Food Recovery Infrastructure RFP

Information Session & Applicant Guide for designing, building, strengthening, and maintaining a countywide food recovery system.

TOTAL FUNDING POOL	ANTICIPATED AWARDS	GRANT RANGE	SUBMISSION DEADLINE
$500,000	**Up to 20 Grants**	**$25K – $50K**	**Oct 1, 2026 (5 PM PT)**

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Purpose and Program Mission

Building Countywide Infrastructure

The Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) invites proposals to design, strengthen, and maintain durable systems for surplus edible food recovery across Alameda County.

Food recovery captures **surplus edible meals and groceries from restaurants, cafeterias, and grocers for human consumption**—curbing waste, advancing environmental goals, and expanding food security.



Funding Overview and Scope

$500K

Total Grant Pool

Disbursed across two fiscal cycles: FY 2026–27 and FY 2027–28, with individual schedules negotiated per grantee.

Up to 20

Selected Awards

Awards will range between $25,000 and $50,000 each to build capacity and long-term sustainability at a systems level.

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Performance Period

Multi-year timeframe to acquire equipment, scale food rescue partnerships, and integrate durable logistics.

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Permitted Uses of Funds

Funding Category	Allowable Use	Key Guidelines & Scope
Storage & Facilities	Eligible Use	Storage expansion, cold holding, warehousing, and facility upgrades for recovered food.
Refrigerated Transport	Eligible Use	Acquiring and maintaining refrigerated vans, transport vehicles, and cool-chain logistics.
Processing & Equipment	Eligible Use	Food processing equipment, repackaging, and implementing stringent safety protocols.
Program Administration	Max 50% of 1 FTE	Direct implementation staffing. Cannot fund staff positions beyond 50% of an FTE.
Volunteer Stipends	Prohibited	Grant funds cannot be spent on compensating or providing stipends to volunteers.

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Applicant Eligibility Criteria

Organizational Status

- **501(c)(3) Nonprofits:** Tax-exempt nonprofit organizations in good standing with the IRS.
- **Faith-Based Organizations:** Eligible to apply, including programs coordinated by faith institutions.
- **Public Agencies:** Local municipal, county, or special district public entities.
- **Fiscal Sponsorship:** Projects operating under a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor are fully accepted.

Service & Geography

- **Headquarters Requirement:** Applicant organization must maintain its headquarters within Alameda County.
- **Primary Service Focus:** Must primarily serve Alameda County residents and local businesses.
- **Non-Supplanting Rule:** Awarded grant funds must not replace or supplant existing organizational funding.

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Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Underserved Areas

Ability to implement recovery in underserved regions, like the Tri-Valley, unincorporated areas, and gaps in current rescue routes.

Active Partnerships

Established current partnerships with at least two (2) verified food pick-up locations (e.g., grocers, cafeterias) throughout the county.

Capacity & Longevity

Extent to which the proposal builds durable systems-level capacity and demonstrates a feasible plan to sustain operations post-grant.

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Payment by Milestone

The Measure W Grants Program is structured as **Payment by Milestone** in compliance with the County regulations. Five (5) distinct payments will be disbursed over the 18-month life of the grant:

10%	25%	30%	25%	10%
Advance Payment	Activity Plan Completion	Midterm Report Completion	Specific Grant Goals Achieved	Final Report Completion

Please take this milestone disbursement schedule into consideration as you develop your Detailed Two-Year Project Budget.

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Grant Reporting Requirements

Financial Reporting

- **Dedicated Expense Code:** All grantees must set up a dedicated accounting expense code for all grant-related costs.
- **Monthly Expense Reports:** Monthly submission of itemized expense reports with complete receipts and supporting documentation.
- **Record Retention:** All financial and operational records must be retained for a minimum of five (5) years after final closeout

Programmatic Reporting

- **Monthly Metrics Reports:** Track and submit progress data against agreed target goals (e.g., pounds rescued, sites served).
- **Midterm Narrative Report:** Comprehensive review detailing initial progress, success stories, challenges, and course corrections.
- **Final Narrative Report:** Summative evaluation of accomplishments, capacity expansion, and ongoing sustainability plans.

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Selection Process and Milestones

SEPT 1, 2026

RFP Released

Formal publication of grant guidelines and application portal.

SEPT 11, 2026

Q&A Webinar

Live technical assistance session (12:00–1:30 PM PT).

OCT 1, 2026

Submission Due

Final deadline at 5:00 PM PT sharp. Late entries not accepted.

MID-OCT 2026

Panel Review

Independent evaluation by ACCFB and community partners.

NOV 2026

Award Notices

Execution of grant contracts and orientation onboarding.

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Questions & Applicant Contacts

Grantees will maintain dedicated expense codes, submit monthly financial & metrics reports, plus midterm and final narratives. Contact the team for guidance:

For Questions Email:

MeasureWRFP@oaklandthrives.org

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