

Policy Campaign to Strengthen Farm-to-Food Bank Programs Through State Funding

Food banks work hard to provide nutritious food, with many adopting policies for what they will and will not accept. Yet, too often, food donated to the charitable food system (CFS) does not align with client preferences for healthy, culturally relevant items. The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) is mobilizing our supporters, coalition partners, and communities to support policies, like Farm-to-Food Bank (FTFB), to increase the amount of nutritious food available to those in need.

FTFB describes the movement of food, either through donation or purchase, directly from farmers to the CFS. FTFB programs provide financial support to farmers to aid in the harvesting, packaging, or transportation of donated agricultural products or direct purchase of crops. The agricultural products provided to the CFS, which are mostly fruits and vegetables, are a highly nutritious source of food. Moreover, fourteen million tons of crops go unharvested annually. The FTFB supply chain is therefore a key opportunity to fight hunger and increase nutritious donations while cutting food waste.

CSPI is seeking to fund a state policy campaign to further strengthen the sustainability and public health impact of FTFB programs. This current funding opportunity is intended to support the planning stages of a policy campaign. CSPI intends to provide additional funds to support the implementation of the campaign in 2023.

CSPI has identified the policy priority of establishing state funding for a FTFB program. This campaign is most likely to succeed in a state that already has an established FTFB program but is not supported by state funding. However, we also invite submissions for other FTFB expansion policy campaigns, as long as they include justification for their importance.

Planning activities proposed for the grant period can include, but are not limited to:

- Community engagement and building stakeholder support
- Developing communications strategy and materials
- Developing a legislative strategy and implementation plan

Applications can be submitted for up to \$30,000 in total costs (project costs + indirect costs, see guidance below) for a duration of up to 6 months. Grant funds cannot support lobbying activities.*

Key Application Priorities

- We are prioritizing applications from the following states, however any state may apply and should provide justification for the need: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma. These states were chosen because they have a FTFB program that is not currently supported by state funding and have the highest rates of food insecurity, number of farms with Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color (BIPOC) producers, and/or highest volumes of unharvested crops.

- We are open to funding campaigns that are at various stages of the policy process, including early-stage campaigns focused on community engagement (such as focus groups or key informant interviews), policy formulation and feedback, advocacy for policy passage, and/or policy implementation. For existing campaigns, applications should describe the community engagement process that has taken place to date and the ways in which the campaign goals and tactics are community-driven and -informed.
- Applications should be from diverse organizations who are either representative of the population for which a policy is focused or are directly partnering with individuals and or community organizations representing the population. If an application is from a non-representative organization, we recommend that a portion of your grant support organizations and/or individuals from communities most impacted by health disparities.
- We are focusing on policies that have the greatest impact to support statewide FTFB, and as such will not accept city- or county-level campaigns for this particular funding opportunity.
- This funding is focused on policy change; therefore, we are unable to fund direct service programs, pilots, and capital projects.

Additional resources for applicants:

- Policy Approaches to Healthier Food Banking:
<https://www.cspinet.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/PolicyApproachestoHealthierFoodBankingFINAL.pdf>

The deadline for proposal submission is Sunday, June 12, 2022, at 11:59PM EST. All proposals should be submitted through CSPI's Online Grant Management System (GMS).

Please note that our application includes references. We recommend starting a draft application in our GMS and inviting your references to provide input as soon as possible to allow ample time for responses. Instructions for this are available in the online application.

For information on how to apply online, please visit our [website](#). More details about our grantmaking are also available in our 2022 Grant Applicant Guide. For any other questions you may have about this specific funding opportunity or our application process in general, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at grants@cspinet.org.

** In recognition of the disproportionate impact of gaps in operational funding for smaller nonprofits, we have implemented a tiered Indirect Cost rate structure:*

- 12% indirect costs for grantees with annual budgets over \$5 million
- 15% indirect costs for grantees with annual budgets of \$1 million up to \$5 million
- 20% indirect costs for grantees with annual budgets under \$1 million