



**Community
Foundation
for MetroWest**

**Hunger Relief Grant Program:
2024 Guidelines**

The Community Foundation for MetroWest (CFMW) recognizes that there is no singular barrier to food access in our region. As such, its MetroWest Hunger Relief Fund is structured to address hunger as a regional, systemic challenge. Our mission for the MetroWest Hunger Relief Fund is to invest in local organizations that work across the food system to address food security in equitable and accessible ways for MetroWest residents.

In 2024, the Foundation will be providing **one-time general operating grants of up to \$5,000***. We have a strong interest in supporting organizations focused on client and community-centered models to provide access to food for vulnerable residents in MetroWest. Grant decisions and amounts will be determined based on a variety of factors, including:

- Organization size - understanding the impact of a grant of this size for your organization
- Location(s) of impact - demonstrating commitment to MetroWest and role in the region's social services ecosystem, including strong & established local collaborations and partnerships
- Organization impact and reach - including population served, # of households served, type(s) of programming offered, etc.
- Organization's leadership and financial health
- Alignment with the Foundation's priorities outlined below

*Maximum grant size will be 10% of the organization's annual operating budget or \$5,000, whichever is less.

This year, the Foundation will be prioritizing organizations that are demonstrating a commitment to one or more of the following:

- Creating or sustaining community or client-centered models that increase food access, including but not limited to:
 - mobile markets, neighborhood-based food programs, or food delivery services
 - expansion of or modifications to operations to be more convenient/accessible
 - food recovery and redistribution initiatives
 - local agriculture addressing food security (community gardens, CSAs, land use for BIPOC/immigrant farmers, etc.)
 - provision of food that is locally grown, culturally relevant, nutritious and/or diet sensitive
- Accepting, increasing access to federal and state benefits like SNAP, WIC or HIP
- Fostering collaboration across communities and sectors to benefit & improve the entire food system
- Fostering opportunities to listen to and have clients inform food support models and best practices
- Prioritizing the hiring, training, and retention of staff and volunteers that are trauma-informed and/or culturally aware/sensitive, have language translation capabilities, etc.

GRANT PROCESS

The 2024 grant cycle is an online process and will operate based on the following timeline:

- Monday, August 12, **9:00 AM** [Applications open online](#)
- Tuesday, August 15, **9 – 10 AM** Info Session #1** ([register](#))
- Thursday, August 27, **12 – 1 PM** Info Session #2** ([register](#))
- Friday, September 13, **5:00 PM** Applications due
- October 7 – November 1 Follow up conversations or site visits, as needed***
- Early December Applicants notified of decisions via email

**Please note that we will provide the same presentation and information at both Info Sessions. Attendance at one is sufficient. A recording will also be made available on our website following the last session.

***Please note that we are unable to visit every applicant due to limited capacity. If you are not chosen to receive a site visit, this in no way serves as a reflection of your organization or your likelihood of receiving funding.

ELIGIBILITY

The Foundation will consider applications from organizations that:

- Have 501(c)(3) tax status as a registered nonprofit organization **OR** have an eligible fiscal sponsor
- Are based in and/or serve one or more of the following MetroWest cities/towns: Acton, Ashland, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Dedham, Dover, Framingham, Harvard, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Marlborough, Maynard, Medfield, Medway, Milford, Millis, Natick, Needham, Sherborn, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Walpole, Waltham, Wayland, Wellesley, Westborough, Weston, Westwood
- Do not limit service based on individual's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, or disability.

Please note: Agencies with multiple service sites should submit only one application for all sites.

Ineligible organizations or requests include:

- City/town agencies
- Individuals
- Schools – private, public, pre-K, charter, or Chapter 766
- Pass-through grants

HOW TO APPLY

1. Beginning August 12th applicants will have access to the application form online.
2. If your organization is new to CFMW, please create an account.
 - a. https://bit.ly/cfmw_foundant
 - b. Multiple short video tutorials are available on the righthand side of the login page.
3. If your organization has applied to CFMW in the past, please log into your existing account:
 - a. https://bit.ly/cfmw_foundant
4. Once you are logged into your account, click on the Apply icon from the top menu bar.
5. Select **2024 Hunger Relief Grant Program**.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th AT 5:00 PM

If you have questions regarding the eligibility or suitability of your application, please send a detailed email to grants@communityfoundationmw.org as early as possible. We may provide additional guidance via email or schedule a brief call to discuss.

If you need assistance or accommodations to access this application process, please contact us at grants@communityfoundationmw.org or 508-647-2260.