

LOI Form

Organization Information

A Word version you can use to draft your request is available for download.

The rubric that will be used to score your LOI is available for download.

Project Name*

Please give your proposal a short, descriptive title. This is how your request will appear throughout the PCF grant portal.

Food Security for Clearwater Residents

Amount Requested*

The minimum grant request for this process is \$50,000.

The maximum grant request for this process is \$325,000.

If you request the full \$325,000, your organization should be able to demonstrate a *significant* impact to be made from these funds.

Please be sure that your grant request is proportional to your annual operating budget. If you have any questions about how much funding to request, please contact Jocelyn Howard at jhoward@pinellascf.org.

\$325,000.00

Annual Operating Budget*

Please provide the amount of your annual operating budget, (expenditures only) for your entire organization.

\$36,455,100.00

Grant Start Date*

PCF expects to issue a contract to approved organizations in September 2023. If awarded with a contract issuance date of September 1, 2023, when would your organization begin to spend funds?

09/01/2023

Grant End Date*

PCF expects the grant period to be between 12 and 24 months for this process. Given this range, when would your organization expect to finish expending funds if awarded?

09/30/2025

Mission Statement*

Please write your organization's mission statement below. This should be no longer than one or two sentences.

With compassion and respect, St. Petersburg Free Clinic (SPFC) changes lives by providing nutritious food, supportive housing, health care, and education for our neighbors in need.

Is your organization headquartered in Clearwater?

Why PCF asks this: Given that the City of Clearwater is the funding source for this grant program, PCF may prioritize organizations headquartered in Clearwater or those that have a strong presence in the City.

No

Programming Background*

Please describe the program that this grant would support.

Example

Peer Counseling Services Inc. offers after-school support groups for middle schoolers and high schoolers. Below, Peer Counseling Services Inc. would describe what its programming is, how its programming works, and who is served.

Why PCF asks this: PCF wants to learn about what your organization does and how it carries out its mission.

SPFC operates Pinellas County's largest food bank, the Jared S. Hechtkopf Community Food Bank. The food bank collaborates with more than 60 partners throughout Pinellas County, delivers to every zip code in Clearwater, and a total of 115 sites throughout the County. Examples of our partners include Bethlehem Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Salvation Army Clearwater, Hope Villages of America, etc., and these partners consistently serve a combined number of over 100,000 individuals monthly. SPFC We Help FRESH Pantry utilizes an indoor choice model which offers a dignified market experience by providing clients with autonomy to choose foods that align with cultural preferences or dietary requirements. Additionally, our two FRESH Pantry Drive-Through locations, one at Jared's Food Bank and one on the Deuces in Midtown St. Petersburg, offer clients fresh produce, meat and dairy along with anonymity and convenience. Our data indicates that particularly for families with children, the convenience of the drive-through locations are welcomed, as we have more than doubled the number of children served since the addition of drive-throughs. Consistently, our three FRESH Pantry locations are serving over 40,000 clients per month. Just since the start of our current fiscal year (October 2022 – April 2023) our food programs have collectively served approximately 161,484 individuals in Clearwater zip codes alone. Additionally, just since the start of our fiscal year, Jared's Food Bank has delivered over 1 million pounds of food to Clearwater zip codes.

These high numbers are indicative of skyrocketing levels of community need for nutritious food across Pinellas County. United Way released updated ALICE data at the State and County level. ALICE families are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, many of whom were celebrated as essential workers during the pandemic, yet they do not make enough to afford the basics. The data shows particularly for households with children in Florida, rates of food insecurity increased through 2022. "The charitable food system that was designed for emergencies is increasingly an ongoing necessity," (United Way, 2023). Locally, data shows higher percentages of ALICE families in Pinellas (36%) compared to Florida state average (33%). For Clearwater specifically, the Clearwater zip code SPFC delivers the majority of food to is 33756, which is indicated as the highest-ranking level of need according to the 2022 Food Insecurity Index.

History in Clearwater*

Please describe how long you've been providing services in the City of Clearwater, and the nature of such services.

Why PCF asks this: Given that the City of Clearwater is the funding source for this grant program, PCF may prioritize organizations headquartered in Clearwater or those that have a strong presence in the City.

Since its inception in the 1980s, We Help FRESH Pantry has always provided fresh, nutritious, food to any Pinellas County Resident. Therefore, the FRESH Pantry locations have always been open to our neighbors from Clearwater zip codes.

Jared's Food Bank has a combination of both longstanding and newer Clearwater community partners. Bethlehem Seventh-Day Adventist, Hope Villages of America, and Countryside Christian have all been Food Bank partners for 12+ years. Whereas the Hispanic Outreach Center, Continental Transition Program, Kids Time, Kings Highway Elementary, and McMullen Booth Elementary have been partners between 2-5 years. Lastly, newer partnerships (1-1 ½ years) have been blossoming with Salvation Army Clearwater and Boys and Girls Club Wood Valley. Ultimately, SPFC is committed to ensuring fresh, nutritious, food is available to the most underserved areas of the County.

Outcomes*

Define one to two outcomes already being measured by your organization in relation to the programming this grant would support. This is not the outcome of this specific funding, but of the programming itself. **Outcomes are not the number of people you will serve, but how they or their situation will change.**

"Outcomes - are specific, measurable statements that let you know when you have reached your goals. Outcome statements describe specific changes in your knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors you expect to occur as a result of your actions. Good outcome statements are specific, measurable, and realistic."

(W.K. Kellogg Foundation Logic Model Development Guide)

Example

80% of youth involved in peer counseling will show increased emotional intelligence after six months of participation.

Why PCF asks this: PCF considers measurable outcomes to be a cornerstone of effective social service programming. Tracking outcomes allows both an organization and its supporters to know how effective its programming is and helps an organization improve its programming over time.

70% of food distributed is fresh, contributing to the health of those whom we serve.

85% of partners report satisfaction with SPFC services, contributing to the effectiveness of food distribution for those in need.

Measurements*

Explain what measurement tools you will use to evaluate the stated outcome(s) above. That is, how will your organization know it is achieving or not achieving the outcome(s) stated above? Stronger requests will use a validated tool or method of data collection.

Example

Peer Counseling Services administers the Schutte Self Report Emotional Intelligence Test before counseling begins,

and in six-month intervals thereafter.

Why PCF asks this: PCF would like to know how the outcome(s) you've specified are measured, and if you used a validated tool that has been proven in usage outside your organization. If you've developed your own tool, please describe how it was made.

SPFC tracks its FRESH ratio on a monthly basis. The FRESH ratio is the percentage of fresh food items (produce, meats, dairy, bread) out of the total amount of food distributed. The Jared S. Hechtkopf Community Food bank weighs all donated and purchased food coming in, and all food distributed by category to determine total pounds of fresh items. This data is entered by Food Bank staff at the point of delivery and distribution and reviewed for accuracy by the Food Bank Director, Food Programs Coordinator, and COO.

A mid-year electronic survey is provided to food bank partners regarding partner satisfaction, local community need, and potential identification of barriers to more efficient distribution. Survey results are reviewed by the Food Bank Director, Director of We Help, and COO to determine changes needed to improve efficiencies, service, and distribution.

Grant Impact*

How would this grant help your organization and its clients achieve the outcomes stated above? That is, what would you be able to do with this funding that you otherwise could not?

Why PCF asks this: The intention of this grant is to fund organizations providing support for individuals and families in Clearwater with emergency housing and social services needs. How that support happens, and how this grant could help, differs from organization to organization. PCF would like to know specifically how this grant would help your organization and the clients you serve.

This grant would help sustain operating at this unprecedented level, while additionally supporting the purchase of items that are either rarely donated or are in high demand and short supply. These may include items to meet particular dietary needs, culturally appropriate foods for the diverse populations we serve, and shelf stable items for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

SPFC receives the food we distribute from a variety of sources, however, as a result of demand skyrocketing, we have to purchase a large percentage of our food, and these costs have significantly increased since 2020. For example, the prices for frozen chicken have risen from \$.43/lb to \$.99/lb. Overall, the cost of bulk food has risen 41% over the past two years. SPFC is Pinellas County's largest local provider of emergency food, and our food distribution has doubled with no indication that our community's need for nutritious food will decline. Pandemic relief funding has halted yet worsening economic conditions have increased the need for basic supports and services. At SPFC, we are serving more people now than we were during the pandemic, these increases in individuals served are demonstrated county-wide, including Clearwater. Due to our ability to buy in bulk and by the truckload, we are able to stretch our dollars and pay a fraction of retail prices. However, SPFC cannot continue operating at this level without increased support for our growing food programs.

Preliminary Budget Narrative*

Please write a brief breakdown of line items showing how your requested funds would be used. You may add context to the expenses if needed (for example, if salaries are requested, state how that position supports the programming described in your proposal). A more detailed, formal budget will be required if your request is moved forward in the funding process.

Small equipment purchases are permitted under this grant provided they are directly tied to service delivery. You

may include those purchases in this narrative.

If your organization will be requesting indirect costs, please include this in your narrative. Note that the indirect cost rate for this grant is capped at 5% of the grant.

Why PCF asks this: PCF would like to gain a general understanding of the proposed programming costs for this grant.

As previously stated, our data demonstrates that year-to-date in our current fiscal year (October-April) we have served over 160,000 individuals through our food programs in Clearwater zip codes alone. Holistically, we have served a total of over 800,000 individuals through our food programs throughout the County. Therefore, Clearwater clients are approximately 16% of those served through our food programs.

Additionally, the 1,135,772 pounds of food that Jared's Food Bank has delivered to Clearwater community partners is 15% of our pounds distributed, which is 20 million pounds.

Our overall Food Programs budget is \$6,649,580. Calculating the Clearwater proportion of our Food Programs (15%) equates to \$997,437. Therefore, SPFC respectfully requests \$325,000 to cover about 30% of our costs of reducing food insecurity in the City of Clearwater.

\$308,750 would be allocated towards food purchasing for SPFC Food Programs. Food costs include the purchase of fresh produce, meat, and dairy, as well as nutritious shelf-stable items.

\$16,250 would be allocated towards salaries for SPFC Food Program staff. Food programs staff are responsible for a variety of critical tasks associated with our food distribution. Including but not limited to building relationships with both internal and external partners to meet the needs of various food programs within SPFC, ensuring all food items are handled, stored, and distributed in a safe and sanitary manner following all health and sanitation codes, working with programs to enhance their understanding of product availability and pricing and maximizing savings through coordinated ordering, delivering food to our partner agencies throughout the county, etc.

Reduction in Funding*

Due to limited funding, your request amount may not be fully awarded if it is moved forward in the grant process. How would reduced/partial funding impact your proposed program?

Why PCF asks this: The review committee that ultimately recommends proposals for funding may consider partial funding. PCF would like to know upfront what impact this would have on your proposal.

Receiving partial funding would still help offset costs associated with the growing community need for SPFC's food programs. Any support will assist in continuing to serve the highest volume of clients in our organization's history. However, reduced support for our food programs necessitates our increased reliance on donated food. While SPFC is extremely grateful for our donation partners, donation size and type can vary drastically from week to week. Purchasing food not only provides SPFC food programs with reliable quantities of food to distribute, but also the ability to curate our purchases based on dietary requirements, cultural preferences, or increases in need. Full funding of this proposal would support SPFC's ongoing efforts to increase access to fresh, nutritious, food to the residents of Clearwater.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded