

2025 Strategic Focus Area - Food Insecurity and Nutrition Grant

Horizon Foundation

Overview

Systemic change is needed so that all Howard Countians have access to high quality, affordable, nutritious food. The Foundation is a proud partner and member of the [Healthier Choices Coalition](#) which has been working to improve food security, increase access to healthier food and drinks, and reduce diabetes since 2022. The Coalition has a track record of success. It successfully advocated for county funding to launch the [Roving Radish Mobile Food Market](#) which began delivering fresh, local produce to food insecure neighborhoods in Howard County in 2024.

The Coalition also has been partnering with the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) to improve the health, quality, taste, and appearance of school food. For many food insecure youth, the food they receive in school may be their main source of calories on a normal day so it is important to ensure that school food is as nutritious as possible.

In just the past year, the Coalition and HCPSS partnered to launch two regional dinner-time taste tests where parents and students could taste and rate school menu items. HCPSS launched its first ever survey to better understand what parents/students want and need to improve their confidence in the food and nutrition service. And a farm-to-table pilot program was introduced so that students could have daily access to local produce. As a result, new, better tasting, and healthier menu items have been added to the school breakfast and lunch program. Our partnership continues to improve school food to this day.

The Coalition is working to build its power to successfully advocate for policy and system changes that will improve food security, make healthier food and drinks more accessible, and reduce diabetes in Howard County. Just recently, the Coalition held a food insecurity town hall to better learn how we can improve food security in Howard County. Findings from the town hall will help the Coalition determine its next set of priorities. To help the Coalition further achieve its power building goals, the Foundation specifically seeks committed partners that will:

- Actively join and participate in Coalition meetings and activities. Coalition meetings are held monthly and activities are co-created during those meetings;
- Help shape the next set of Coalition policy/system change priorities in partnership with other Coalition members;
- Grow coalition membership through regular and consistent outreach to other Howard County groups; and
- Advocate for policy and system changes needed to improve food security and improve access to nutritious food and drinks.

We particularly seek partners who have a demonstrated interest in food insecurity, those who have not historically partnered with the Foundation, and those connected with and/or serving lower-income and historically marginalized communities.

We expect to fund at least 5 committed organizations between \$15,000-\$20,000 each.

The grant period for grantees is from January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026.

Eligibility Criteria

NonProfit Organization*

Is your organization determined as charitable under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or is it another entity that meets IRS charitable guidelines?

Choices

Yes

No

Service Area*

Does your organization deliver services to Howard County residents and/or greater Maryland?

Choices

Yes

No

Non-Discriminatory Status*

Does your organization provide programs and services to the intended beneficiaries without discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, disability, medical condition, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran or military status, pregnancy, ancestry, age or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, county or local laws, regulations or ordinances.

Choices

Yes

No

Organizational Overview

Organization's Mission and Vision*

What is your organization's Board approved mission and vision?

Character Limit: 2000

Organization Activities*

Describe your organization's main activities and programs, and how they support your mission.

Character Limit: 2000

Total Staff*

How many total staff (full and part-time) does your organization have?

Character Limit: 250

What percentage (%) of your organization's full-time staff are non-White or of Hispanic ethnicity?*

Enter "UNKNOWN" if not known.

Character Limit: 25

What percentage (%) of your organization's board members are non-White or of Hispanic ethnicity?*

Enter "UNKNOWN" if not known.

Character Limit: 25

Does your president/CEO/executive director identify as non-White or of Hispanic ethnicity?***Choices**

Yes

No

What are the communities in Howard County that you serve?*

Character Limit: 2000

If awarded a grant, email communications should be sent to:*

Please indicate 1-2 contacts to receive communication. Include names and email addresses.

Character Limit: 250

If awarded a grant, the check should be made payable to:*

Please indicate a name and address.

Character Limit: 205

If awarded a grant, the check should be mailed to:*

Please confirm the mailing address to where a check should be sent if a grant is awarded.

Character Limit: 250

Social Media*

Please include any social media accounts, handles or websites where you will post information regarding your campaign efforts (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.).

If you do not use social media, please type "N/A".

Character Limit: 250

Racial Equity Experience

What does racial equity mean to your organization?

*

Character Limit: 2000

What does embedding racial equity in your organization's work look like? (Provide examples) *

Character Limit: 2000

Describe your experience in working with and/or serving communities of color?

*

Character Limit: 2000

What trainings/opportunities has your organization participated in to shape its racial equity knowledge?

*

Character Limit: 2000

Advocacy Experience

Has your organization participated in advocacy before? *

Please select one choice.

Choices

Yes

I'm not sure

No

If yes or I'm not sure, please provide a brief description of your advocacy experience. *

If you answered no write "N/A" below.

Character Limit: 2000

When it comes to building community power, what do you think your organization brings to the table? *

Character Limit: 2000

What experience do you have building a base of members/leaders and engaging them in structured community or leadership activities?*

Character Limit: 2000

What trainings/opportunities has your organization participated in to shape its advocacy knowledge?*

Character Limit: 2000

Food Insecurity & Nutrition Interest and Experience

Project Name*

Please add your organization name_2025 Food Insecurity and Nutrition Applicant (i.e. "Horizon Foundation_2025 Food Insecurity and Nutrition Applicant")

Character Limit: 100

Interest*

Why is your organization interested in fighting food insecurity/hunger?

Character Limit: 2000

Experience*

What activities has your organization done to reduce hunger / food insecurity in the past five years?

Character Limit: 2000

Existing Partnerships*

List the top three organizations/groups/people you work with and describe your partnership.

Character Limit: 2000

New Partnerships*

List up to three organizations you wish to work with in the future? Why?

Character Limit: 2000

Grantee Acknowledgement

As an applicant I agree and understand the following Horizon Foundation Grantmaking Principles:*

- **Co-Creation:** Together, selected grantees and the Foundation will develop equitable decision-making approaches to advance mental health solutions in the county.
- **Flexible Funding:** All selected grantees will be awarded an operating grant to allow for more innovation, emergent action and sustainability.

- **New Grantee Experience:** Selected grantees will participate in a collaborative learning journey with other grantees to help foster a stronger sense of community and a deeper learning of racial equity and organizing advocacy principles. All grantees will be expected to participate in 3 convenings that will include the following:
 - Racial equity & anti-racism coaching/activities
 - Community organizing training/activities

Each selected grantee will complete a racial equity and advocacy assessment to help determine organizational strengths and challenges.

Additionally, on demand technical assistance and coaching will be provided in areas uplifted by each grantee throughout the project period.

Please agree by selecting the statement below:

Choices

I agree to and understand the above Horizon Foundation Grantmaking Principles.

Additional Information

Please include any additional information you feel is relevant for your application.

Character Limit: 2000

Electronic Signature

Terms of Application Submission

By entering your full name below, you are agreeing to the following:

- The information contained in this application and its attachments are complete and accurate.
- The Foundation reserves the right not to award a grant.
- Should an award be made, the funds will be used exclusively for the purpose outlined in the application.
- Should an award be made, you will be asked to sign a grant agreement and be required to submit a post award report.

Electronic Signature*

The application must be signed by the CEO, Board Chair, or an authorized officer of the organization. To sign the application, please type your first and last name.

Character Limit: 50

Signatory's Title*

Character Limit: 250