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

**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.