2022 Partner Support
Impact Grants

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is pleased to offer Impact Grants to its partners. Apply on-line at www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/for-our-partners/impact-grants/. Please contact your Food Bank representative with any questions on submitting an on-line application.

What is an Impact Grant? An Impact Grant is funding that helps organizations address challenges or grow their program(s) to offer better service to individuals in need. Impact Grants allow organizations to focus on what they do best – provide resources to neighbors. Organizations that provide food assistance and/or connect people to life-stabilizing programs are eligible to apply. Individuals are not eligible to receive an Impact Grant.

Who can apply for an Impact Grant?
Organizations may apply for Impact Grants if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Provide direct services to 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 and/or operate under a federal Child Nutrition Program Sponsor or Site Agreement
- Are a partner in good standing with the Food Bank (i.e. send reports in on time, not suspended, etc.)

Please note that highest consideration is given to organizations that:

- Are in or serve economically distressed neighborhoods, communities and people.
- Serve a racial or ethnic group disproportionately impacted by poverty.
- Serve seniors or homebound individuals.
- Are creating new summer food sites or enhancing the quality of the program
- Promote SNAP in a positive manner and/or help individuals apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Are making it easier for children to access and participate in Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO), School Breakfast Program (SBP) or Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).
- Provide services that address a basic need such as food, housing, healthcare, childcare, education, transportation, financial stability and employment.

Eligible program areas include:

- **Child Nutrition** - school year feeding programs such as school meals, afterschool meals, weekend meals (like backpack programs), school pantries and summer feeding programs
- **Life Stabilization** - social service providers and other community organizations that are committed to the improvement of food access and the quality of food systems whom we partner with to serve individuals in a more comprehensive way through transportation, financial stability, healthcare, employment, housing, childcare, and other vital programs needed to empower and strengthen an individual or family’s well-being.
- **Member Agencies, Partner Distribution Organizations (PDOs) and registered Community Partner Organizations (CPOs)** - food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and other programs that distribute groceries and/or hot meals to the general public.
- **Senior Food Box Program** - (previously CSFP) USDA nutrition program that provides monthly food assistance to low-income seniors 60 years and over. Direct Distributions supported by the Food Bank’s distribution team, such as Military Share events and Drop and go’s, are also eligible.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** - Helping people to understand the importance of the SNAP program and dispel myths by promoting positive messaging about SNAP, making viable
referrals so the Food Bank can help people apply over the phone, and promoting the text line, phone number, and/or online interest form to folks in our service area.

**Application and Award Stipulations:**
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. Documentation is required for all approved requests when funding is awarded (e.g. receipts showing proof of purchase). The Food Bank may choose to award funding directly to an organization or the Food Bank may purchase the requested equipment and/or supplies on behalf of the organization. The Food Bank retains the right to deny or partially fund a request. Organizations that receive funding and/or in-kind contributions will be required to submit a final report to the Food Bank that provides information about the impact of the award. If the report is not received, it will affect the organization’s ability to receive a grant in the future.

**Types of funding**
Grant amounts vary considerably by program area. Although larger grants will be considered for special circumstances, awards for each program area typically range from:

- **Child Nutrition**: $100 to $1,500
- **Life Stabilization**: $2,000 to $15,000
- **Member Agencies, Partner Distribution Organizations (PDOs) and registered Community Partner Organizations (CPOs)**: $500 to $7,500
- **Senior Food Box Program**: $500 to $5,000
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**: $2,000 to $15,000

Please see below for examples of past grant awards. The examples below do not represent an exhaustive list of what would be considered.

- **Food service equipment or supplies**. Examples include: ovens, freezers, refrigerators, sinks, carts, shelving, van rental, forklifts, pallet jacks, freezer blankets, tents, cambros, coolers, tables, chairs, garbage cans, disposable packaging materials, funds on account for food and non-food purchases for member agencies.
- **Food program support materials**. Examples include activity supplies for Child Nutrition partners to increase participation (e.g. art supplies, sports equipment, community garden materials), marketing materials (e.g. printed flyers, brochures, brochure racks, yard signs), kick-off event supplies to raise awareness, beneficiary travel assistance, technology costs (e.g. point-of-service system for schools, iPads, computers, internet hotspot devices)
- **Operating expenses** to help an organization carry out its food programs. 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. This can include rent or utility payments, funding for administrative set-up, putting a strategic plan in place, or maintaining core programs and essential staff. Funding full salaries of long-term, permanent positions will not be considered. Sustainability plan should be communicated when requesting funding for on-going operating expenses. Grants of this type are usually in response to partners experiencing unusually difficult circumstances.
- **Capacity building** for activities or projects to strengthen food programs. This could include funds to support program evaluation, staff professional development, or putting best-practices into place.

**Timeline for Grant Review and Approval:**
We receive many requests for Impact Grants. After submission of an Impact Grant, the Food Bank’s program area associated with your request will receive your application. Child Nutrition reviews grants in October and January for school year programs and in April for summer programs. Other program areas review applications every 4-6 weeks. In general, we will contact you within 60 days after you submit your request to let you know if your request has been accepted or denied. Impact grants are reviewed quicker for emergency situations like equipment failure, roof collapse or other time-sensitive situations so please state that in your request.

Note: Organizations that are part of the Community Partner Organization (CPO) program are not eligible for grant support until after their third month of distributions and must have a record of full compliance, upon which they are limited to apply up to a certain dollar amount depending on their “tier”.

Program Area Contacts:

Please contact your program area representative for any questions about or problems with your application.

- Child Nutrition: partnership@pittsburghfoodbank.org
- Life Stabilization: kmcdonald@pittsburghfoodbank.org
- Member Agencies, Partner Distribution Organizations (PDOs) and registered Community Partner Organizations (CPOs): pnpgrants@pittsburghfoodbank.org
- Senior Food Box Program: CSFP@PittsburghFoodBank.org
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): kmcdonald@pittsburghfoodbank.org