest share of the Equitech funds. Submitting essentially the same project twice under two separate categories does not increase the likelihood of funding. Separate applications are appropriate when they represent different projects, with very little overlap between budget spend or resource allocation.

3. What type of matching funds are required?

Applicants must provide documentation demonstrating committed matching funds. Matching funds should be unencumbered and dedicated specifically to the proposed project. Letters verifying the availability and commitment of funds are required as part of the application process.

4. Can matching funds come from multiple sources?

Yes. Matching funds may come from multiple eligible sources, provided the combined amount satisfies the matching requirement and each source is properly documented.

5. Can I update my matching funds or budget information after the application deadline?

No. Only the information included in the application by the submission deadline will be considered during review. Additional matching funds secured after submission generally cannot be incorporated into the evaluation process.

6. Are letter(s) of support sufficient, or do I need formal letter(s) of commitment?

Letter(s) of support are not sufficient to demonstrate formal committed dollars to the project, as explained by our Request for Applications. Formal partnership agreements are not typically required during the application stage unless otherwise specified.

7. How should in-kind contributions such as software licenses, cloud credits, or technology resources be documented?

Although in-kind contributions are not required for the application, they may be documented through letters of support.

8. What outcomes are most important for Workforce Development proposals?

Equitech values workforce outcomes that contribute to direct job creation and economic growth in Maryland. Strong proposals typically demonstrate meaningful pathways to employment, effective partnerships, workforce placement opportunities, career advancement, and measurable impact.

9. How can applicants learn about webinars and program updates?

Applicants should review:

- TEDCO’s Equitech Growth Fund webpage
- TEDCO's Events Calendar
- TEDCO Newsletters
- TEDCO LinkedIn announcements
- Previously recorded webinars and presentations

10. Can applicants schedule individual calls to discuss project eligibility?

To ensure fairness and transparency for all applicants, questions should generally be submitted through the designated Equitech Growth Fund email address (equitechgrowth@tedcomd.com). Responses are shared in writing whenever possible so that guidance is applied consistently across applicants.

11. When can I receive feedback if my application is not selected?

Applicants may request feedback after award decisions are released, subject to staff capacity. When available, feedback may include scoring information, eligibility findings, or general evaluation observations. Due to application volume, individualized meetings are not available.

12. What qualifies as direct costs?

Direct costs are expenses that can be clearly attributed to the proposed Equitech Growth Fund project. Examples include project-specific personnel, curriculum development, training delivery, third-party contractors, placement services, wraparound support, equipment purchases, site preparation activities, and direct labor required to execute the funded project.

13. What are considered indirect costs?

Indirect costs are administrative and overhead expenses that support the applicant's overall organization rather than the specific Equitech-funded project. Because these costs are not directly attributable to project execution, they are not allowable under the program. When in doubt, please email equitechgrowth@tedcomd.com for clarification.