



Welcome!

- Please enter your name, organization and town in chat
- **Enter questions in the Q&A** and we will answer at the end of each presenter's section
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Connecticut Foodshare

Our Community, Our Food Bank

2024 Community Impact Grant Program Informational Webinar

January 24, 2024

2022-2025 Community Impact Plan

Priority: A neighbor-centered approach to food assistance

What does that look like?

- Accessible and convenient
- Dignified, welcoming experience
- Nutritious, culturally preferred foods
- Connections to other resources



What We Have Heard from Neighbors

"The food pantry is only open a few times a month. Those times don't work for people who are working."

"For new people, it can be scary and overwhelming. When you see the line, there is no direction. What do you do? You have no idea how to complete the form. You take the first step to get there... but it's a lot to take in."

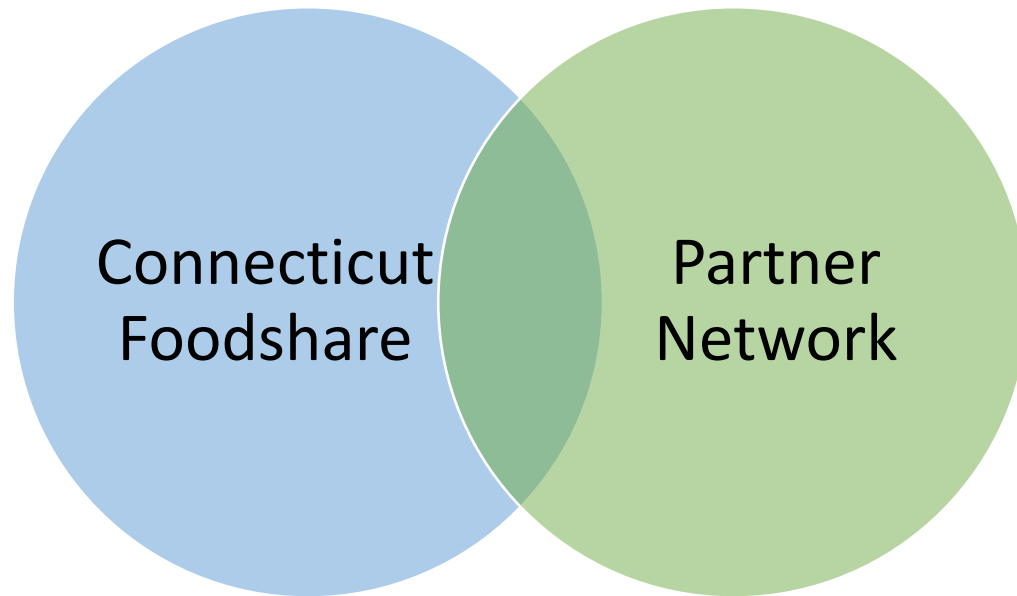
"People in my community have trouble getting help with food because they are disabled and can't access the distribution site or carry bags of food home. Or they can't read the language of the signs or instructions."

"I'm a single guy and I was given peanut butter every week. I have about 6 jars lined up at home."

"I can attest to the embarrassment part. I have a neighbor and his dad is well known in town. He's afraid that someone will see him asking for help."

Community Impact Grant Program

Purpose: Support Partner Program Alignment





How Will the Grant Help?

Competitive grant opportunity to support transformative projects at select programs in **one or more** of these areas:

1. Strengthen program operations
2. Expand food access
3. Improve the experience of obtaining food assistance to be more convenient, dignified, and supportive



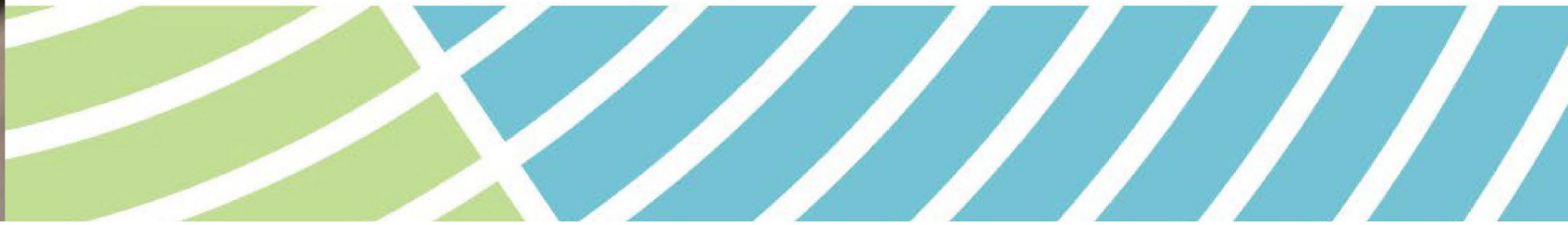
Eligible Programs

- Partner food pantries, backpack programs, community kitchens and emergency shelters with active accounts in good standing
- Organizations with multiple partner program accounts can submit a proposal for each eligible program
- Programs that received 2023 funding can apply only if 2023 project is complete with on-time final report
- Priority will be given to program applicants that did not receive 2023 Community Impact Grant funding



Important Dates

- January 30, 2024:** 2023 Final Reports Due
- February 28, 2024: 2024 Grant Applications Due**
- May 17, 2024:** Grant Decisions Announced
- June 2024:** Grant Payment Issued
- Fall 2024:** Progress Report Meetings
- March 30, 2025:** End of Grant Period
- April 30, 2025:** Final Report Due



Grant Opportunity Amount

- Up to \$1.5 million available, thanks in part to USDA's TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Initiative
- Eligible applicants can request any amount of funding for a project that they can realistically finish by the end of the grant term (March 30, 2025)
- Partial funding may be awarded





Use of Funds

Grant funds can be used towards one-time purchases

- Be creative and consider expenses that will have a direct impact on people served
- Consider any ongoing maintenance you will need to support after the grant ends

Grant funds cannot be used towards:

- Disposable items
- Ongoing operating expenses (salaries, rent, food purchases)
- Upgrades or equipment for a new location that has not yet been secured

Tips for a Strong Grant Proposal

Before you submit your proposal:

- Read the guidelines and make sure you fully answered each question
- Include all costs in your budget (installation, delivery, etc.)
- Don't use sale prices
- Check with your plumber or electrician: can your facility handle the equipment or renovations?
- Check with your landlord: are they okay with the renovations?



Tips for a Strong Grant Proposal

Tell us how the proposed project will:

- Help your program meet the grant goals
- Have a positive and direct impact on the people you serve
- Incorporate feedback from the people you serve
- Improve the quality or quantity of services
- Be achievable by the end of the grant period (March 30, 2025)
- Be sustainable after the grant ends
- Only include one-time expenses



Additional Factors

- Whether the program received a 2023 grant
- Program Location
- Number of People Served
- Number of Hours Served
- Level of Customer Choice Offered for Pantries
- Engagement with Connecticut Foodshare



Writing Your Grant Application

- Basic Organization & Program Information
- Grant Narrative:
 - Amount Requested
 - Project Overview
 - Grant Goals
 - Neighbor Experience
 - Sustainability
- Project Budget
 - List items in order of priority
- Additional Information
 - Commercial Cold Storage & Building Upgrades
 - Optional Attachments



Saving & Submitting Your Grant Application

- Click **SAVE** and follow the instructions to receive an email with a link that will allow you to access your draft at a later time.
- Click **SUBMIT** when you are done with your application. You will receive an email copy of your completed application after you submit.



*If you have technical issues with this grant form, contact
Codi Wayton at cwayton@ctfoodshare.org or 203.741.9215*



How can this grant help you enhance or transform the way you serve the community?

- ✓ Strengthen program operations
- ✓ Expand food access
- ✓ Improve the experience of obtaining food assistance to be more convenient, dignified, and supportive



Tips from 2023 Grant Recipients

"Be patient. Take changes in small steps" – Waterbury Baptist Ministries

"Do your homework. Compare products." - St. Monica's Episcopal Church Food Pantry

"It doesn't have to be a complete makeover; sometimes, it's just simple things that make a difference." - Open Cupboard

"Making it easy for guests to shop according to their personal needs restores dignity to an already hurting family.... Signage and volunteer helpers make the experience even more accommodating. Each guest is seen, heard, and served...Creating a shopping experience has made it easier to help families. Family leaders are often more willing to receive additional help as a result." - Bridgeport Rescue Mission

"We would encourage other programs to think creatively about what might best benefit the people you are serving. Focusing on our guests allowed us to be mindful of the importance the time they spend with us is and identify ways that we could make their daily visits better." – House of Bread

Additional Opportunity: Walk Against Hunger

- May 4 at Dunkin Park in Hartford
- Online fundraising opportunity for food pantries, community kitchens, emergency shelters and backpack programs
- Key Dates:
 - Informational Webinar: February 14
 - Application Due: February 21
- Apply Here: <https://ctfoodshare.jotform.com/240084432037953>



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Our team is available to brainstorm with you.

Contact your Network Relations Representative to discuss your ideas.





Questions?

