



Edible Food Recovery Grant

Questions & Answers

Anticipated questions and answers about this grant are below:

Eligibility

How much funding is available?

Up to \$100,000 in total, up to \$20,000 per organization. The final awarded amount will be dependent on the number of applications and the degree to which each applicant meets the evaluation criteria.

My proposed project focuses on recycling and/or composting. Will this be considered for funding?

Recycling and composting based projects ARE NOT eligible for this grant funding.

We are a food recovery organization with a broken freezer. Would the supplies and parts needed to fix the freezer be eligible for funding?

Yes, we encourage repairing existing equipment if possible. Equipment parts are eligible for funding, however the labor to fix the equipment is not.

If my nonprofit is located outside of the listed cities but provides services in the jurisdiction, can we apply for funding?

Only non-profit organizations located within RecycleMore's member agencies are eligible for funding for this grant. RecycleMore's member agencies include Richmond, El Cerrito, San Pablo, Pinole, Hercules and parts of unincorporated West Contra Costa County: Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Montalvin Manor, North Richmond, Rollingwood and Tara Hills.

Can for-profit businesses apply for funding?

No, only non-profit organizations are eligible for funding.

Can religious organizations (e.g., church, synagogue, etc.) apply for a grant?

Yes, any religious organization within the listed jurisdictions with a 501(c) or 501(c)(3) (non-profit) designation can apply.

Can schools apply?

Schools are not eligible for this grant.

Can a West Contra Costa County government facility/department apply for funding?

No, municipalities are not eligible for funding.

Is it an all-or-nothing application? For example, if we apply for the maximum and there is not enough funding (or funding will be more widely distributed), would the grant still be considered but for a lower funding amount?

The grant may be awarded in reduced amounts to applicants, dependent on the total number of applications received, available funding, demonstrated need, and quality of applications.

What level of maturity are you looking for in an organization in order to qualify for applying?

New organizations are eligible to apply, however they will have to be able to demonstrate that they have the funding, or ability to procure the funding, to use the equipment purchased with grant funds for a minimum of three years.

What equipment types are eligible for funding?

- Appliances such as refrigerators/freezers, dishwashers, stoves/ovens and microwaves
- Temperature control supplies (e.g. thermal blankets and coolers)
- Storage including shelving, reusable totes, and bins
- Reusable pallets and strapping
- Dolly, utility cart, pallet jack
- Scales or weighing equipment
- Other equipment or supplies required for edible food recovery or distribution

Can my nonprofit purchase a refrigeration system for a van with grant funds?

Yes, grant funding can be used to purchase the equipment required to retrofit a vehicle to become refrigerated. Grant funds may not be used to purchase the vehicle or pay for labor and installation.

My food recovery program operates in the basement of a church, how can I apply for the utilities stipend if our PG&E bill is for the whole building?

The grant application would need to include an estimate of utility costs incurred by the food recovery program, and a description of how the amount was calculated. Costs can be estimated by taking account of the cooling or heating equipment used by the program, finding their estimated energy usage online, and multiplying by the average PG&E charge per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Other methods of estimation are also acceptable.

My nonprofit is planning on purchasing a vehicle in June 2025. Can I apply for the vehicle loan stipend?

No, the vehicle loan stipend is only available for existing loans.

My nonprofit has a community services program in addition to the food recovery program, and our leased vehicle is used for both. How much funding can I get for the vehicle lease stipend?

The vehicle lease stipend is only available for the food recovery program. The application would require the organization to break down the usage of the vehicle and estimate the percentage of time the vehicle is used for edible food recovery related activities. That percentage should then be applied to the monthly lease payment to determine the amount eligible for funding.

Administrative

Do I need to have insurance to be awarded funding from this grant program?

All applicants selected for funding will be required to maintain insurance for the duration of the grant contract. Please review the insurance requirements listed in the grant packet closely to determine that your organization can satisfy them if awarded. If you do not currently maintain the required insurance, please submit a quote, or estimate for insurance with your grant application. For the purposes of completing the application, insurance quotes are sufficient. If you are awarded a grant contract, you will need to obtain insurance as part of the contract. Grant contracts cannot be executed until insurance is in place unless approved by RecycleMore.

Can I use the grant funds to pay for a contractor to install the equipment purchased with the grant?

No, grant funds may only be used for purchasing edible food recovery supplies, equipment, or equipment parts.

Is there a way to get feedback on the eligibility of proposed funding before I submit an application?

Yes, we encourage applicants to reach out to discuss proposals/project ideas. Attend the informational webinar on January 15, 2025 at 9:00am or contact rekaa@recyclemore.com to get in touch with the Grant Manager.

I cannot attend the informational webinar on the scheduled date, will the webinar be recorded?

Yes, the webinar will be recorded and posted to the grant webpage on RecycleMore's website: <https://recyclemore.com/about/grant-opportunities/>

Can I submit a Word document or a PDF application instead of using the online application platform?

Yes, the grant application PDF is downloadable and can be submitted via email to rekaa@recyclemore.com.

Is there a way to provide feedback about the RecycleMore Grant Application Process?

Yes, we encourage applicants to provide feedback about our grant application process. Please feel free to provide feedback via email to info@recyclemore.com.

Can funding be used for equipment maintenance or used equipment, or does it need to be new equipment?

RecycleMore supports reuse and repair over disposal and new purchases where appropriate. Only replacement parts would be eligible for grant funding however, labor and installation would not be covered.

Can an organization utilize a Fiscal Sponsor to apply for grant funding?

Yes, but you must utilize a Fiscal Sponsor that meets the following definition:

Fiscal Sponsor is an official fiscal sponsorship arrangement where the fiscal sponsor accepts tax deductible donations and grants on behalf of the sponsored project/organization. The sponsor accepts responsibility for the use of those funds and ensures the funds are used per the proposed project and utilized for charitable purposes, along with any additional grantor restrictions. To ensure this is not merely a pass-through of charitable dollars from the 501(c)(3) to the project, the IRS requires that the sponsor have “complete discretion and control” over the funds.

Please contact the grant manager at rekaa@recyclemore.com for approval to utilize a Fiscal Sponsor in advance of submitting your application.

Will there be reporting requirements?

Yes. Grantees will be required to provide a six-month progress report after funds are awarded including information specific to the funding provided (proof of equipment purchase, utility bills, mileage driven, vehicle rental/lease/loan invoices), and a twelve-month final report including information specific to the funding provided (proof of equipment purchase, utility bills, mileage driven, vehicle rental/lease/loan invoices).

In addition, grantees are required to track incoming food donations in pounds and provide data regarding the increase in food recovered due to grant funding.

Have additional questions?

- Contact the Grant Manager by emailing rekaa@recyclemore.com