

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2020 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 199-EH

Diverting Unsold 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: \$ 130,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2022 (2 yrs)

Summary:

This project will help us expand a Prepared Foods Donation Program, which will source food donations from restaurants and prevent food from going to landfills; thereby reducing greenhouse gas emission.

Name: April Rog

Sponsoring Organization: Second Harvest Heartland

Job Title: Director of Food Rescue

Department: _____

Address: 1140 Gervais Avenue

St. Paul MN 55109

Telephone Number: (651) 282-0876

Email aroq@2harvest.org

Web Address: www.2harvest.org

Location:

Region: Metro

County Name: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

An Infographic about the Prepared Food Donation Program; including the opportunity, our plan and expected environmental impact.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| _____ Funding Priorities | _____ Multiple Benefits | _____ Outcomes | _____ Knowledge Base |
| _____ Extent of Impact | _____ Innovation | _____ Scientific/Tech Basis | _____ Urgency |
| _____ Capacity | _____ Readiness | _____ Leverage | _____ TOTAL _____% |
| | | | |



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2020 Main Proposal Template

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

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Through this project, Second Harvest Heartland will:

- Reduce greenhouse gases and
- Improve air quality

by reducing the amount of food sent to Minnesota landfills.

Through our project, we will collect donations of prepared, ready-to-eat foods and send these items to area food pantries and meal programs. These unsold foods are available for us to collect at corporate cafeterias, 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 free meal programs.

Without our program, these businesses will send this unsold food to landfills. 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 each year. Specifically, grant funds will be utilized to provide for a metro-area Emerging Food Streams Developer to implement this program.

In our program, will train and supervise volunteers to collect and deliver the prepared food donations utilizing an app available on their cell phones—MealConnect. The app was developed by Feeding America, the national network of food banks to which Second Harvest Heartland belongs, to bring efficiency to the donation process.

Our project will take place in the Twin Cities metro area. As an organization, 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. In future years, we expect to expand our program beyond the Twin Cities to communities throughout our service area.

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: \$65,000 (or ½ of 1.0 position salary/benefits for each of two years)

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|---------|-----------------|
|---------|-----------------|



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2020 Main Proposal Template

| | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Identify a large pool of potential food pantries and meal programs for potential program participation. | 09/30/2020 |
| 2. Select and train 12 food pantries and/or meal programs to participate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train them to use the MealConnect platform • These partners will receive 160,000 pounds of donated food for each of 2 years (320,000 pounds total over 2 years). | 12/30/2020 |
| 3. To ensure food safety and successful program implementation, provide the following to the 12 food pantries and meal programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring for program compliance • Technical assistance and support | 06/30/2022 |

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

ENRTF BUDGET: \$65,000 (or ½ of 1.0 position salary/benefits for each of two years)

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Identify a large pool of food-serving businesses for potential program participation. | 09/30/2020 |
| 2. Select and train 20 businesses to participate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train them to use the MealConnect platform • Teach them to prepare food for donation and ensure its safety and quality • These partners will donate 160,000 pounds of food each of 2 years (320,000 pounds total over 2 years.) | 12/30/2020 |
| 3. To ensure food safety and successful program implementation, provide the following to the 20 businesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring for program compliance • Technical assistance and support | 06/30/2022 |

III. PROJECT PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS:

Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

| Name | Title | Affiliation | Role |
|--|-------|-------------|---|
| 1. 20 food donors making donations of food through this program. | | | Inform Second Harvest Heartland of food available for collection, through MealConnect or by contacting our staff members, and prepare food for collection according to program standards. |
| 2. 12 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 2019, and will be included in plans for 2020, 2021 and 2022. 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.

Attachment A: Project Budget Spreadsheet
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 M.L. 2020 Budget Spreadsheet

Legal Citation:

Project Manager: April Rog

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

Organization: Second Harvest Heartland

Project Budget: \$ 130,000

Project Length and Completion Date:

Today's Date:



| ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET | | Budget | Amount Spent | Balance |
|---|---|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| BUDGET ITEM | | | | |
| Personnel (Wages and Benefits) | | \$ 130,000 | \$ - | \$ 130,000 |
| 1.0 FTE Emerging Food Streams Developer @ \$51,600 annually + \$13,400 benefits/fringe/payroll taxes calculated at 0.26 of salary x 2 years | | | | |
| Professional/Technical/Service Contracts | | | | |
| | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Equipment/Tools/Supplies | | | | |
| | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000 | | | | |
| | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Fee Title Acquisition | | | | |
| | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Easement Acquisition | | | | |
| | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Professional Services for Acquisition | | | | |
| | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Printing | | | | |
| | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Travel expenses in Minnesota | | | | |
| | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Other | | | | |
| | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| COLUMN TOTAL | | \$ 130,000 | \$ - | \$ 130,000 |
| | | | | |
| SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT | Status (secured or pending) | Budget | Spent | Balance |
| Non-State: | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| State: | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| In kind: | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| | | | | |
| Other ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS | Amount legally obligated but not yet spent | Budget | Spent | Balance |
| | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |



Reducing greenhouse gasses by

Gaining donations of prepared foods

From restaurants, hotels, catering companies & related businesses

- *To prevent food from being disposed in landfills*
- *And help feed hungry Minnesotans*

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.

Our Plan

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.

The Impact

This project will produce the following outcomes:

- Reduced organic food waste being placed in Minnesota landfills.
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions because less food waste will be placed in landfills.
- 160,000 lbs. of prepared food donations secured each year of the grant period.
- 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 20 prepared food donors and 12 agencies that will give the donated food to their clients.

SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND:

PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS AND ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

April 2019

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 103 million pounds in 2018. The majority of food we distributed (60%) 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.