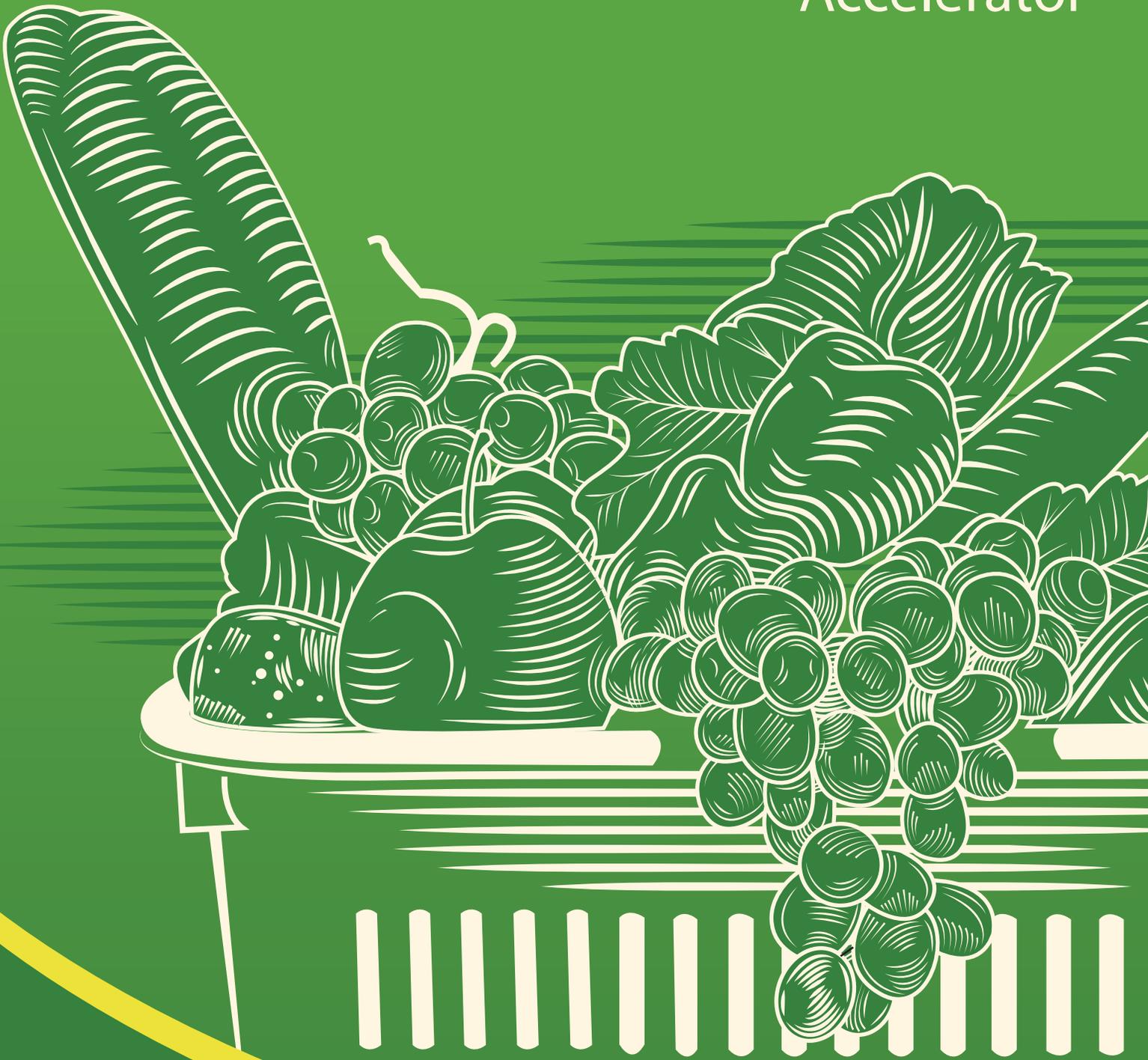


good food
Accelerator



GOOD FOOD ACCELERATOR



Membership in the Good Food Accelerator (GFA) gives local food entrepreneurs access to classes, programs and advisors that help you grow faster and with more confidence.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

The Good Food Accelerator's learning opportunities bring industry and business experts to a range of events and programs that help entrepreneurs understand how to solve problems, identify opportunities for growth and effectively scale their businesses. Our activities continue to expand and evolve in response to Member needs and public health requirements.

GFA's cohort programs — *Accelerate for Growth* and *Go to Market* — combine curriculum, coaching and community in multi-week programs that give entrepreneurs a structured way to look at their businesses and improve their chances for lasting success.

The Market Access Program focuses on giving Members from underserved and underrepresented communities the opportunity to place their products on retail shelves and gain unique customer insights in a guided, multi-week program.

All Members can attend a wide variety of events and activities, including Learning Sessions with industry and business leaders, Panel Discussions that bring leaders together to discuss our industry and Networking Events that give Members the chance to talk with each other and with the talented Volunteers who support GFA.

In partnership with local non-profit community organizations, GFA also provides Community Workshops that are tailored to the unique needs of food entrepreneurs in underserved and underrepresented communities in Chicago.

EXPERTISE

The backbone of GFA is our deep bench of experienced business and industry leader Volunteers. Most of them serve as on-demand advisors to our Members, ensuring that every Member has access to insights and experience that help them resolve business challenges and identify opportunities.

Many of our Volunteers go beyond advising to support cohort programs as instructors or mentors, providing participants with an extra level of coaching and guidance. Some are also part of learning activities and events.

COMMUNITY

Entrepreneurship is challenging! Our Members have told us that being part of the GFA community is a valuable part of their Membership. Beyond Networking Events and access to Volunteers, we're always looking for new ways to connect our Members to each other. Most recently, we've expanded our marketing activities so we can celebrate our Members and their accomplishments across our network. This is supported by GFA staff who are dedicated to helping Members connect with each other and our network.



GOOD FOOD ACCELERATOR MEMBERSHIP

ELIGIBILITY AND COST

Eligibility

All GFA Members must meet the criteria below:

- Geography: Serve Chicago metro area customers and/or be located in Illinois or bordering states
- Business Activities: Food and/or beverage, can be products, catering, etc., have an identified leader, in business at least 6 months and have at least one product/service available for purchase
- Good Food Movement Criteria: Must meet at least one of the following requirements:
 - Local sourcing
 - Improved nutrition
 - Valued workforce
 - Ethical meat sourcing
 - Sustainability practices

Fees

Membership fees for the Good Food Accelerator range from \$150/year to \$500/year and are assigned on a tiered basis so that smaller businesses pay less. Membership is individual, not company-based, and a discount is available for multiple Members from the same company.

Cohort program costs vary, and one year of GFA Membership is included with cohort participation. Once we return to in-person events, a minimal charge to defray space/catering costs will be required for some events.

Payment plans and needs-based scholarships are available. Please email us at GFA@FamilyFarmed.org for more details.

GETTING STARTED

Becoming a GFA Member is easy - just contact us at GFA@FamilyFarmed.org to get the application form and instructions. Applications are accepted year-round.

QUESTIONS

If you have questions or to sign up for the GFA Newsletter and other GFA communications, just reach out to us at GFA@Familyfarmed.org. We're here to help!

Questions?

Visit www.familyfarmed.org
Contact gfa@familyfarmed.org