

# Food Security Cooperative Expenditure Grant Solicitation

## Questions and Answers

June 28, 2024

**Q:** Does this opportunity provide budget relief for individual non-profits to apply to their existing food programs?

**A:** Various funding streams will be utilized for each contract based on the statement of work (SOW), and each funding stream will have its own parameters for allowable expenditures. This may include supporting existing programming or starting a new program, but would all be based on a SOW.

**Q:** Does this mean previous master service agreements (MSA), now referred to as cooperative agreements, will sunset or is this a separate opportunity?

**A:** This is being reviewed by the county. If you are a current master service agreement contractor or cooperative agreement contractor, you are encouraged to apply for this opportunity also.

**Q:** Can you give us examples of providing culturally and medically appropriate foods?

**A:** Culturally and medically appropriate foods are desirable, health-promoting or relevant choices to community members based on their dietary restrictions, cultural interests or religious guidelines.

**Q:** How do other departments in Ramsey County learn about the open contracts that can help achieve their goals?

**A:** The Food Security Coordinator organizes efforts across the county. After the solicitation closes, county departments and staff will be notified and trained on the process for creating statements of work (SOWs) and identifying eligible grantees.

Q: What is an overview of what you are looking for in a contracting organization?

A: Organizations must meet both of the following requirements to be eligible:

- Applicants must have at least three years in operation as a food shelf or pantry, food bank, backpack program or unprepared meal program.
- Applicants must be a registered organization with the Minnesota Secretary of State or have a relationship with a fiscal agent or be a recognized tribal nation.

The solicitation, application, all deadlines and other important information [are available on the webpage](#).

Q: Will all contracts include staff capacity and transport funding to help organizations meet the community needs?

A: Different funding sources may be used for each contract based on the statement of work (SOW) and each may have its own rules for allowable expenditures. There is room for negotiation based on the particular funding sources and SOW.