



## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **Denver Food Security Grant**

### **Denver Food Resiliency Grant**

The Denver Department of Public Health and the Environment (DDPHE) is offering two new competitive grant opportunities for food nonprofit organizations. These grant programs have separate federal funding sources with distinct goals, applicant requirements and unique ways in which the funds can be used. The FAQs for both funding sources are listed below so that potential applicants may review the programs and consider which fund, if any, may be relevant for their organization. Here is a brief description of both funding opportunities, followed by the FAQs.

#### **The Denver Food Security Grant**

The goal of this grant opportunity is to address capacity building needs of food pantries, emergency food providers, and nonprofit farms to be better prepared to respond to future emergency crises. The fund supports the coordination of access to resources for improved capacity and more resilient food support services for food insecure individuals. Specifically, this includes increased client enrollment in SNAP and/or WIC programs, and food pantry infrastructure improvements. Funds are provided through the federal Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Health Disparities grant through the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment. **These funds cannot be used to purchase food.**

#### **The Denver Food Resiliency Grant**

The goal of this grant opportunity is to have a more resilient food system in Denver that is better prepared to respond to emergencies like COVID-19 in the future. Specifically, this includes a focus on improving infrastructure, transportation, storage, and communications for food organizations. Potential eligible applicants include food hubs, organizations providing food distribution services, and new food market development. Collaborations between applicants is highly encouraged. Funding is provided by the federal American Recovery Plan Act through the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment. This grant is expected to launch in the fall of 2022.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### 1. Question: How much funding is available?

#### Emergency Food Security Grant

Up to \$175,000 to be distributed as following:

\$5,000 - \$10,000 for individual organizations

\$10,000 - \$30,000 for two or more organizations in collaboration

#### Food Resiliency Grant

Up to \$1 million dollars, to be distributed in grants between approximately \$50,000 and \$100,000

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### 2. Question: How can the funds be used?

#### Food Security Grant

**Funds cannot be used to purchase food.**

Funds may be used to help food pantries, emergency food providers, and nonprofit farms to be better prepared to respond to future emergency crises. **For equipment, supplies or infrastructure costing greater than \$5000, organizations receiving funds will need to submit additional paperwork and obtain additional approvals.** Funds may be used for the following items:

- Services to sign up clients for SNAP, including equipment such as ipads or phones
- Food pantry infrastructure improvements – refrigerators, freezers, shelving, hand carts, outdoor heaters, tables, retrofitting due to changes in sanitary standards as a result of COVID-19, electrical and plumbing upgrades, distribution and transportation
- Staff capacity – building capacity and leadership skills of organization’s staff and volunteers, including technical assistance
- Language interpretation and translation of materials
- Communications and educational materials/content

#### Food Resiliency Grant

Examples of allowable expenses include but are not limited to the following where costs are below \$5000 per item;

- Facility upgrades (electrical, plumbing, lighting temporary shelters or storage to meet expanded need, etc.)
- Warehousing and food storage, freezers, refrigeration equipment
- Loading equipment such as pallet jacks, forklifts, carts, conveyer belts etc.
- Development of efficiencies in delivery or transportation systems
- Supply/Value chain management (software, staff, equipment)

- Evaluating and altering distribution routes for greater efficiency and increased delivery times
- Packaging or re-packaging or preparation equipment for food.
- Purchasing or leasing trucks or other vehicles for use by one or more than one organization

Where costs are above \$5000 per item, there will be an additional set of requirements, reporting and costs associated at the close of the grant on December 31, 2026. For equipment, supplies or infrastructure costing greater than \$5000; these items can only be used for eligible funding purposes. If equipment, supplies, or infrastructure are to be used for a different purpose or to be sold, organizations receiving funds will have to determine the remaining disposition value of the purchased items and may be required to return that value to the federal government following federal uniform guidance. For example, if a vehicle is purchased for deliveries during the grant period and used for an unallowed funding purpose after December 31, 2026 the organization receiving funds may have to determine the current depreciated value at that time and return that remaining value to the federal government.

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### **3. Question: What populations can be served by these funds?**

#### Food Security Grant

First priority neighborhoods are determined by having high hospitalization rates, high death rates, high COVID-19 test positivity rates, and low vaccination rates. (Based on analysis by the Public Health Institute at Denver Health.)

#### **First Priority Neighborhoods**

- Barnum West
- Chaffee Park
- College View
- Elyria Swansea
- Fort Logan
- Harvey Park
- Harvey Park South
- Lincoln Park
- Mar Lee
- Montbello
- NE Park Hill
- South Platte
- Sun Valley
- Villa Park
- Virginia Vale
- Washington
- Westwood

## **Second Priority Neighborhoods**

Second priority neighborhoods are determined by having high hospitalization rates, high death rates, high COVID-19 test positivity rates, and medium vaccination rates. (Based on analysis by the Public Health Institute at Denver Health.)

- Athmar Park
- Barnum
- Five Points
- Gateway/Green Valley Ranch
- Globeville
- Ruby Hill
- Sunnyside
- Val Verde

### Food Resiliency Grant

The funding is available citywide.

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#### **4. Question: Can you apply for funding if services are provided in Denver but the organization's office is outside of Denver?**

### Food Security Grant and Food Resiliency Grant

For both grants, yes, an organization who is serving Denver residents with provided funding but has a location(s) outside of the city would be eligible. An organization located outside of Denver and not serving Denver residents or organizations would not be eligible.

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#### **5. Question: Our organization has not previously played a significant role in emergency food distribution, but now our community is looking to us to fill this need. Can funding be used to grow the capacity of our organization to provide food to our community?**

### Food Security Grant and Food Resiliency Grant

For both grants, yes, an organization can apply for these funds if they are new to providing emergency food services needed and are serving underserved populations that are at higher risk of COVID-19.

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#### **6. Question: During what time period must the grant funds be used?**

### Food Security Grant

Oct 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023

### Food Resiliency Grant

October 1, 2022 (or issuance of funds) and must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and must be fully used by December 31, 2026.

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**7. Question: Can funds be used to increase infrastructure capacity, or upgrade our facility to meet additional need?**

Food Security Grant

Yes, funds may be used to increase infrastructure capacity for food providers in order to better respond to a crisis like COVID-19 in the future and meet the needs of emergency food clients.

Food Resiliency Grant

Yes, funds may be used to increase infrastructure capacity in order to better respond to a crisis like COVID-19 in the future and meet the needs of food system distribution.

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**8. Question: I just submitted an application and did not see a confirmation email. I wanted to confirm that our application was received. How does that happen?**

Food Security Grant

Once you submit the application there will be a confirmation page that appears stating that your application has been received. Please save a copy of your responses and this confirmation document for your records.

Food Resiliency Grant

Application responses to the RFP will be received in the BidNet free grant submission portal, you will receive an email confirmation when your application is complete and submitted.

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**9. Question: Our organization has received COVID-19 emergency food funds from other funding sources (e.g., the Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger, or the Healthy Food for Denver Kids, previous rounds of Denver Emergency Food Relief grants). Are we still eligible to apply?**

Food Security Grant

It depends. If an organization is receiving CDC Health Disparities grant dollars (2103) through the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) or another entity, they are NOT eligible to apply for this funding. If an organization receives grant funds from other sources, this may be taken into consideration during the grant review process. Reviewers will also consider the continued need for funding to meet increased community food needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Food Resiliency Grant

Yes. Reviewers will consider the continued need for funding to meet increased community food needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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**10. Question: Can the funds be used to cover indirect costs?**

Food Security Grant and Food Resiliency Grant

For both grants, yes, direct, indirect and administrative costs can be covered with these grant funds.

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**11. Question: Can you apply for funding if you serve residents in multiple counties, including Denver?**

Food Security Grant and Food Resiliency Grant

For both grants, yes, you may serve a broader population but the funding provided needs to be used in Denver for Denver residents or organizations.

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**12. Question: Can funds be used to purchase food or gift cards?**

Food Security Grant

No, the purchase of food or gift cards is not allowed with this funding.

Food Resiliency Grant

Yes, food may be purchased with this funding, however, food purchase is not the primary goal of the grant funding and is not intended to be the main purpose or area of spending for this grant.

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**13. Question: Is a business eligible to apply for funding?**

No. Both funds do not allow for-profit businesses to apply for funding.

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**14. Question: Can a government agency apply for funding?**

No. Both funds do not allow government agencies to apply for the funding. There is a separate City budget process for government agencies to access available funds for food programs. Please contact Laine Cidlowksi [laine.cidlowski@denvergov.org](mailto:laine.cidlowski@denvergov.org) for inquiries from Denver City agencies.

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**15. Question: Can a school or school district apply for the funding?**

Food Relief Fund

Yes. Schools or school districts that are nonprofits may apply for funding.

Food Resiliency Grant

Yes, schools or school districts that are nonprofits may apply for funding so long as they meet the objectives of the funding related to infrastructure.

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**16. I missed the deadline to apply for funding. Will there be more grant opportunities?**

This is the final round of funding. If additional funding is provided by the federal government, there may be future rounds in 2023 or beyond. For more information about additional future food funding opportunities, sign up for our food access listserv here:

<https://mailchi.mp/eb7cc6215e02/hfdk>.

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**17. Question: How long do we have to spend the funds if we receive a grant?**

Food Security Grant

All funds must be fully spent by January 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

Food Resiliency Grant

All funds must be fully obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by the end of the calendar year, December 31<sup>st</sup> 2026.

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**18. Question: Can funds be used for communications, translation/interpretation, or community engagement to raise awareness of the emergency food provider?**

Yes, for both funds as long as they are occurring in relation specifically to the distribution, or delivery of emergency food. They cannot be used for general communications needs (such as other programs) of the organization that are not related to COVID-19 emergency food.

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**19. Question: Can funds be used for staff or volunteer stipends?**

Food Security Grant

Yes, as long as they are specifically related to COVID-19 emergency food distribution. General staff or operating costs cannot be covered with these funds.

Food Resiliency Grant

General staff or operating costs can be covered with these funds.

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**20. Question: Can these funds be used for other basic needs like diapers, hygiene items, or toiletries?**

Food Security Grant

The only basic need items that may be purchased are face masks, hand sanitizers, gloves, and disinfecting cleaners.

Food Resiliency Grant

No that is not the intended use of these funds.

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**21. Can these funds be used for advocacy or policy work related to food?**

No, for both funds, they can only be used for those purposes listed above under Question 2.

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For more information regarding the Food Security Grant contact Marion Kalb at 720-865-5511, [Marion.Kalb@denvergov.org](mailto:Marion.Kalb@denvergov.org)

For more information regarding the Food Resiliency Grant contact Laine Cidlowksi at 720-865-5357, [Laine.Cidlowksi@denvergov.org](mailto:Laine.Cidlowksi@denvergov.org).