



Project Bread – Community Partnerships Program Request for Proposals

Project Bread is launching a targeted Community Partnerships Program to organizations in selected communities across the state serving communities disproportionately impacted by this public health crisis. These are unrestricted grants for organizations.

Prior to COVID-19, hunger disproportionately impacted people of color. Food insecurity itself is an economic condition born out of economic inequities. COVID-19 has exposed racial inequities across the board, exacerbating access to food. Hunger in communities of color has skyrocketed. Now, one-third of Black Americans and Hispanic Americans report feeling worried about their next meal. This is roughly twice the rate of food insecurity experienced by whites, and the numbers are even higher among families with children. We recognize that hunger is both a consequence and perpetuating agent of economic inequity and health disparities.

Project Bread also recognizes that the majority of anti-hunger work in our state, and nationally, is built on a charity model that puts white individuals in the helping role, with the power to decide which solutions are implemented and how service will be delivered. Our organization focuses on the federal nutrition programs as a central solution, namely because of their ability to scale and their current underutilization, but we recognize that these programs have been created and implemented without sufficiently taking into account the perspective of the person who is seeking food assistance.

Project Bread is committed to addressing underlying inequities that contribute to food insecurity and in food access itself, and in order to do so, we need to consistently listen and learn from the communities most impacted by food insecurity. We need to help empower communities to inform the development and implementation of research, programs, and policies.

The goal of this grant program is to establish a meaningful partnership between Project Bread and organizations working in communities – either defined by geography or population – most impacted by the inequities that create food insecurity. We are asking selected organizations to leverage their own community engagement strategies to inform our work.

Goals for the Community Partnerships Program:

- Understand the systemic, racial inequities that prevent full access to federal nutrition programs.
- Expand shared knowledge about impactful, community-based strategies and opportunities to connect people to food resources and how to take them to scale.
- Identify and implement authentic and appropriate ways to learn from community members with lived experience.
- Evaluate grant making as a strategy to expand access to sustainable and replicable food resources.
- Collect quantitative and qualitative data about racial inequities in food insecurity and food access to inform programmatic and policy responses





What we are looking for in a lead partner agency

Project Bread is committed to both financially supporting and lifting up the work of organizations selected that are providing critical resources in their community. Project Bread seeks to leverage this partnership to authentically listen to and learn from the communities served about assets and barriers within communities and inform Project Bread on how to meaningfully engage these communities in the development of research, programs, and policies.

For this grant program, Project Bread will provide unrestricted operational support (\$25,000) to selected applicants (one per community) over the course of one year. The lead community partner must be a 501c3 that is based in the community or has provided services in the community for at least 3 years. Organizations selected must provide direct service and currently have some focus on food access as part of their work. We will jointly review our impact at the end of the year with the lead partner agency. A second year with an additional grant of \$25,000 will be considered at that time. Applicants do not need to be a previous Project Bread-funded agency.

Additionally, we will prioritize applicants who can demonstrate the following:

- Population focus among communities that have disproportionately higher rates of food insecurity, specifically -- families with unemployed parents, Black households, Latinx households, immigrants/refugees, families with incarcerated or recently incarcerated parents.
- The capacity to help us develop new networks in the community and work with people with lived experience.
- A racially diverse leadership team.

While the grants are unrestricted, Project Bread is asking partners to identify a lead project contact who will work with us on the following:

- Jointly announce, with Project Bread, the kick-off of this partnership in February 2021.
- Promote federal anti-hunger programs – SNAP; Summer Eats; School Breakfast; WIC; etc. Project Bread will provide promotional materials and training materials, where applicable.
- Work with Project Bread to administer a survey, conduct focus groups and/or interviews to engage with people with lived experience in the most appropriate way. Project Bread will provide support.
- Attend one statewide meeting to share learnings (hosted by Project Bread) in summer 2021, potentially by online meeting platform, to share learnings and inform programmatic and policy solutions.



- If requested, advocate at local, state or federal level for anti-hunger policies, which may include signing on to letters. Project Bread's Government Affairs team will provide support.
- Submit a brief, year-end report in December 2021.

Project Bread is soliciting proposals from the following 10 communities:

- Brockton
- East Boston
- Everett
- Holyoke
- Lawrence
- Lynn
- Mattapan
- Randolph
- Quincy
- Springfield
- Worcester

Timeline

- Proposals due January 19, 2021
- Awardees announced February 26, 2021
- A community round-table/kick-off scheduled for late March 2021

To start a grant application, click [here](#).