Food Access and Security Initiative

Cambridge Community Foundation

Overview

The Cambridge Community Foundation is committed to thinking big and pursuing bold, innovative ideas to solve our city’s most pressing problems. This fall, we will announce our new strategic direction for making a greater impact in the community. The new Food Access and Security Initiative, our first step, aims to build a safety net for families in crisis by strengthening Cambridge’s emergency food system. This work will be done in partnership with community stakeholders.

We will invest in nonprofit organizations and collaborative efforts to improve and make changes to the Cambridge food system. CCF has a history addressing food access and security. This new Initiative builds on past work and focuses on sector communication and collaboration, program sustainability and expansion, and capacity building.

Please read below for more details on eligibility requirements for this new Initiative and details on what we are looking to fund.

More information about the Food Access and Security Initiative can also be found on the Foundation’s website.

Eligibility

Proposals must meet all eligibility requirements to be considered.

- Established organizations that have been in existence for at least two years.
- Organizations and projects that serve Cambridge and those that live in or rely on Cambridge.
- Organizations with 501(c)3 status or a fiscal sponsor
Funding
The Food Access and Security Initiative seeks to fund projects that answer the question: **how can we strengthen the Cambridge emergency food system?** The Foundation has identified the following funding areas:

- **Sector Collaboration and Communication:** Projects that build on or think creatively about cross-organizational research, reporting, documenting, and measuring to support emergency food system usage, growth, or systems change.
- **Program Sustainability and Expansion:** Projects that strengthen or reimagine program delivery to better serve constituents, build new partnerships, support infrastructure sharing, or lay the foundation for necessary changes in the Cambridge food system.
- **Capacity Building:** Projects that grow or strengthen an organization’s ability to provide services, support their staff, manage operations, etc. within the Cambridge food system.

These funding areas are connected to the emergency food system recommendations in the 2022 Cambridge Food Action Plan and build on interviews and convenings with community partners. **With that in mind, we cannot fund:**

- General operating requests from multi-service organizations with programmatic focus areas beyond food access and security.
- Projects that primarily focus on buying food or infrastructure
- Projects that do not focus on Cambridge and the Cambridge emergency food system
- Capital campaigns or endowment drives
- Individuals or individual projects
- Small business, alternative business, or business associations

**Additional Details**

- Food Access and Security Initiative grants may be multi-year. Funding can be awarded for up to three years.
- Grant size will be determined through careful evaluation of each proposal taking into account alignment with the Initiative’s goals.
- Receiving a Food Access and Security Initiative grant may impact your ability to apply for the Community Fund or other Foundation grant opportunities. Please visit our website for more details.

If you are an organization who works in food access and security but does not feel you meet the criteria for this funding, please check out our Community Fund or connect with our Programs and Grantmaking team at applications@cambridgecf.org for other potential opportunities.
Please use this letter of interest form to submit an overview of your project, which will be used to determine your eligibility to apply.

**Deadline: Wednesday, August 9th at 5:00 pm**

Note: Character limits for questions in the LOI include spaces.

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**Eligibility**

**Organization History**
Has your organization been in existence for at least two years?

**Choices**
- Yes
- No

**Project Constituents**
Does your organization or project serve Cambridge and those that live in or rely on Cambridge?

**Choices**
- Yes
- No

**Tax Status**
Please select the option that best describes your organization or project.

**Choices**
- has 501(c)(3) status
- fiscally sponsored by an organization with 501(c)(3) status

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**Tax Status - Fiscal Sponsor**

**Fiscal Sponsor**
What is the name of the organization fiscally sponsoring this request?

*Character Limit: 250*

**EIN**
What is the 9 digit EIN of the organization fiscally sponsoring this request?

*Character Limit: 10*

**Fiscal Sponsor Contact Information**
Please enter the information for the contact person at the organization fiscally sponsoring this request.
Fiscal Sponsor Contact Email*
*Character Limit: 254

Project Information

Project Name*
*Character Limit: 100

Role*
What is your organization's role(s) in the Cambridge emergency food system? Check all that apply.

Choices
- Convener
- Distributor
- Market
- Pantry
- Other

Focus Area*
Which area(s) does your project focus on? Check all that apply. Reference Funding section above for focus area descriptions.

Choices
- Sector Collaboration and Communication
- Program Sustainability and Expansion
- Capacity Building

Project Description*
Please describe your project. How does it align to the focus area(s) you selected above? Please be as detailed as possible.
*Character Limit: 5000

Project Impact*
Please describe how your project aims to support the Cambridge emergency food system and decrease food insecurity.
*Character Limit: 2500
**Project Constituents**
Please describe how your project will serve Cambridge residents and/or those who rely on Cambridge.

*Character Limit: 1000*

**Residents Served**
How many Cambridge residents do you estimate your project will serve?

*Character Limit: 6*

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**Financial Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Funding</th>
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<td>Over how many years will this funding be used?</td>
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**Funding Description**
Please briefly describe how funds will be used. For multi-year requests, please outline how funds will be used in each year. If other funding is secured or pending, please make a note in your response.

*Character Limit: 3000*