



Title: Advisory Committee Member – Western PA Local Food Infrastructure Study

Organization: Grow Pittsburgh

Location: Primarily Allegheny County, PA; some national travel may be required

Commitment: 10–12 months. Average 5 hrs/month, excluding travel

Compensation: Stipend provided; travel, lodging, and food covered by Grow Pittsburgh

Advisory Committee Summary

Grow Pittsburgh is seeking Advisory Committee members to guide the Western Pennsylvania Local Food Infrastructure Study. This regional assessment will explore the needs, feasibility, and capacity for a regional food hub, grower-owned cooperative, or hybrid model that strengthens local food systems.

Advisory Committee members will provide expertise, guidance, and community-grounded insights, helping ensure that study recommendations reflect the realities of growers, intermediaries, and communities across Western Pennsylvania.

Key Responsibilities

Advisory Committee members will:

- Share **grower insights, market knowledge, and community perspectives**
- Identify **barriers and opportunities** in the regional food system
- Advise on **equitable, feasible strategies** for food hubs or cooperative models
- **Participate in focus groups** and provide ongoing guidance throughout the study
- Review study materials and provide feedback at key project milestones
- Attend scheduled meetings (virtual and/or in-person)
- Travel within Western Pennsylvania as needed, with occasional **national travel**

Qualifications

Advisory Committee members should have experience or perspectives in one or more of the following areas:

Growers & Producers

- Very small-scale growers (<\$100k annual revenue), hyper-local operations
- Urban or rural growers in Allegheny County and surrounding counties
- Growers with interest in scaling or cooperative models

Food System & Market Expertise



- Food systems researchers or practitioners with regional perspectives
- Aggregators, distributors, or intermediaries
- Small grocers or retail buyers with local sourcing experience
- Food business incubator leaders

Planning, Policy & Feasibility

- Economic developers, planners, or policy experts integrating food systems into development strategies
- Legal or technical experts on cooperative governance and feasibility
- Marketing, market development, or workforce development professionals
- Funders and capital access experts

Additional Considerations

- We strongly encourage applicants from **historically underrepresented communities** and **small-scale growers**
- Lived experience and community knowledge are valued equally to formal expertise

Commitment

- 10–12 month engagement
- Average 5 hrs/month, excluding travel
- Participate in scheduled meetings and focus groups
- Provide guidance and feedback throughout the project
- National travel, lodging, and food covered by Grow Pittsburgh
- Stipend provided

Application Instructions

You do **not** need to meet every qualification to apply. Diverse perspectives and lived experience are highly valued.

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Deadline to Apply: January 31, 2026