

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 197-EH

Diverting Prepared Food from Landfills, Reducing Greenhouse Gases

Category: H. Proposals seeking \$200,000 or less in funding

Sub-Category: E. Air Quality, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy

Total Project Budget: \$ 65,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2021 (2 yrs)

Summary:

This project will build the capacity of our Prepared Foods Donation Program, which will collect food from restaurants and prevent food from going to landfills, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Name: April Rog

Sponsoring Organization: Second Harvest Heartland

Title: Director of Food Rescue

Department: N/A

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St. Paul MN 55109-2020

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Location

Region: Metro

County Name: Hennepin

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

This document outlines the process and impacts of the Prepared Foods Donation Program.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge Base	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extent of Impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific/Tech Basis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urgency	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capacity Readiness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leverage	<input type="checkbox"/>		TOTAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	%
<input type="checkbox"/> If under \$200,000, waive presentation?								



PROJECT TITLE: Diverting Prepared Food from Landfills, Reducing Greenhouse Gases

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Through this project, Second Harvest Heartland seeks to collect donations of prepared, ready-to-eat foods and send these items to area food pantries and meal programs. These unsold, ready-to-eat foods are available for us to collect at coffee shops, restaurants, hotels, catering companies, “hot food” grocery departments, and other food service businesses. Staff members and/or trained volunteers will visit the businesses to pick up the foods, package them appropriately, and deliver them to food pantries and meal programs.

Like many food banks across the nation, our food bank has not pursued these ready-to-eat donation opportunities at significant scale due to logistical and safety concerns. This is because many of the foods available for donation are served hot, or are not packaged in ways that allow for simple donation opportunities. However, our food bank and others have conducted small-scale pilot projects related to prepared food donations, and we have now gained significant information about best practices. This includes collecting thousands of pounds of food from Super Bowl and NFL-related events within a two-week period in January and February 2018 as part of a major test pilot strategy. Feeding America—the national network of food banks of which our food bank and 200 others across the country are part—has also conducted evaluation, and reviewed and disseminated best practices in prepared food donation. Because of these advances, we are now ready to begin collecting prepared food donations at a substantial scale in 2019.

Our service area includes 41 counties in southern and western portions of the state including the entirety of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area; and communities including St. Cloud, Mankato, Hutchinson, Marshall, Willmar and Worthington. Regarding our broader food collection efforts, each year our current Retail Food Rescue Program collects millions of pounds of fresh foods that are nearing sell-by dates, and distributes them to food pantries and meal programs. This serves the dual purpose of providing hungry people with fresh and nutritious foods, and it keeps organic foods out of landfills. Through this grant proposal, we seek to complement and expand these efforts by building the capacity of our prepared food rescue program in 2019. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s 2013 Statewide Waste Characterization study, food accounts for 17.8% of all waste sent to solid waste facilities in our state. The report notes that the Project Team identified food waste as a top potential diversion opportunity; with 519,400 tons of food waste available for diversion annually.

Our proposed project addresses air quality and climate change in Minnesota by reducing methane emissions. A September 16, 2015 press release from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes, “Food loss and waste is the single largest component of disposed U.S. municipal solid waste, and accounts for a significant portion of U.S. methane emissions, which fuel climate change. This large volume of wasted food is a main contributor to the roughly 18 percent of total U.S. methane emissions that come from landfills. Landfills are the third largest source of methane in the United States.” Analysis from the Boston Consulting Group indicates that our food bank has potential to divert 8 million pounds of prepared, ready-to-eat foods that are available, but not being currently donated, at Minnesota food service businesses each year. The goal of our project is to improve air quality and reduce climate change impacts through the diversion 160,000 pounds of food from food service partners in the Twin Cities metro area. Specifically, grant funds will be utilized over the course of 12 months to provide for a metro-area Emerging Food Streams Developer. As a result, we will be better prepared to fully integrate a Prepared Food Donation program into our long-term food sourcing operations.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Utilize the skills of an Emerging Food Streams Developer to engage food pantries and meal programs to successfully accept donations of prepared foods.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$32,500 (or ½ of position salary)

Outcome	Completion Date
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**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2019 Main Proposal**

1. Identify food pantries and meal programs that are good candidates for program participation, based on organization size, staff and volunteer readiness and available space and equipment.	09/30/2019
2. Train 12 food pantries and/or meal programs for program participation, including strategies for receiving 160,000 pounds of collected foods and serving them to clients during the 12-month grant period.	12/30/2019
3. Provide ongoing training, monitoring and technical assistance to the participating organizations to ensure food safety, successful program implementation and program satisfaction.	06/30/2020

Activity 2: Utilize the skills of an Emerging Food Streams Developer to engage coffee shops, restaurants, hotels, catering companies, “hot food” grocery departments, and other food service businesses to successfully donate prepared foods.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$32,500 (or ½ of position salary)

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Identify food-serving businesses that are good candidates for program participation, based on location, quantities and types of food likely to be available, staff readiness and hours of operation.	09/30/2019
2. Train 20 businesses for program participation, including strategies for preparing food for donation and ensuring its safety to enable the donation of 160,000 pounds of food total over the 12-month grant period.	12/30/2019
3. Provide ongoing training, monitoring and technical assistance to the food donors to ensure food safety, successful program implementation and program satisfaction.	06/30/2020

III. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
N/A			

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
1. Food Donors			Inform Second Harvest Heartland of food available for collection, and prepare food for collection according to program standards.
2. Food pantries and meal programs receiving food donations collected through this program			Receive donated food and use it to feed clients.

IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING: Expansion of our prepared food collection and distribution program has been included in our annual program plans for fiscal year 2018, and will be included in plans for 2019 and 2020. The strategy was identified as priority for our organization after evaluation from the Boston Consulting Group. The strategy has also been identified as having significant potential for expansion by the Feeding America network of food banks to which we belong. Regarding future funding, the program will be supported through a combination of public and private grants, major gifts, contributions from individuals, cause marketing campaigns, special fundraising events and earned revenue.

V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS: The proposed activities will be implemented from 07/01/2019 – 06/30/2020.

2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Diverting Prepared Food from Landfills, Reducing Greenhouse Gases

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET - 1 year

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	AMOUNT
Personnel: 1.0 FTE Emerging Food Streams Developer @ \$50,000 annually + \$15,000 benefits/fringe (calculated at 0.30 of salary)	\$ 65,000
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$ -
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ -
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	\$ -
Travel:	\$ -
Additional Budget Items:	\$ -
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 65,000

V. OTHER FUNDS *(This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)*

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: N/A	\$ -	
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: N/A	\$ -	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: N/A	\$ -	
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation: N/A	\$ -	
Other Funding History: N/A	\$ -	



Reducing greenhouse gasses by

Gaining donations of prepared foods

From restaurants, hotels, catering companies & related businesses

- ***To help feed hungry Minnesotans and***
- ***Prevent food from being disposed in landfills***

The Opportunity

Each year, food businesses in Minnesota prepare millions of pounds of food to sell to hungry customers. These businesses include restaurants, hotels, catering companies, deli departments at grocery stores, and related types of businesses.

Not all of this food is sold. In fact, large portions are thrown out, to be disposed in our state's landfills. What if businesses could donate their unsold prepared food, so that they wouldn't have to throw it out, and they could feed hungry people instead? Research completed for our food bank indicates that 8 million pounds of prepared foods are available for donation annually in Minnesota.

As a food bank, Second Harvest Heartland is a regional expert in securing vast amounts of donated food. We have well-established processes in place for sourcing donations of shelf-stable foods, fresh produce from farms, and food donated by grocery stores.

Gaining donations of hot and prepared foods, and making arrangements for this food to be given to hungry people in the community, is relatively new for our organization. We recently completed a pilot project with Hyatt hotels. We also implemented a very successful prepared food collection program as part of the 2018 Super Bowl festivities. In addition, the national Feeding America organization (we are 1 of 200 food bank members) has developed best practices in sourcing, handling and distributing prepared food donations. We will leverage this expertise in our proposed project.

This project will allow us to bring a prepared food donation program to scale. Grant funds will be used to pay the salary and benefits of a program staff person (Emerging Food Streams Developer). The staff person will secure food donations, and develop partnerships with the donors. The staff person will also assist the agencies that receive the food. The donated food will be transported to nearby food pantries and meal programs so that it can be given to low-income people in need of food assistance.

Our Plan

This project will produce the following outcomes:

- 160,000 lbs. of prepared food donations secured during the 1-year grant period.
- Reduced organic food waste being placed in Minnesota landfills.
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions because less food waste will be placed in landfills.
- Increased amounts of food for hungry and food-insecure Minnesotans.
- The establishment of a framework for ongoing operations of this program, including forming of new partnerships with prepared food donors and agencies that will give the donated food to their clients.

The Impact

SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND:

PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS AND ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

April 2018

Project Manager Qualifications:

April Rog serves as Director of Food Rescue at Second Harvest Heartland. In her role, she oversees a Program Manager, 3 additional staff members and an annual program budget of more than \$1.8 million. She began her career at Second Harvest Heartland in 2010, when she was initially hired as a Developer to secure donations of fresh foods from grocery stores. Since that time, the program has grown from obtaining a very small amount of food to more than 1/3 of all food distributed by our food bank each year. April brings a wealth of experience from the retail grocery sector, having worked 8 years for Cub Foods, including as a Produce Manager. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Geography from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities.

As project manager, April will supervise the assigned staff person, oversee all grant expenditures, and ensure program progress over the course of the grant period. In addition, she will manage the data collection and reporting functions. April is regularly called upon to present at national conferences about best practices in collecting food donations in retail environments, and to assist in the development of guidebooks and tools that help food banks across the country to implement similar programs.

Organization Description:

With a mission of ending hunger through community partnerships, Second Harvest Heartland serves as a high-volume food bank and hunger relief leader for our region. The organization was created in 2001 as a result of a merger between the Greater Minneapolis Food Bank and Second Harvest Food Bank of Saint Paul. Prior to the merger, the two food banks had operated for a combined 44 years. Our food bank currently serves 41 counties in Minnesota and 18 counties in Wisconsin, an area that includes the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Second Harvest Heartland currently ranks among the largest members of Feeding America, which is a network of 200 food banks throughout the nation.

Our organization has grown from distributing 30 million pounds of food in 2007 to 93.5 million pounds (or over 77 million meals) in 2017. For the second year in a row, the majority of food we distributed was fresh items such as fruits, vegetables, meat, bakery, and dairy items. We meet all standards of the Charities Review Council. Reflecting the efficiency of Second Harvest Heartland's operations, Second Harvest Heartland applies 94% of every donation directly to our programs. In December 2016, the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Report on Homelessness and Hunger recognized Second Harvest Heartland in the category of "Exemplary Programs that Respond to Hunger."

Our long term goal is to ensure that there is sufficient food in the hunger relief system to end hunger. Second Harvest Heartland is the Upper Midwest's largest hunger relief organization, and is nationally recognized for efficiency and innovative practices. We find, procure, and bank food; distribute food to those in need; and serve as a hunger relief leader through innovative outreach, research, and advocacy. We serve approximately 532,000 individuals each year. More than 33% are children under age 18, and 10% are individuals over the age of 60.