

Feed My People Program Incentive Grants

Purpose: To encourage and support partners to make changes that strengthen their program to ensure sustainability and/or significantly increase the amount of food provided to people in need.

The Incentive Grant program is designed to encourage and support your new ideas and initiatives with a collective goal of distributing more food to more people. To support you in this, FMP will provide food credit to agencies submitting approved applications. We hope this incentive will free up some program dollars so you can concentrate on making food more accessible to those in your community.

Here are some ideas about increasing and sustaining access to food for our neighbors in need:

- Ensure your program's sustainability in a meaningful way. Ideas include:
 - Identify and implement strategies that will strengthen your staff or volunteer base through additional recruiting, training, and sharing of duties
 - Assess your board's strengths, identify opportunities for growth and implement strategies to strengthen your board.
 - Develop and implement a succession plan for your program
- Address your program's financial needs with an initiative designed to increase current donor's contributions and attract new donors.
- Increase the number of times you distribute or serve food, or the number of hours you are open per week, including evenings and weekends, to accommodate working families.
- Allow guests to receive food more often during the month. For example, if you currently allow someone to receive food once a month, increase to twice a month, or as often as needed. (Typically food pantries who offer food more often have a small percentage of clients who come more than once, unless they really need it.)
- Significantly increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables you distribute. Perhaps offer an extra weekly produce distribution (to coincide with your delivery, perhaps).
- Expand your distribution into underserved areas. For example, consider offering a food pantry/food box program in a senior apartment home or the area high school.
- Implement a referral system for FoodShare Outreach with FMP. Explain your system including the goals you will set and how you will encourage and educate volunteers.
- For Backpack programs – expand your reach into additional grade levels or more schools. Consider a school food pantry for older students or families.
- Partner with another food pantry for a Secret Shopper program designed to give input on how you might improve the experience for your guests.
- For Meal Programs – consider a small food pantry so your guests can take food home.
- Implement a program improvement designed to improve access or provide more food to those in need.

Up to \$25,000 of food credit will be awarded to agencies with approved applications in the amount of \$800, \$1,600, \$2,400 and \$3,200 depending on the extent and implementation of the new idea.

Application Steps

- Discuss your ideas for changes with your board. To be a good candidate to receive a grant, it is important there is a commitment for success beyond a single individual or couple.
- Feel free to talk with a Feed My People staff member to help clarify and simplify the application process.
- Complete and submit the application form between July 1, 2019 and October 1, 2019. Applications will be considered in the order in which they are received.
- Ensure your monthly statistics are submitted in a timely fashion.
- Feed My People will respond to your application within 3 weeks of receipt.
- If approved, half of the food credit will be awarded on approval with the remaining awarded when the project is in place for at least 3 months and positive results are clearly demonstrated and articulated.

Do not hesitate to contact us with your questions. We would love to talk with you!

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