

EXAMPLES

Community Impact Grant Proposals

Below are **two sample projects** to help you understand the components of a well thought out proposal that responds to each of the four key areas of the grant. **Agency A** is requesting funds to move their pantry to client choice and **Agency B** wants to improve access to their pantry because they are in an area with no public transportation. Please take a minute to read through these examples, noting how each response fully addresses each question.

Alignment (x50)

Provide an overview of your proposed project and how it aligns with the goals of this grant opportunity. Outline the items you plan to purchase with grant funds, including cost. If your project includes components that will require on-going investment beyond this capacity grant (such as staffing), please tell us how you plan to sustain them once these grant funds have been expended.

Agency A: *“Our program is requesting grant funds to purchase equipment to implement a client choice model of distribution, rather than pre-bagging food. Our goal is to increase our clients’ satisfaction with the food they receive and their overall experience at the food pantry. Our program is requesting \$6,000: \$3,000 for a glass-front refrigerator so we can display produce and other items like a grocery store, \$1,000 on 5 metal shelving units to create shopping aisles, \$600 on 3 shopping carts for patrons to use when they are selecting food, \$500 on a new pantry sign to post outside our building to make it easier for people to find our pantry, \$500 on chairs for our waiting area so clients have a place to sit while they are waiting to be served, and \$400 on paint and painting supplies to brighten our space.*”

Agency B: *“We’ve heard from community members that they need help with food, but they are not able to physically get to our pantry because of lack of transportation or medical issues. We also have some people we currently serve who walk for more than an hour to get to our pantry because public transportation is limited in our area. With this grant, we plan to launch a new program where we will deliver food to the homes of individuals who can’t easily get to our pantry. We are requesting \$55,000 to purchase a new refrigerated transit van. The van will be driven by our paid pantry coordinator and 2 of our regular volunteers. There will be ongoing maintenance, insurance, and fuel costs for the vehicle that we will be able to fund with regular donations made to our pantry. There will be a screening process to determine who we provide home deliveries to, and we’ll have volunteers take orders over the phone so people can have some options in what we place in their bags. We’ll also use the van to pick up food from Connecticut Foodshare, our local grocery store and different food drives that local schools and churches host for us throughout the year. Currently we do not have a vehicle for the pantry, so we end up using our personal vehicles to pick up food and space is very limited. Sometimes it takes multiple trips to pick up food, so having a larger van would mean we can spend less time picking up food and more time serving our neighbors.*”

Impact (x20)

What impact will this project have on your program and the people you serve, in terms of quality and/or quantity of assistance offered? How will you measure success?

Agency A: *"We anticipate that this project will improve the overall quality of experience for the 100 people served by our pantry. With this transformation, the people we serve will be able to choose food that meets their preferences. Additionally, by moving away from pre-bagged food, our staff and volunteers will have more time to connect with the people we serve when they visit our pantry. Our program will measure success by using feedback collected from client surveys that will be distributed once we implement the client choice model of distribution."*

Agency B: *"To start, we plan to deliver food to homes two days a week. Based on what we've heard from community members, we anticipate making 25 home deliveries a week to start, and more as the program gets established. This would mean 100 home deliveries per month to 100 households, in addition to the 200 households we already serve each month at the pantry. This will help our pantry reach new people who need help but aren't currently able to access our services. For the people who are currently walking very far to get to our pantry, they'll be able to save time and they won't have to worry about only taking the amount of food they can carry. We'll also use the van to pick up food from Connecticut Foodshare once a week and from a nearby grocery store once a week. We usually receive produce and other fresh food from the grocery store, so having this van option will help us offer more variety for the people we serve."*

Community Need (x20)

Is your project in response to needs that program participants have expressed? How does your project address participant needs/feedback?

Agency A: *"Our pantry currently provides the people we serve with two bags of food that are packed in advance by our volunteers. Our clients frequently request certain items when they pick up their bags and also return items they've received in their bags that they don't want or need. We anticipate that the transition to a client choice model will address these challenges."*

Agency B: *"We are the only food pantry in town and there are no other options for free grocery delivery in our area. We receive at least 15 calls each week from individuals who need help with food but can't get to our pantry. We also get requests like this from individuals who are visiting the pantry asking for a friend or family member and from the town social worker. We try our best to deliver food when we can. Currently our volunteers deliver to about 5 to 10 households a week using their own cars. We see a lot of potential to serve even more people if we had a larger refrigerated vehicle."*

Community Partnerships & Collaborations (x10)

Will you be partnering with any other organizations in your community to make sure your project is as impactful as possible? If so, please tell us how. *

Agency A: *"We have a strong partnership with the local college and will partner with them to recruit student volunteers to paint the space and install the new shelving. Our church runs another pantry in another town, and that pantry operates a choice model. We've visited their space and plan to learn from them when we design our new set up."*

Agency B: *"We will partner with our town social services office, a local housing complex, and our town senior center to promote this new program and collect referrals. Our pantry participates in a regional food collaborative that meets each month, so we will also promote the program in those meetings to other food assistance providers in our county."*