

# FUND YOUR GOOD WORK

## APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY FOOD SOLUTIONS MINI GRANT

Supporting groups and individuals focused on overcoming food insecurity in Allegheny County

### WHAT ARE CFS MINI GRANTS?

Community Food Solutions (CFS) provides grants of up to \$7,500 to fund smaller, grassroots-led projects focused on increasing food access or utilization. Your project should be community-led and focused on a specific neighborhood. Applicants should be connected to the community they plan to serve. Grantees will have access to mentoring and technical support from leading experts in the field, who will help develop, implement and sustain these projects.

### WHO SHOULD APPLY?

CFS Mini Grants will be awarded to groups or individuals addressing food insecurity in Allegheny County. You do not have to be a registered nonprofit or have a fiscal sponsor to receive funding. Your organization's total operating budget must be \$750,000 or less.

### HOW CAN THE MONEY BE SPENT?

Mini Grants can be used to fund project supplies, stipends or wages, and marketing or outreach expenses. Proposed expenses will be reviewed by the CFS committee during the application process. If you are neither a nonprofit nor have a fiscal sponsor, grants will be distributed directly to the vendor providing the goods or service in your proposal. Funds cannot be used to purchase food items.



### WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE GRANT ELIGIBLE?

We fund a wide variety of initiatives that increase food security in your community, including projects that:

- Promote healthy and nutritious food preparation and consumption.
- Increase the effectiveness and sustainability of an existing project or program.
- Engage the public in activities that improve food security.
- Recreate or scale an existing project for a new audience.

Some examples of projects are:

- Food benefits awareness and enrollment campaigns or events.
- Community gardens.
- Farmers markets outreach campaigns.
- Community refrigerator installation.
- Minor facility improvements and equipment purchases or upgrades.
- Hosting community information workshops.
- Staff training and certifications.

### APPLICATION, SELECTION AND REPORTING

The two-step application process for grant seekers includes:

- **A written application** where you will be asked to outline the project, identify the intended audience, describe the specific issue to be addressed and specify the amount requested.
- **A virtual interview** where you will discuss your project overview, including timeline, expenses, partnerships, goals and projected outcomes. We will also discuss how Community Food Solutions can help you reach your long-term goals.

Applicants will be notified 10 days after the submission deadline whether they will proceed to the interview stage. The selection committee will make a funding decision shortly after interviews. Funding decisions will be made up to three times per year.

You will be asked to complete a final report at the end of the project to describe the outcomes and whether your goals were achieved.

You may reapply for funding for a future grant cycle but you will only be eligible to receive funding once each fiscal year (July to June).

**INTERESTED?** Please contact us at [communityfoodsolutions@unitedwayswpa.org](mailto:communityfoodsolutions@unitedwayswpa.org).



Community Food Solutions is one of United Way's Community Change Collaboratives, which bring together the best thinking and the investment needed to create positive momentum on varied and consequential issues facing our area.