

FOOD RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The Department of Environmental Protection has developed this grant program in accordance with Section 301 of the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act (Act 101 of July 1988). The intent of this program is to reduce, to the greatest extent practicable, the amount of fresh and processed foodstuffs currently entering Pennsylvania's waste stream.

Not-for-profit agencies operating programs in the Commonwealth that provide food to segments of the public (e.g. food banks, shelters, soup kitchens) will be supported in partnering with retailers/wholesalers of foodstuffs operating in the Commonwealth to capture apparently safe and wholesome foods before these items become waste, which can then be made available by these agencies to the public they serve. The program does not include the collection of municipal or residual waste, as the terms are defined in Pennsylvania's waste regulations at 25 Ps. Code §§ 271.1 and 287.1, respectively.

SUPPORT

The grant under this program can assist not-for-profit agencies with the costs of equipment necessary to prepare, transport and store foodstuffs acquired from retailers/wholesalers. Examples of eligible equipment would include refrigerated or non-refrigerated box trucks, industrial-sized refrigerators, pallet jacks and/or dollies. Installation and shipping costs will also be eligible for support.

COSTS

A not-for-profit organization may only submit one grant application per calendar year. The maximum grant award the organization can request or receive per application cannot exceed \$200,000.

ELIGIBILITY

Entities applying for support under this grant program must demonstrate the following:

- The organization's not-for-profit status;
- The financial stability of the organization;
- The organization must have an existing food utilization/distribution program;
- The experience of the organization in operating a program;
- The current and potential sources for foodstuffs under this proposed program; and
- The ability to operate the expanded/enhanced program for the length of the grant demonstration period.

GRANT CONDITIONS

Successful applicants will be required to operate the expanded/enhanced program for a period of three years from the date final payment of grant funds is made. Failure to operate the program for the required demonstration period could result in a partial or full reimbursement of grant funds from the applicant to the Department.

Start-up and operation of the expanded/enhanced program (including, but not limited to, interest payments, utilities, fuel, administration and labor costs) will be assumed as the applicant's match for the grant.

The applicant must secure a commitment with one or more retailers/wholesalers to donate usable, non-expired foodstuffs for the length of the demonstration period. Such a commitment must be in place prior to the distribution of grant funds.

Grant awards are predicated on the availability of funds in the Recycling Fund, the balance of appropriated monies in this grant program's budget, and the amount of funds received by an applicant in the current fiscal year.

GRANT PROCEDURES

Interested organizations must contact the Grant Coordinator for the Department's Division of Waste Minimization & Planning (Mark Vottero, 717-787-7382 or mvottero@pa.gov) to learn more about this grant program. Potential applicants must meet with the Department's Region Recycling Coordinator for their area (see attached list) to ensure the proposal is complete and accurate for submission.

Completed applications must be submitted through:

Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)
Electronic Single Application Website
<https://www.esa.dced.state.pa.us/login.aspx>
paper and fax copies will not be accepted

Applications will be reviewed to determine the applicant's eligibility, the viability of the proposed program, the appropriateness of the equipment to be purchased under the grant, and the commitment of the applicant and the foodstuff sources to demonstrate the program for the required period. Successful applicants will be notified in writing and will be offered a grant agreement formalizing the Department's commitment of the funds. The applicant will have up to six (6) months from the date of offering to sign and return the grant agreement.

Once the grant agreement is formalized, the applicant will have up to one (1) year to purchase the equipment (and complete all other work under the grant agreement) and submit for reimbursement. Reimbursement for eligible expenditures *generally* takes six (6) weeks from the date the request is received by the Department.