

Nourishing Neighbors

2021 RFP FAQ's

Q. Can organizations apply for both Summer Meals and Connecting Families and Children to Federal Programs Grant?

A: Yes, organizations can apply for both. You will be asked to provide an invitation code in the application please use the below:

- SUMMERMEALS2021 for the Summer Meals Grants
- FEDERALMEALS2021 for Connecting Families and Children to Federal Programs Grants

Q: How much should we ask for? What are the general parameters of what is “acceptable”?

A: We generally ask organizations to request the amount that is needed to adequately fund their efforts and proposed needs. Grant can be made up to \$100,000 each for both grants.

Q: What is the time period of the grant?

A: The Summer Meals Grant will cover June-December 2021. The Connecting Families and Children to Federal Programs Grant will cover one year from the award date.

Q: Since the Summer Meals Grant fund is available through December 31, 2021, can it be used for more than summer feeding?

A: The Summer Meals funds are intended for the summer until September 1. The grant timeline is to give a bit of flexibility to those who are unable to expend the funds in time due to unforeseen circumstances.

Q: Are food distribution efforts including emergency food boxes are qualified for the Summer Meals grant?

A: Yes, food boxes would qualify and be eligible for this grant.

Q: What kind of programs qualify for the Federal Meals Program grant?

A: Through this grant we are hoping to support organizations that are helping enroll families and children to federal meals programs. Any programs that are connecting families and children to federal meal programs either through direct enrollment process, or advocacy and outreach or by any other innovative means are eligible to apply.

Q: When will I receive my funds?

A: If you did not have a nominator, your funds will be received before the end of June. If you were nominated by one of our National Partners (FRAC, Feeding America, Why Hunger or Hunger Free America), you will receive the funds through them.

Q: Do we need to submit a report for this grant?

A: We do not anticipate any reporting required at this time. We do love photos and stories that you may want to share. If you have any good photos or stories, please forward them along! We love reading stories and hearing about all the wonderful work that you are doing to help the community!

Q: Are there any budget stipulations with this funding?

A: We do not have any budget stipulations and do not request a budget. All we ask is that funds are restricted to whatever the nonprofit or school needs to feed kids this summer and connect families and children to federal meal programs. We believe your organization knows best how to allocate funds provided and will ask you to do that without mandating a specific overhead allotment.

Q: Is it better to apply for the program we have been funded for or should we consider applying for a new program?

A: That is completely up to you. If the program is working and funding still needed, then I would recommend continuing with the current program. If you wish to try something new or feel that the program has run its course, then a new program might be better. Please apply for whatever is best for your organization.

Q: Would a research grant/survey qualify?

A: Yes, this is within scope if it is focused specifically on breakfast.

Q: Are grant award funds able to be re-granted to community partners? Example, if we wanted to increase access to breakfast programs and could offer schools and summer feeding programs a small grant to start or expand their breakfast program.

A: Yes, we do consider re-granting applications.

Q: Is there an Impact Genome portion of the application this year? A: No, the questions are integrated into the Versaic application.

Q: Can my organization fill out the short application?

A: There is no long or short application. There is only one for everyone.

Q: We are working state-wide and our work encompasses all schools in our state. Which areas do I select?

A: If your organization is working in all areas in a state, please select all stores in that state where there are kids and families that will benefit from your work.

Q: How do I define my area?

A: Your area is the geographic area where the people you serve live. To determine if a store is encompassed by your work, we typically use a 5-mile reach outside of our stores. However, we recognize that this distance doesn't make sense in some rural areas. Here's how we think about it: If

your project is working with people who have our stores in their consideration set for where to shop, we would consider you working in our neighborhood.

Q: Should our work focus narrowly on the five communities that have stores or can we focus on a broader region/statewide (which would include those communities)?

A: Our funding is specifically meant to benefit the areas where we have stores. As much as possible, please propose projects that will benefit those areas.

Q: We are a national organization that covers all your stores. Should we select every store? A: You can, but we don't recommend it. We recommend that you select a specific geographic area where you have a stronghold and concentrate your application on that area. A good guide is to use the "division" filter on the spreadsheet and select one single area.

Q: We were nominated by several national organizations and will select one. What is the benefit of selecting one over the other?

A: This is completely up to you. If you select a national organization, your funds will come from them and they will provide notices etc. to you regarding the reports due etc. They also can be helpful with any technical questions and needs you may have. Other organizations prefer to work directly with us and receive their check directly. Either way, you will receive 100% of the funds raised for your organization.

Q: Our grant request for Nourishing Neighbors fund was turned down. Can I still apply?

A: Yes. Please remember applications are not usually declined because they are "bad" applications. It is a very challenging decision to make as we do not want to say 'No' to all the good work that organizations are doing to help the community especially during these times. We receive a lot more requests than our grant budget allows us to fund. As long as your focus is on feeding families and individuals in need; and if you serve communities where our stores are located, you are welcome to apply again.

Q: Do I have to purchase materials/and or items at Albertsons stores?

A: No, you do not need to purchase items at our stores. We would prefer, however, that if you are shopping at a typical retail store, you shop with us rather than using these funds to buy materials at one of our competitors.

Q: Can we use the funds to purchase gift cards at your stores rather than traditional method of delivering food?

A: Yes, but please note we do not allow virtual gift cards in our stores. We do have a method for purchasing bulky physical gift cards at a discount. If you would like to purchase gift cards, please free to contact CSC. Their number is 877-723-3929, option #4 or email is GCorders@albertsons.com.

Q: Do we have to use the funds to purchase gift cards?

A: No. Our bulk program is an option, but not a requirement. Our bulk program is super simple, and we also will extend a 5% discount so that puts even more funds in the hands of those that need the assistance.

Q: My email doesn't work and I wasn't sent a password. Can you set up a new account for me?

A: Each grant writer at each organization will need to set up an account. Please select the "create account" button to create a new account.

Q: Can I set up a time to call you and go over my application before I submit?

A: Unfortunately, no. I wish I could, but we have invited hundreds of organizations to apply across the country and we simply cannot speak to each group individually. We will contact you if we have any questions at all regarding your application.

Your question is not included? Please feel free to contact Anjana Bhattarai at Anjana.bhattarai@albertsons.com.