

**Kane County ARPA SLFRF Working Group
Nourishing Lives: Kane County Food Access Initiatives
Considerations for Notice of Funding Opportunity**

Notice of Funding Opportunity Community Support Grants *(Competitive)*

Description: This document will serve as the public funding announcement and should be consistent with the requirements per [2 CFR 200.204](#)

Program Title: Nourishing Lives: Kane County Food Access Initiatives

Assistance Listing: Assistance Listing Program Title is CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS and Assistance Listing Number is 21.027

Key Dates: Cost allowability period January 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026; Application opening date of 10/28/2024, closing date of 11/06/2024 at 11:59pm CST.

Availability Period: 10 days

Funding Availability: \$150,000, eligible organizations can apply for between \$25,000 and \$150,000. There will likely be 1-2 awardees.

Program Description

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated food insecurity overall, but especially among low-income low access (LILA) communities. The disruption to food supply chains, economic instability, and increased health risks have left many individuals struggling to access sufficient, healthy food. Food access and nutrition have a profound impact on behavioral health outcomes, and this relationship became even more pronounced during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are just a few of the ways that food access and nutrition relate to behavioral health outcomes in communities post COVID:

- **Increased Food Insecurity and Stress:** Many people lost jobs or experienced reduced incomes during the pandemic, which led individuals and families experiencing constant, prolonged stress and anxiety about where their next meal would be coming from. Chronic stress is a known risk factor for poor mental health. Food insecurity has been linked to depression, anxiety and other mental health issues.
- **Nutrition and Brain Function:** Poor nutrition can impair brain development and function, leading to an increased risk of physical and behavioral health issues, especially in the youngest and oldest populations. Lack of access to nutritious foods has been linked to long-term learning difficulties, cognitive impairment, and social problems.
- **Diet-Related Health issues and Behavioral Health:** The pandemic heightened the prevalence of chronic, diet-driven diseases like obesity, diabetes and heart disease. These conditions are strongly linked to poor mental health outcomes like depression and anxiety. Emotional eating also became a common coping mechanism during the pandemic, leading to poor nutritional choices, weight gain, and lowered self-esteem.
- **Community-Level Effects:** The vast racial and socioeconomic disparities in access to healthy food were worsened during the pandemic due to supply chain disruptions for healthy food.

Social isolation was also heightened during the pandemic because communal food practices and support from community kitchens was interrupted.

Kane County Health Department will award up to \$150,000 to eligible organizations to support food access/nutrition programs for Kane County residents. This funding is intended to assist community-based organizations in developing and expanding solutions that directly address the challenges brought on by the pandemic, particularly for low-income residents and families at risk of food insecurity. Funding is available to support programmatic expenses, staffing and operational expenses. Organizations may apply together or separately for funds that support eligible collaborative projects.

The Nourishing Lives: Kane County Food Access Program will support a variety of activities designed to address the food access and nutrition needs of residents impacted by the pandemic. These activities may include, but are not limited to:

Nutrition and Food Access Interventions, considered standalone outside of joint room and board interventions:

- Case management services for access to food/nutrition, including, for example outreach and education and/or linkages to other state and federal benefit programs, benefit program application assistance, and benefit program application fees.
- Nutrition counseling and instruction, tailored to health risk, nutrition-sensitive health conditions, and/or demonstrated outcome improvement, including guidance on selecting healthy food and meal preparation.
- Home delivered meals, medically tailored meals, or pantry stocking.
- Nutrition prescriptions, tailored to health risk, certain nutrition-sensitive health conditions and/or demonstrated outcome improvement, including, for example, fruit and vegetable prescriptions, protein box prescriptions, food pharmacies, and/or healthy food vouchers. Individuals who receive nutrition prescriptions cannot concurrently receive other nutritional HRSN services.
- Grocery provisions, for high-risk individuals to avoid unnecessary acute care admission or institutionalization.

All awards under this Program shall be issued as grants and shall be disbursed to grantees on a reimbursement basis.

Grantees will be expected to enter into a funding agreement with Kane County and shall be required to present appropriate documentation to substantiate their request(s) for reimbursement. All awarded grant funds must be spent before September 30, 2026. Any organization requesting an extension for grant fund expenditure must submit such request to the American Rescue Plan Committee in writing thirty (30) days prior to September 30, 2026.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for assistance under this Program, organizations must meet the following criteria:

- Be fully incorporated and operating as a one of the following organizations as of Jan 1, 2019:
 - State and Local Government Agencies

- 501(c)3 Non-profit organization
 - Tribal Organization
 - Community-based organization
 - Academic Institution
 - Healthcare Provider
- Deliver services from a facility that is physically located within Kane County.
 - Provide, as its primary mission, services and/or aid to Kane County residents in the areas of food and nutrition access.
 - Be in good standing with all applicable federal, state, and local standards and requirements.

Eligible Expenses

Expense Type	Description	Detailed Description
Programmatic Expenses	Expenses related to the operation of programs.	Programmatic Expenses. This may include costs associated with the operation of the programs that the County has approved grant funding for.
Operational Expenses	Expenses related to the operation of organizations	Operational expenses. This may include non-C-suite payroll, contracted labor such as staffing agencies, and goods and services required for operation.
Rent/Mortgage	Rent/mortgage payments for the physical place of business, limited to unpaid rent/mortgage	Rent and mortgage payments at locations where your organization is serving Kane County clients. This may include, rent, lease, and mortgage payments. Acquisition of real property is not allowed.

Application Requirements

Interested organizations must submit a complete application, which includes the following:

1. Cover Letter: Briefly introduce your organization and describe why you are seeking funding.
2. Project Narrative (max 5 pages).
3. Overview of the food access initiative, including project goals, target population, and specific COVID-related housing challenges.
4. Explanation of how the project will benefit low-income residents and address housing insecurity exacerbated by the pandemic. Indicate how many residents will be impacted by the project.
5. Proposed partnerships or collaborations with other community stakeholders.
6. Implementation Plan: Detailed timeline of activities, responsible parties, and key milestones.
7. Budget and Budget Narrative: Outline how the grant funds will be spent, including a breakdown of project costs and justifications for each expense. Applicants should provide combined estimates of eligible costs incurred between September 1, 2024, and September 30, 2026. Indicate if the program could be implemented if only partial funding was awarded.
8. Evaluation Plan: Outline the metrics for success, including the expected impact on affordable housing and how the organization will track and report on outcomes.

9. Organizational Capacity: Include an overview of the organization's experience with access to food and nutrition projects, and a description of staff qualifications.

Selection Criteria and Application Evaluation Metrics

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Proposal Evaluation Criteria and Rating System:

1. Organizational Background (20 points)

- 20: Extensive Experience (5+ years), demonstrated success working in the community
- 10: Good experience (3-5 years), some evidence of past success addressing needs in the community.
- 5: Limited experience (under 1 year), minimal evidence of past work.
- 0: no relevant experience

2. Program Plan (50 Points)

- 50: Clearly and concisely describes need, program implementation, timeline, key performance outcomes, and evaluation methods
- 25: Defines plan but lacks clarity and performance outcomes/metrics and/or evaluation methods
- 10: Plan is unclear and incomplete
- 0: Plan is not sufficient

3. Budget (30 Points)

- 30: Budget is highly detailed, reasonable, and cost-effective with a clear, achievable timeline including specific milestones.
- 20: Detailed budget with minor gaps, generally cost-effective, timeline is feasible with a few minor concerns.
- 10: Budget is incomplete or lacks rational, timeline is vague or unrealistic.
- 0: No budget or timeline provided.

Total Possible Points: 100

This evaluation criteria and rating system assess proposals on their organization background, proposed approach, staff qualifications, and the combined budget and timeline to effectively serve our county.

Application Preparation & Submission: Proposals must be submitted electronically to Kim Peterson, Director of Community Health, Kane County Health Department petersonkim@kanecountyil.gov . Please include **Nourishing Lives: Kane County Food Access Initiatives** in the email subject line. Late submissions will not be considered.

Appeals: If your application is deemed ineligible, an appeal may be submitted to the Kane County ARP Program Manager within three (3) calendar days of notification to KaneARPA@co.kane.il.us. Appeals must be on organizational letterhead and signed by an authorized representative of the applicant. Information should include a description of how your organization meets the eligibility requirements and any supporting documentation you deem relevant. Awarded amounts are considered final and the County will not consider appeals requests for awarded amounts.