



American Rescue Plan (ARP) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) Request Form

Please complete this form in accordance with
the process instructions.

Agency/Point of Contact: Agriculture/Ashley Bress

Title of Request: Hunger Relief

Date: 12/17/2021

Request Amount: \$ 3,000,000

Expenditure Time Period: 12/15/2021 to 6/30/2023 (no later than 6/30/2023)

Brief Summary of Request: (Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached)

Demand for emergency food assistance hit an historic high during COVID-19, with 1 in 9 Minnesotans facing hunger during the height of the pandemic. Second Harvest Heartland (SHH) estimates that 1 in 10 Minnesotans, including 1 in 7 kids, are still facing hunger. Based on data from Hunger Solutions and Department of Human Services, there were over 3.8 million visits to food shelves in 2020 by adults, seniors, and children. SHH expects that demand will continue to increase through at least 2022. While demand for emergency food assistance has increased, so has the cost of purchasing, procuring, and delivering food.

This proposal will provide funding for SHH (on behalf of the other Feeding America food banks serving Minnesota) and The Food Group to purchase food (such as milk, meat, other protein, and produce) for distribution through food shelf partners and similar organizations across the state. These organizations may also use funding for investments in seeds and crops grown by emerging farmers through initiatives led by The Good Acre and other organizations that serve emerging farmers.

The proposal builds off the existing General Fund appropriation to SHH for produce, dairy, and meat and complements a prior Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) allocation that provided funding for SHH and The Food Group to purchase additional dairy and meat products and culturally appropriate food to meet client needs.

As a stipulation of the grant contract agreements, the MDA will: 1) require that 50% of the total food purchases be from Minnesota producers/processors, and 2) provide goals for culturally-appropriate food sourcing and purchases. This enables allocation to serve the dual purpose of supporting hunger relief and our agricultural community.

Consistent with the existing SHH General Fund appropriation and the Terms and Conditions of the ARPA award, this request includes actual administrative costs for SHH, The Food Group, and the MDA.

DocuSigned by:
Andra Vaukel
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Department Head Signature

12/17/2021

Date