

Food Rescue Macro Grants

2023 Request for Proposals

Proposal submission deadline: August 25th, 2023, 11:59 PM PST



Funding Opportunity Title:	Food Rescue Macro Grants
Deadline for Applications:	August 25, 2023 by 11:59 P.M.
Total Amount Available:	\$312,000.00
Number of awards anticipated:	3 to 6
Award amounts:	Up to \$104,000.00
Grant cycle:	12-14 months

The **Food Rescue Macro Grant Program** is a capacity building grant that funds multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral partnerships in Los Angeles. The program aims to deepen relationships, develop processes, and implement projects that will bridge gaps and strengthen the infrastructure of the larger food recovery network in Los Angeles. By supporting collaborative efforts that benefit the collective food recovery network of Los Angeles, the grant seeks to enhance the efficacy and sustainability of food recovery for all organizations.

Background of the Grant Opportunity.

Los Angeles County is home to an estimated 2 million people experiencing food insecurity, a figure that has increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the communities in Los Angeles facing economic injustice and food insecurity are also burdened by environmental pollution, including waste processing facilities and landfill operations. These issues limit access to nutritious and cultural foods, and contribute to various social and economic disparities. Existing Food Recovery Organizations (FROs) currently operate at or above their individual institutional capacity with limited resources and few opportunities for collaborative problem-solving. Recognizing this importance, there is a clear need for funding that both strengthens the infrastructure of food recovery efforts and fosters collaboration among diverse stakeholders.

This program is a two-part funding opportunity intended to address food insecurity and climate change by supporting the food recovery and distribution system within the City of Los Angeles. In the Spring of 2023, Part I was announced and awarded. Now, we are awarding larger multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral partnerships.

The Opportunity.

Eligible applicants will form a partnership (referred to as the “Collaborative”) and collectively develop an application based on a shared vision and project. Grant funding will be awarded to collaboratives that prioritize **infrastructural improvements** across the entire food recovery sector, with a particular emphasis on projects that have usability and benefits that extend beyond the collective itself. These grants aim to support initiatives that adopt an open-source approach, creating solutions and resources that can be shared and utilized by a wider network of organizations. Additionally, **collaborative structures** that are representative of the communities they support and are composed of a diverse range of organizations and groups in scale, scope, and mission. Finally, the selected collaboratives are expected to be representative of the communities they support, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of diverse populations are incorporated into decision-making processes.

Collaboratives applying for the Food Rescue Macro Grant **must** have projects that focus on **one or more** of the following identified Focus Areas:

- **Technological Solutions:** Digital tools, software, databases, etc that seek to improve communication, coordination, and flow within the food recovery network, ultimately reducing food waste and increasing the reach of recovered food to communities.
- **Cooperative Resourcing:** Collaborative approaches and shared resource utilization among multiple stakeholders; pooling and coordinating resources to optimize efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance overall efficacy of food recovery efforts.
- **Networking & Community-building:** Intentional efforts aimed at fostering connection, collaborations, and partnerships among the various stakeholders involved with food waste, hunger, and food recovery.

These Focus Areas have been determined through ongoing meetings, listening sessions, infrastructural assessments, and research projects conducted across the Food Recovery Sector, and previously-identified projects addressing these areas of need might include, **but are not limited to:**

Focus Areas	Potential Activities
Technological Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shared unified database for recording donations and donors: Develop and maintain a comprehensive database that centralizes information on food donations and donors, facilitating efficient tracking and reporting. ● Shared unified database for active Food Recovery Organizations (Asset Mapping): Create and maintain a unified database that maps and profiles active Food Recovery Organizations (FROs) in Los Angeles, enabling better coordination and collaboration. ● Communication tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Between FROs: Implement communication tools that enable seamless communication and information sharing among different FROs in the food recovery network. ○ Between FROs and Edible Food Generators (EFGs): Develop and maintain communication platforms that facilitate effective communication between FROs and EFGs, improving coordination and ensuring efficient distribution of recovered food.
Cooperative Resourcing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Equipment library: Establish a shared equipment library to provide FROs with access to necessary tools and resources, reducing duplication of efforts and cost and enhancing operational efficiency. ● Shared warehousing: Create shared warehousing spaces where multiple FROs can store and manage recovered food, optimizing storage capacity and reducing costs. ● Shared location for breakdown of large loads (cross-docking): Develop designated spaces for breaking down large food loads, allowing for efficient sorting, repackaging, and redistribution within the food recovery network. ● Composting site for recovered food that can't be distributed: Establish a composting site or partnership designed for food that is unsuitable for distribution, minimizing waste and supporting sustainable waste management practices.
Networking & Community Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leveraging partnerships for value-add (i.e. community kitchens, food demos, etc.): Foster partnerships with community kitchens, educational institutions, and other stakeholders to enhance the value of food recovery efforts through activities such as community kitchens, food demonstrations, and culinary training programs. ● Problem-solving workshops: Organize workshops and collaborative problem-solving sessions to address common challenges within the food recovery network and develop innovative solutions. ● Shared system-wide research projects: Undertake research projects that investigate system-wide issues related to food waste and food recovery, generating insights and recommendations for improving practices and policies.

Eligibility Criteria.

To be eligible for a grant under this Request For Proposals, organizations applying for the Food Rescue Macro Grants must meet the minimum mandatory requirements (MMR) to be considered eligible. The MMR are as follows:

1. The Managing Stakeholder must be a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code OR be fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3)
 - a. Organizations classified as private foundations under Section 509(a) cannot be the Managing Stakeholder of a Collaborative.
 - b. Government agencies are **not** eligible to act as Managing Stakeholder. Only government agencies within the City of Los Angeles are eligible to be a part of a Collaborative. (i.e. Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks **is** eligible; Pasadena Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services **is not** eligible.)
2. The Managing Stakeholder must be headquartered in the City of Los Angeles. Co-applicants that are a part of a Collaborative, can be headquartered outside of the Los Angeles City, but must be within Los Angeles County.
3. The Managing Stakeholder must be a food recovery agency (FRO) or a community based organization (CBO) working with recovered food within the City of Los Angeles (i.e. food distributions, pantries, community fridges, etc.). Co-applicants that are a part of a Collaborative are not required to be a FRO but must align with the mission of the proposal and have a clear role in Collaborative objectives.

Failure to meet all eligibility requirements will result in an ineligible proposal.

Eligible Costs.

The table below provides costs for using grant funds. Applicants must ensure that costs proposed in the project budget are eligible for funding. Costs deemed ineligible in the application review process will be removed and the project’s recommended total award will be adjusted based accordingly. Any questions regarding eligible cost can be directed to foodrescuegrants@goodfoodla.org

Cost Type	Description
Personnel	Grant recipients, subgrantees, and their contractors’ staff costs, including salary at an hourly rate, benefits, taxes, and leave. Staff may be full or part time employees.
Administrative Costs	Costs incurred by the recipient to administer the grant, or costs incurred by subgrantees to perform the tasks necessary to fulfill the deliverables outlined in these guidelines. Administrative costs include, but are not necessarily limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Office space ● Supplies ● Legal or management oversight ● Prorated general liability, Workers' Compensation (may be included in payroll), and automotive insurance
Tools, Subscriptions, and Software	Subscriptions to tools and other software that will help increase capacity, foster collaboration, facilitate communication, or otherwise facilitate implementation of the project

<p>Engagement, Outreach, Education, and Training</p>	<p>Costs related to the development and administration of engagement, outreach, education, and training activities under the grant, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Materials developed for outreach events, trainings, and other grant activities. ● Access to proprietary data or research materials ● Facilitation for meetings. ● Translation and interpretation for meetings and written materials. ● Marketing and advertisements. ● Participant compensation that is an exchange of payment for services rendered in the development of community work products, and appropriately documented with deliverables such as sign in sheets or written surveys. ● Transportation stipends and provision of transportation services for community residents, such as a vanpool. ● Rental costs of equipment, facilities, or venues.
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation</p>	<p>Costs related to data collection, analysis, reporting, stakeholder consultations, and hiring external evaluators or consultants.</p>

Dates and Deadlines.

<p>Friday, 7 July 2023</p>	<p>Macro Grant Request for Proposals Announced</p>
<p>Tuesday, 18 July 2023</p>	<p>Food Rescue Macro Grant Informational Session #1</p>
<p>Wednesday, 19 July 2023</p>	<p>Food Rescue Macro Grant Informational Session #2</p>
<p>Friday, 25 August 2023 by 11:59 PM</p>	<p>Macro Grant Proposals Due</p>
<p>Four to six weeks from deadline</p>	<p>Macro Grant Awardees Announced</p>

Informational Sessions.

Applicants are encouraged to participate in one of two informational sessions offered on:

- Tuesday, 18 July 2023 at 4:00 PM
- Wednesday, 19 July 2023 at 4:00 PM

Please register for the workshops at:

- For Tuesday, July 18th please [register here](#)
- For Wednesday, July 19th please [register here](#)

After registering, you will receive an email confirmation with information on how to join the workshop. Live interpretation will be provided for each session in Spanish.

A recording of the workshop will be made available and sent upon request.

Application Instructions.

Applications and supporting documents may be submitted in either English or Spanish. All applications and supporting documents must be uploaded and submitted through the appropriate Food Rescue Macro Grant Form.

For English: [Food Rescue Macro Grant Program Form](#)

For Spanish: [Formulario del Programa de la Macro Subvención para el Rescate Alimentario](#)

Application Sections.

Each section of the Food Rescue Macro Grant application will be downloadable. Make sure to complete the application in a separate document prior to submitting. Below is a table describing all required sections of the application with links provided.

Downloading Instructions.

For Documents: Select “File” → Select “Download” → Click “Microsoft Word (.docx)”

For Spreadsheets: Select “File” → Select “Download” → Click “Microsoft Excel (.xlsx)”

Application Section & Link	Description
1. Narrative Questions	Applicants will describe their Collaborative Project proposal through the Narrative Questions. This is the opportunity for the Collaborative to demonstrate project need and explain how the proposed strategies, activities, and tasks will benefit the larger food recovery network through their selected Focus Area(s).
2. Application Workbook	Applicants will use the workbook to describe their scope of work. In this workbook, applicants will be able to clearly define strategies towards their objectives through descriptions, timelines, partners involved and deliverables for their Collaborative Project.
3. Budget Summary	Applicants will use the template to provide their budget summary for the Collaborative Project.
4. Signed Partnership Agreement	All parties directly involved in the Collaborative Project (Managing Stakeholder and Co-applicants) will enter a partnership agreement in the form of an MOU that will lay out the implementation structure for the Food Rescue Macro Grant.

Scoring Criteria. Applications will be evaluated based on the scoring criteria below. Prior to a full proposal review, applications will be reviewed for completeness and submission of all required documents.

Application Section	Points
A. Mission & Vision	5
Applicants use clear and concise language for Collaborative's Mission and Vision statement. Mission and Vision aligns with the purpose and goals of the Food Rescue Macro Grant. Collaborative proposal and all attachments align with Mission and Vision Statement.	
B. Project Need	30
Applicant provides a clear description of food recovery gaps and Focus Area that will be addressed with grant funds.	
Proposed project enables the collaborative to address a clear gap in the food recovery network/sector (benefits the Collaborative).	
Proposed project has an impact on or within the larger food recovery network/sector (benefits the network/sector).	
Proposed project clearly addresses one or more of the general focus areas (technological solutions, cooperative resourcing, and/or networking and community building).	
Proposed project has a clear, measurable, time-bound evaluation plan.	
C. Project Objectives and Strategies	30
Proposed strategies will address gaps in the existing food recovery space and will build capacity or infrastructure to recover more food.	
Proposed strategies build enduring and trusting relationships across members of the collaborative and community that will allow for larger impact on the development, coordination and implementation of food recovery efforts.	
Proposed project builds shared capacity through an expanded knowledge base, funding, or other resource and accounts for working with diverse stakeholders.	
D. Multi-Stakeholder Structure	30
Collaborative includes diverse representation of organizations and approaches. Partnership agreement and letters of commitment demonstrate equitable sharing of responsibilities and associated funding. Collaborative members contribute unique strengths and proven track records of serving communities.	
Managing stakeholder demonstrates experience and organizational capacity necessary to implement proposed project.	
Applicants provide description of the relationships between the partners that helps reviewers understand and evaluate the success of the partnership.	
Applicants demonstrate subject matter expertise and commitment to community involvement and guidance within the collaborative.	
Application includes a signed partnership agreement with effective and equitable governance structures, protocols, and other strategies to effectively sustain and grow the partnership.	
E. Workplan and Budget	30
Applicant provides a work plan that includes a description of activities and associated tasks, a timeline for completion of key tasks and deliverables, and Collaborative members involved in implementing each task and subtask. Timeline is feasible and timebound.	
Work plan provides sufficient description of tasks to provide reviewers with an understanding of how specific tasks advance objectives and goals.	
Each Collaborative partner's respective capacity, strengths, mission and area of focus have been taken into consideration in developing the work plan. Work plan and associated budget is well-aligned and sufficient funding has been allocated to ensure effective implementation.	
Budget reflects overall project objectives and program goals with meaningful costs associated.	
Applicant provides a clear, easy to follow budget, correctly using the RC provided template.	
Total Points:	125

Definitions.

The following definitions are to provide further context and clarity.

Term	Definition
Collaborative	The Collaborative is defined as the Managing Stakeholder, along with all of the Co-applicants; the Collaborative will work on objectives and deliverables as defined in their Collaborative Project Submission.
Co-applicant	Entities other than the Managing Stakeholder that enter into a partnership with other organizations for the purpose of applying for the Food Rescue Macro Grant.
Edible Food Generator	Entities that produce a significant amount of edible food waste and are required to comply with specific requirements of SB 1383. EFGs are further delineated within SB1383 regulations as either Tier One or Tier Two.
Food Recovery Organization	A food recovery organization focuses on collecting edible food that would otherwise go to landfill and redistributes that food to people and/or other organizations that will use the food.
Managing Stakeholder	Lead organization for the Collaborative that has an agreement for grant funding with Rising Communities. Also considered Grantee, the Managing Stakeholder is the main liaison between the Collaborative and Rising Communities and is responsible for ensuring the Collaborative is in compliance with the grant terms.
Partnership Agreement	Signed document between all Collaborative members that outlines the responsibilities of each of the parties to the agreement. This is required of all Collaboratives applying.
Value-add	Process of enhancing or increasing the worth, quality or desirability of a product, service or offering by incorporating additional features, benefits or improvements

About the Grantmakers. The following agencies and organizations partnered together to develop and administer the Food Rescue Grant Program.

City of Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment: As the lead agency for the City of LA's environmental programs and initiatives, Sanitation protects public health and the environment through the administration and management of three program areas: Clean Water (Wastewater), Solid Resources (Solid Waste Management) and Watershed Protection (Stormwater). With a steadfast focus on social justice, equity, and sustainability, these infrastructure programs collect, treat, dispose and recycle the solid and liquid waste generated by the nation's second largest city of more than four million residents. Through these essential Public Works programs, Sanitation delivers a triple bottom line of economic, environmental and social benefits that sustain quality of life in Los Angeles.

Rising Communities: Rising Communities (formerly Community Health Councils) is a policy and systems change organization with the mission to collectively build equitable systems towards our vision of better communities for all people. Rising Communities brings over 30 years of experience addressing systemic barriers to overall well-being in South Los Angeles and for BIPOC communities throughout LA County, through program design, administration, and collaborative policy advancement. All programs and initiatives utilize the Social Determinants of Health framework (as conceived by the World Health Organization) where we focus on socioeconomic and environmental factors of health, such as job security and economic development, building knowledge and skills, food security, access to primary and ancillary health services, research, and policy.

The Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC): LAFPC works to ensure food is healthy, affordable, fair and sustainable for all. We believe Good Food for All is possible and that all communities deserve access to good food, grown in a way that respects people and the planet. We work to create a local food system free from hunger, rooted in equity and access, supportive of farmers and food workers, and guided by principles of environmental stewardship and regeneration. To accomplish our vision of Good Food for All, we catalyze, coordinate and connect people across the LA region, including government, business and community groups working on food.

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