

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. 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.

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** - organizations or projects that work in spaces where food assistance intersects with another social determinant of health, such as employment, financial empowerment, healthcare, housing/utilities, and transportation.
- **Agency Partners and Affiliate Food Banks** - food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and other programs that distribute groceries and/or hot meals to the general public.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** - promoting SNAP, helping people apply for SNAP on behalf of the Food Bank, and/or referring people to the Food Bank for SNAP application assistance.

What types of items or activities are eligible for funding?

- **Food service equipment or supplies** such as ovens, freezers, refrigerators, sinks, carts, shelving, van rental, forklifts, pallet jacks, freezer blankets, tents, cambros, coolers, tables, chairs, garbage cans, and disposable packaging materials.
- **Program support materials** such as activity supplies for 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)
- **Capacity building** for activities or projects to strengthen food programs. This could include funds to support staff professional development or specific efforts to expand days or hours of service. Other capacity-building ideas will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- **Emergency operating expenses** such as rent or utility payments, facility maintenance issues, or replacing broken equipment related to food distribution. Funding full salaries of long-term, permanent positions will not be considered. Grants of this type are usually in response to partners experiencing unusually difficult circumstances.
- **Funds on Account (for Agency Partners and Affiliate Food Banks)*** for supporting the purchase of food items from the Food Bank's inventory when all other fundraising efforts have been exhausted. Agencies and AFBs are eligible once per fiscal year. A restricted portion of the annual Impact Grants budget is allocated to these awards and is renewed quarterly.

Which organizations 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 Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Somerset and Washington, Beaver, Butler,
- 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:

- Serve a racial or ethnic group disproportionately impacted by poverty.
- Serve a rural area impacted by poverty.
- Are creating new food access points for children (like summer or after school meal service sites, Backpack programs or School Pantries) or 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 Programs (CACFP)
- Promote the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), help individuals apply for SNAP on behalf of the Food Bank, and/or refer individuals to the Food Bank for SNAP application assistance.
- Provide services that address a basic need such as food, housing, healthcare, childcare, education, transportation, financial stability and employment.

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: Up to \$1,500
- Life Stabilization: Up to \$15,000
- Agency Partners and Affiliate Food Banks: Up to \$7,500
 - Awards for Funds on Account may support an agency for up to 3 months.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Up to \$15,000.

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 **are 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, the organization will not receive a grant in the future.

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.

Life Stabilization and SNAP Impact Grant applications are accepted during an application period each quarter: January 1-31, April 1-30, July 1-31, and October 1-31. Life Stabilization and SNAP Impact Grants applications often start a collaborative process between the organization and the Food Bank to develop a project and take about 8 weeks to be processed and approved to begin. For more information on Impact Grants in these areas, please [click here](#).

Program Area Contacts

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

- Child Nutrition: childnutrition@pittsburghfoodbank.org
- Life Stabilization: cwest@pittsburghfoodbank.org
- Agency Partners and Affiliate Food Banks: partnernetwork@pittsburghfoodbank.org
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): cwest@pittsburghfoodbank.org