



# GOLDEN HARVEST FOOD BANK

FOOD FOREVER FUND

Community Investment Program 2023-2024 Informational Materials



# Areas of Focus

1. **Health and Nutrition:** Funding will support projects and programs that offer easy access to nutritious food that meet the health needs of clients served.
  - Examples: Refrigerators, Freezers, Walk-in Coolers, Walk-in Freezers, Freezer Blankets, Coolers, Vegetable or Reach-In Refrigerator
2. **Storage / Logistics:** Funding will improvements to agencies' ability to safely acquire and store food for distribution.
  - Examples: Vehicles, Shelving, Software, Computers, Building Improvements, Hand Truck Dolly, Utility Carts, Storage Bins, Shopping Carts
3. **Overall Impact:** Funding will support projects and programs that increase the amount of quality food distributed and the number of clients served.
  - Examples: Upgrades that will allow agency and programs to have larger or more frequent distributions.



# Community Investment Program Overview

Since 1982, Golden Harvest Food Bank has been working to ensure that no one in our 25 counties lacks enough food to live an active, healthy life. We can't do this without you, our partner agencies, and child and senior programs.

The Food Forever Fund is an endowment established by Golden Harvest Food Bank in 2002 with a sole purpose of supporting Golden Harvest Food Bank. Over the years this fund has grown through generous donations and has supported the food bank's efforts to better serve the community. In 2023, the Food Forever Fund Board earmarked **\$300,000** in the form of grants to invest in capacity building for Golden Harvest's network of partner agencies, senior and child feeding programs.

The strategic plan of Golden Harvest Food Bank includes increasing not only the meals that reach our neighbors in the 25 counties that the food bank serves, but to increase both the health content of food as well as reach underserved areas within the network. Therefore, these grants will focus on providing funds to partners who can increase service through capacity building in several key areas.

**Funding Goal** – To transform The Golden Harvest Food Bank's network ability to make an impact in the lives of individuals who are food insecure by supporting initiatives that do one or more of the following:

- Launch – create new and innovative solutions to hunger relief
- Strengthen – improve and/or expand successful programs
- Stabilize – repair and maintain facilities or programs



# Community Investment Program 2024

Total of \$300,000 will be invested in community partners

- 12-16 grants will be awarded
  - Grants amounts can range from \$1,000 - \$40,000
  - Partial grant funding is a possibility
- Fundable requests may include:
  - Food storage – refrigerators, freezers, shelves for food storage or other equipment needs
  - Space/rentals – new locations or space renovations to increase service visibility and access, upgrades or repairs.
  - Vehicles – allowing ability to pick up orders, retail donations, or to deliver food to seniors and low-mobility individuals
  - Equipment – carts, software systems, signage



# Reporting

- Reporting will consist of verification that funding was spent according to grant application and also sharing impact stories as to how the funding affected your ability to serve.
  - **September 2024** - progress report deadline: describe progress toward completing grant project and any obstacles to spending the funding by the final reporting date. (Earlier progress reporting encouraged)
  - **April 2025** - final report deadline: provide receipts for purchases and describe the impact and results of the grant funded improvements. A form will be provided.
  - Golden Harvest's marketing team may come to document the project with photo and videos to showcase grant impact.
  - Funded agencies and programs may be invited to share their experience at the Community Impact Conference in Summer 2024.



# Community Investment Program 2024

- Priority will be given to agencies and programs reaching communities that are marginalized or underserved.
  - Counties that are currently underserved
  - Expanding operating hours to time not offered in the community, better reaching the underserved.
  - Reaching homebound clients or those with limited transportation
  
- Funding will not support
  - Staffing Costs
  - Food Purchase
  - Consumable Supplies (boxes, bags, tape, paper products)



# Grant Criteria

- Grant Decisions will be made by an independent board led by Golden Harvest Founder Mike Firmin
- Grant requests should provide a clear and thoughtful explanation of project or program needs
  - Grants will support increased capacity, i.e. buildings, equipment, technology, vehicles, services, etc.
  - Grants should convey a clear summary of the clients being served and the impact the grant will have on the level of service provided to neighbors.
- Budget should provide spending detail and spending timeline
  - Grants will range from \$1,000 – \$40,000. Partial funding for larger projects is a possibility.
  - Grant funds must be spent within a one-year period – by March 31, 2025
- Grant request should highlight:
  - Stage of development: 1)Launch 2)Strengthen 3)Stabilize
  - One or more focus areas: 1) Health and Nutrition 2) Storage/logistics 3) Overall Impact



# Grant Timeline

- December 20, 2023
  - Application available to all Golden Harvest Food Bank Partners
- January 2024
  - Grant Zoom meeting with Q & A
- February 2, 2024
  - Applications due (11:59pm)
- March 2024
  - Award announcements – grant recipients will be notified and invited to a grant award luncheon. Awardees will also receive grant agreements.
- March 31, 2024
  - Grant agreements due back to Golden Harvest
- First week of April 2024
  - Checks sent to award recipients
- September 2024
  - 6-month check-in with award recipients – Golden Harvest team will connect with recipients
- April 2025
  - Final grant reports due – requirements will be sent to recipients prior to due date





# Questions & Next Steps

- This is Food Forever Fund's first year of providing Community Investment Grants to our network. We are delighted to invest in your hard work– thank you for considering this program and thank you for bettering our community.
- If you have further questions, please contact:
  - Matthew Enfinger - [grants@goldenharvest.org](mailto:grants@goldenharvest.org)

Applications will be available on Golden Harvest's website on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

[www.goldenharvest.org/CommunityInvestment](http://www.goldenharvest.org/CommunityInvestment)