WHAT ARE CFS MINI-GRANTS?
Community Food Solutions provides small grants to fund quick-action projects focused on increasing food access or utilization. Projects should be community led and focused on a specific neighborhood in Pittsburgh or Allegheny County. Grantees will have access to mentoring and technical support from leading nonprofits in the field to help develop, implement and sustain their project.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?
Community Food Solutions Mini-Grants will be awarded to groups or individuals addressing food insecurity in their communities. You do not have to be a registered nonprofit or have a fiscal sponsor to receive funding. The selection committee will prioritize projects that serve communities of color and are led by Black, Brown or Indigenous individuals.

HOW CAN THE MONEY BE SPENT?
Community Food Solutions Mini-Grants are intended to be spent on material items necessary for a successful project. Proposed expenses will be reviewed by the CFS committee during the application process. If you are neither a non-profit nor have a fiscal sponsor, grant funds will be distributed directly to the vendor providing the goods or service in your proposal.

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE GRANT ELIGIBLE?
We are hoping to fund a wide variety of initiatives including projects that:
- Provide consistent availability and easy access to nourishing food
- Make available culturally appropriate food or meet a specific dietary need
- Promote food preparation and consumption in a healthy nutritious way
- Increase the effectiveness and sustainability of an existing project or program
- Engage the public in activities that improve food security in the community
- Recreate or scale an existing project for a new audience

Some examples of projects are:
- SNAP/FMNP sign-up campaign or event
- Farmer's market outreach campaign
- Free refrigerator installation and outreach
- Cooking demonstrations
- Community recipe booklet
- Hosting a community information forum

APPLICATION, SELECTION AND REPORTING
There is a two-step application process for grant seekers:
- A written application where you will be asked to outline the project, identify the intended audience, describe the specific issue to be addressed, and specify the amount requested.
- An interview (in-person or virtual) where you will present your project overview including timeline, expenses, partnerships, goals, and projected outcomes. We will also discuss how the Community Food Solutions Collaborative can help you reach your long-term goals.

Applicants will be notified one week after submission deadline whether they will be interviewed for final approval. The selection committee will make a funding decision shortly after your second-round interview. Funding decisions will be made quarterly.

We will check-in with grant recipients occasionally to ensure the project is progressing as planned and to provide technical assistance along the way. You will be asked to complete a final report at the end of the project that describes the outcomes and whether or not the goals were achieved.

You can reapply for funding for a future grant cycle but you will only be eligible to receive funding once during a fiscal year (July–June).

INTERESTED? Please contact Julia Koehl at Julia.Koehl@unitedwayswpa.org

Community Food Solutions is one of United Way's Community Change Collaboratives which bring together the best thinking and the investment needed to create positive momentum on varied and consequential issues facing our area.