

Memo

Date: January 17, 2020
To: Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB)
From: Tanya Kim, Director, Human Services Department (HSD) Youth and Family Empowerment Division (YFE)
Subject: HSD's Food and Nutrition RFP Results

Summary:

HSD's YFE Division released the 2019 Food and Nutrition Part I Request for Proposal (RFP) on March 1, 2019. The total available funding was \$4,198,646. In late 2019, the Seattle City Council added \$825,000 of Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT) funding to the Food and Nutrition RFP budget, bringing the total to \$5,023,464.

HSD received 33 applications totaling \$8,394,857 in requested funds from agencies. Of the 33 applications received, 33 were eligible for review and rated by the review committee. Twenty-eight proposals were recommended for funding and five were not. Awarded providers began their contracts in 2020 for a January – December contract period.

Background:

HSD has a portfolio of diverse food and nutrition investments. This RFP requested applications from agencies that could provide food and support of the food delivery system to low-income individuals and families in Seattle who are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, hunger. HSD sought to contract with a diverse group of providers to help ensure the investments meet the basic needs of all people living in Seattle who need it. HSD and CAB priorities aligned in the following ways:

- The priority population for the 2019 Food and Nutrition RFP was low-income Seattle residents.
- The focus populations were American Indian/Alaskan Native, Black, African American, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and Black/African American populations are most likely to experience food insecurity in Seattle¹, while American Indian/Alaska Native and Black/African American communities are most likely to experience poverty in Seattle².
- The 2019 Food and Nutrition RFP asked applicants to describe a plan to address significant needs among other populations of people at risk of experiencing hunger in Seattle.

The 2019 Food and Nutrition RFP invests in Seattle's emergency food system through two strategies:

1. Food Security and Access Strategy includes, but not limited to: food banks, home delivery of food, meal programs, weekend hunger or backpack programs, nutrition education, and social service navigation assistance at food programs (e.g. Community Connectors or similar that assist individuals and families attain self-sufficiency).
2. Food System Support Strategy to strengthen the Seattle Emergency Food System, includes, but not limited to: transportation of food to food banks and meal programs, food recovery, and staff support for the Seattle Food Committee and Meals Partnership Coalition.

Funding recommendations were based on review committee recommendations, written proposals, and the amount of available funding. Seven of the 28 agencies were new to the Food and Nutrition investment. HSD and the 19-member review committee recommended funding the following applicants:

¹ Washington State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Date range(s): Average 2009-2013

² U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS). Date range(s): Average 2011-2015

2019 Food and Nutrition RFP Awardees

Applicant	Proposal Description	Strategy Area	New to HSD YFE	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
	FOOD BANKS				
Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS)	The application described community reach and focus on culturally appropriate food distribution through 16 Community-Affiliate Nutrition Sites (CANS) in low income communities in Seattle. ACRS' proposal requested funding for its food bank, meals and community connector programs.	Food Security and Access	No	\$509,784	\$356,848
Ballard Food bank	Focus population served has increased 126% over the past few years. The proposal requested funding for food bank, home delivery, weekend hunger backpack, and community connector services. The food bank recently purchased a database system, Link2Feed.	Food Security and Access	No	\$275,314	231,000
Byrd Barr Place	Application included expansion of Byrd Barr's home delivery program. The application described a person-centered approach. Funding request was for food bank, home delivery and community connector services.	Food Security and Access	No	\$150,000	\$180,000
El Centro de la Raza	The application requested funding for food bank operations and El Centro's bilingual community connector. The food bank is open evenings and is ADA accessible.	Food Security and Access	No	\$205,705	\$200,705
Family Works	FamilyWorks operates food banks in Greenwood and Wallingford. The agency requested expansion funds to begin offering community connector services at both food bank locations and increase home delivery services in Bitter Lake and Haller Lake Neighborhoods.	Food Security and Access	No	\$255,800	\$255,800
The Food Bank at St Mary's	The application highlighted St. Mary's mobile food bank at eight locations. The agency has committed to race and social justice principles.	Food Security and Access	No	\$225,000	\$225,000
Jewish Family Service	With Cherry Street Food Bank closing, this application acknowledged the potential increased need they may fill as the nearest neighborhood food bank. The agency is expanding from the home delivery program to include both food bank and home delivery programs. The agency assists clients with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enrollment.	Food Security and Access	No	\$130,000	\$130,000
North Helpline	The application acknowledged the need for food bank services in North Seattle. North Helpline has a client advisory board which provides feedback on policies and practices at the food bank. The agency operates food banks in Bitter Lake and Lake City with weekend and evening hour options.	Food Security and Access	No	\$270,333	\$241,000
Pike Market Senior Center and Food Bank	The application described reaching community members living in extreme poverty at the food bank located in downtown Seattle. It also requested expansion funding for a new home delivery program. The food bank has seen a 53% increase in the first quarter of 2019 since the same time the previous year.	Food Security and Access	No	\$270,000	\$255,000
Puget Sound Labor Agency	The Puget Sound Labor Agency has experienced recent growth in the number of clients served. Funding requested will staff a community connector at the Belltown Food Bank.	Food Security and Access	Yes	\$245,000	\$160,000
Rainier Valley Food Bank	The funding request was for an expansion of the backpack program as well as home delivery, food bank and community connector services.	Food Security and Access	No	\$581,242	\$309,683
Seattle Indian Center	The application requested funding for both food bank and meal programs.	Food Security and Access	No	\$166,536	\$153,541
University District Service League	In addition to the University District location, the application requested funding for a second location operating once a week at North Seattle College. A third location will open in late 2019 at Sand Point. In addition to food bank operations funding will go toward home delivery, backpack and community connector services.	Food Security and Access	No	\$258,470	\$253,470
West Seattle Food Bank	The proposal requested funding for weekend hunger backpacks, community connectors, mobile food, and food banking.	Food Security and Access	No	\$267,053	\$257,053

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	MEAL PROGRAMS				
Community House Mental Health Agency	Funding will go toward the meal program which is the centerpiece of the agency's drop-in peer support program.	Food Security and Access	No	\$61,282	\$53,282
Community Lunch on Capitol Hill	The application highlighted many community partnerships and a strong understanding of communities served. Staff are aware and attentive to the clients' medical needs.	Food Security and Access	No	\$35,000	\$35,000
FareStart	The application described how healthy, culturally appropriate meals will be provided to low income communities. Simultaneously, job training in meal preparation, and culinary arts will be provided to low income adults. Key partnerships with the Seattle Indian Health Board and Downtown Emergency Service Center were highlighted.	Food Security and Access	Yes	\$547,645	\$95,646
Phinney Neighborhood Association	Phinney's Hot Meal Program has been operating in North Seattle for over 20 years. The program provides dinner on Mondays and Tuesdays and lunch on Wednesdays. The application requested funding for ongoing operational needs.	Food Security and Access	No	\$60,000	\$60,000
Recovery Cafe	Eighty-nine percent (89%) of Recovery Café clients have experienced homelessness at some time in their lives. The application described a nutrient-rich meal program that is client-centered, strength-based and restorative. A second location in SODO will open this summer.	Food Security and Access	Yes	\$100,000	\$38,500
Mary's Place	This was one of the few applications which focused on offering services to children. There was also a strong focus on serving the family and offering services to immigrant and refugees. The application noted that the agency actively works to undo institutional racism.	Food Security and Access	Yes	\$285,452	\$96,217
Sound Generations	The Community Dining Program focuses on providing meals to communities and individuals who may experience social, cultural and geographic isolation. The application focused on scratch-made and culturally favored meals. Meals are nutrient dense with added fruits and vegetables. Sodium is reduced.	Food Security and Access	Yes	\$472,761	\$97,232

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	FOOD SYSTEMS AND DISTRIBUTION				
Backpack Brigade	Backpack Brigade provides weekend backpacks to low income students in 24 schools. The application states that it is the largest children's weekend hunger agency in Seattle. Backpack Brigade delivers 872 bags each Friday to Seattle Public School partners.	Food Systems Support and Enhancement	No	\$200,000	\$98,000
Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King County	This agency offers 15 varieties of food bags to food banks and other locations serving low income communities. There is a focus on culturally specific and medically specific food bags. Food bags contain enough food to make six complete meals.	Food Systems Support and Enhancement	No	\$60,000	\$60,000
Hunger Intervention Program (HIP)	The application highlighted the growing need for services in North Seattle. The Healthy Hunger Intervention Pack (HIP) Program provides portable packs which include child-friendly meals to seven sites in North Seattle. There are dairy-free and vegetarian portable pack options.	Food Systems Support and Enhancement	Yes	\$159,044	\$52,485
Operation Sack Lunch (OSL)	In addition to providing direct service, Operation Sack Lunch plays a critical role in the emergency feeding system. This application requested funds for food transportation and distribution services to meals programs as well as city-funded Meals Partnership Coalition staffing.	Food Systems Support and Enhancement	No	\$391,810	\$202,153

Mercy Housing Northwest	Mercy Housing Northwest is a new HSD food partner. The application addressed food security needs for low income residents in housing communities across Seattle. Mercy Housing will provide comprehensive nutrition education through Dinners Made Easy classes, Community Kitchens, SNAP-ED, guest chef workshops, canning workshops and more. The agency will administer a food bank program and transportation of food to low income housing communities.	Food Systems Support and Enhancement	Yes	\$132,586	\$66,293
Lifelong	Lifelong has a commitment to providing nutritionally rich food and meals to homebound, hard-to-serve populations. Some of the meals are medically tailored for people with chronic health conditions. They employ two registered dietitians to oversee meal quality. This year the agency started a client advisory board.	Food Systems Support and Enhancement	No	\$706,315	\$263,632
Solid Ground Washington	The application demonstrated a strong race and social justice analysis. Solid Ground plays a fundamental role in the food system by providing critical transportation and distribution of food from Food Lifeline to food banks across Seattle. The agency also has a history of staffing the Seattle Food Committee. There was strong evidence of private sector matching funds.	Food Systems Support and Enhancement	No	\$570,738	\$372,733
Geographic Specific RFP Set Aside					\$223,191
			Total	\$7,592,870	\$5,023,464