

Impact Grant FAQ



What is an Impact Grant?

An Impact Grant is money given to an organization to help fix a challenge or grow to offer better service to individuals in need. For example:

- A small afterschool site might need a new oven to serve more kids healthy meals they will love
- A food pantry may need a vehicle to pick up food and supplies faster and more often from the Food Bank or other partners
- A community distribution site might not be able to hold much-needed event until it fixes a roof that is in bad shape

Impact Grants can range from as small as \$100 to much larger amounts.

Why do we give Impact Grants?

By working with a network of partners and allies in our region, we strive to get food and other resources to people when and where they need it. These organizations can sometimes face obstacles which hold back their progress.

Impact Grants help partners remove obstacles. The grants allow organizations to focus on what they do best – provide support services and resources to neighbors in need.

How do we fund Impact Grants?

Funding comes to the Food Bank through generous individual donors, corporations and foundations.

Who can apply for an Impact Grant?

Organizations may apply for Impact Grants if they:

- Provide direct services and use grant funds only to serve residents in any of these 11 counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Somerset and Washington.
- Have a partnership agreement or MOU with the Food Bank – OR - operate under a federal Child Nutrition Program Sponsor or Site Agreement
- Are a partner or ally in good standing with the Food Bank (i.e. -send reports in on time, are not suspended, etc.)

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Note - Highest priority is given to organizations that:

- Are in or serve economically distressed neighborhoods, communities and people
- Serve a racial or ethnic group impacted by poverty
- Serve seniors or homebound individuals.
- Are creating new summer food sites or enhancing the quality of the program
- Are making it easier for children to access and participate in any of the following Child Nutrition programs:
 - Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
 - Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
 - Seamless Summer Option (SSO)
 - School Breakfast Program (SBP)

Provide services that address a basic need such as food, housing, healthcare, childcare, education, transportation, financial stability and employment.

Who is not eligible for Impact Grants?

- Individuals
- Organizations that have been awarded a grant in the last 12-months are not eligible to apply for a new grant in the same program area, unless invited by the Food Bank.

What activities and expenses can be covered with an Impact Grant?

- Program Specific Support: This funding keeps good programs going at their current level of service or tests new ideas or partnerships. Program-specific support is designed to address basic needs. Some examples are:
 - equipment (ovens, freezers, coolers, sinks)
 - vehicles (cars, vans, forklifts, pallet jacks)
 - supplies (freezer blankets, tables, chairs, brochure racks, tents, cambros, tables and chairs, activity supplies for art projects, sports, or for starting community gardens)
 - marketing materials (printed flyers, brochures, yard signs, door hangers, kickoff events to raise awareness)
 - beneficiary travel assistance (bus passes for children)

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- **Capacity Building Support:** This funding is for activities or projects designed to make an organization's leadership, programs or management stronger. Some examples are:
 - Doing program evaluation
 - Providing staff professional development
 - Making technology improvements
 - Putting best-practices into place
- Helping with emergency situations like equipment failure, roof collapse or other time-sensitive situations
- **Unrestricted Operating Support:** This funding helps an organization carry out its mission. Some examples are:
 - Funding for administrative set-up
 - Putting a strategic plan in place
 - Maintaining core programs and essential staff

Operating Support may be renewable for up to two years without having to fill out a new application and with prior approval by the Food Bank.

Note - All grants will be for a period of no more than 12 months. Grantees may only receive one grant per Program Area in any 12-month period unless invited by the Food Bank.

How do we track the impact of our grants?

Our hope is that our grants make things better - for people, organizations and communities.

Our Impact Grants Measurement Tool gives metrics that you can use to track how the grant makes things better.

If your grant is funded, you will talk with a Food Bank staff person. They will work with you to select metrics you will track to show the impact of the grant.

Timeline for Grant Review and Approval

We receive many requests for Impact Grants. Please allow 45 days for us to review your request. We will contact you within those 45 days with any questions.

We will contact you within 60 days after you submit your request to let you know if your grant has been funded or not. We appreciate your patience.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.