



Our Community, Our Food Bank

## FY23 Community Impact Grant Program Overview

Connecticut Foodshare is pleased to release this grant funding opportunity to support food assistance programs in its network. This grant program launches as a key part of Connecticut Foodshare's 2022-2025 [Community Impact Plan](#) to increase food access and transform the client experience. This grant opportunity is open to any food pantry, backpack program, community meal program (soup kitchen), or emergency shelter that has an active account in good standing with Connecticut Foodshare.

### Grant Goals:

With this grant program, Connecticut Foodshare will make an unprecedented investment in its network partners to strengthen and transform food access across the state. The goal of this grant opportunity is to build the capacity of your food assistance program to meet the needs of your community through projects that address **one or more** of the following areas:

1. **Strengthen program operations**, such as equipment to allow for more effective, efficient, and safe transport, storage, and distribution of food.
2. **Expand food access**, particularly to more fresh, nutritious and/or culturally preferred foods, such as through added cold storage, expanded hours of operation, and/or new ways of distributing food.
3. **Improve the experience of obtaining food assistance to be more convenient, dignified, and supportive**, such as increasing awareness about your program, expanding client choice, connecting clients to other resources, and/or creating a welcoming environment.

This is an opportunity for you to dream big, innovate and consider projects that will meaningfully enhance or transform the way you serve the community.

### Eligible Requests:

- Connecticut Foodshare has allocated \$1.5 million to this grant program. Eligible applicants are invited to request any amount of grant funding for projects they can complete within the grant term, ending December 31, 2023.
- Grant requests must support your food assistance program and show clear alignment with one or more of the grant goals.
- Limit of one grant request per partner program account. Organizations with multiple accounts with Connecticut Foodshare may submit one proposal for each eligible partner program account.
- For projects with components that will require ongoing investment beyond this capacity grant (such as staffing), the grant narrative must include how you plan to sustain those costs once the grant funds have been expended
- Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

*Important! Applications requesting funding for commercial size cold storage unit(s) must upload a quote from an electrician and/or plumber for installation costs and confirm that your facility can accommodate the equipment. Please be sure to include the cost of installation in your request.*

**Timeline:**

- **November 1, 2022:** Grant opportunity opens
- **November 10, 2022, from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm:** Informational Webinar-The Grant Program. [Register here](#)
- **December 7, 2022, from 1:00 pm to 2:15 pm:** Informational Webinar- Grant Funding Ideas. [Register here](#)
- **January 9, 2023, 11:59 PM:** Grant applications due online
- **February 28, 2023:** Grant awards announced
- **November 6, 2023:** Progress report due
- **December 31, 2023:** End of grant period

**To Apply:**

- **Complete the online application [here](#)**
- **Our team is available to brainstorm with you.** Contact your Network Relations Representative to discuss your ideas.

**Scoring Rubric:**

Applications will be assessed by a committee on a scale of 1 (does not meet criteria) to 5 (excellent alignment with criteria) according to the following metrics. The numbers next to each area (x50, x20, x10) indicate the weight each response will have in the grant review process, as outlined in the grid below.

- **Alignment (x50):** How well does the proposal help the partner achieve the goals of the grant program?
- **Impact (x20):** How significant will the impact be for the program and people served, in terms of quality and/or quantity of services offered? Can the program measure the impact of the proposed project?
- **Community Need (x20):** How have the needs of the community and/or client feedback informed the proposed project(s)?
- **Community Partnerships & Collaborations (x10):** Does the proposal provide opportunities for maximizing community impact via community partnerships and collaborations?

METRIC	SCORE (1-5)	WEIGHT	TOTAL
Alignment		x50	/250
Impact		x20	/100
Community Need		x20	/100
Community Partnerships & Collaborations		x10	/50
<b>Total Score</b>			<b>/500</b>