

## Food Security

**APPLICATIONS DUE: Wednesday, May 10, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)**

**Watch an informational webinar on the Food Security grant program. [CLICK HERE.](#)**

**Florida Blue Foundation's programs are focused on improving health equity by impacting food security, advancing mental well-being, growing healthy communities, and addressing systemic racism and resulting health disparities. This funding opportunity is focused on Food Security.**

### **Description of the 2023 Food Security Grant Program:**

**Goal:** The goal of this program is to improve access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food in underserved communities in Florida.

**Background:** Florida Blue Foundation defines Food Security as having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable and nutritious food. When people have local access to fresh food, they make healthier choices and have better health outcomes. Florida Blue Foundation seeks to fund programs that improve access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food in underserved communities in Florida.

The intent of this grant program is to award four-year grants to nonprofit organizations that have documented expertise and experience in addressing food insecurity. Programs should support equitable access to healthy food and program services should focus on moving underserved or marginalized communities from food insecurity to food security. The applying organization must have proven and effective processes and staff in place to carry out the program. The organization must provide evidence-based results as it relates to documenting their outcomes.

Additionally, the organization must have the capability to administer the Six-item Short Form USDA Food Security Survey to program participants twice annually. This survey is a retrospective six-item survey (for a total of 12 questions).

### **2023 Food Security Areas of Interest:**

Florida Blue Foundation's overall goal is to move families, children, individuals, and communities from food insecurity to food security. Areas of Interest include:

### **Area of Interest 1: Improving Access to Healthy Food**

Food insecurity and the lack of access to affordable nutritious food are associated with increased risk for many chronic health conditions. This area of interest focuses on improving access to fresh healthy foods and promoting self-sufficiency through comprehensive community-based solutions. Programs may vary in scope but should include a nutrition education component to help mitigate the health risks associated with food insecurity.

### **Area of Interest 2: Neighborhood Markets in Rural Communities, Food Deserts, and Urban Areas**

When communities have local access to fresh food, they make healthier choices about the food they eat and they have better health outcomes. This priority focuses on creating long lasting, sustainable solutions that will improve food security by increasing access to healthy, high-quality foods sold through community/neighborhood retail outlets.

### **Special Note:**

Applicants can apply for one or more areas of interest and must have signed agreement(s) for partnership(s)/collaboration(s) to expand the reach and effectiveness of the program. Organizations applying for both opportunities must complete a separate application for each area of interest.

When completing the online application, please keep in mind that Florida Blue Foundation is looking for nonprofit organizations to propose proven services that will be implemented to serve primarily underserved, underinsured, and low-income individuals in Florida.

Priority will be given to organizations that provide services in the following ZIP codes: 32206, 32805, 33612/33613, 33142, and 33311.

### **Funding**

- The Florida Blue Foundation has approximately \$3.2 million for the funding of this food security initiative.
- The Foundation will fund four-year grants. The approximate amount per grant is between \$90,000 to \$100,000 per year.

### **What We Will Support**

1. Salaries, including benefits
2. Employee training
3. Rental fees for program/meeting costs
4. Webinar or other types of media/technology
5. Program materials/equipment
6. Required travel related to this grant (e.g., attend Florida Blue Foundation's Annual Community Health Symposium and Sapphire Awards, any program orientations, etc.)
7. Training/educational materials

8. Printing and dissemination
9. Indirect costs – an amount up to but not to exceed 10% of the total grant amount. (Indirect costs represent the expenses of doing business that are not readily identified with a particular grant project function or activity but are necessary for the general operation of the organization and the conduct of activities it performs.)

#### **What We Do Not Support**

1. Organizations that discriminate in their provision of goods and services based on race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sex, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, veteran status, or marital status
2. Organizations not recognized by the IRS as 501(c)(3)
3. Organizations with less than a five-year track record in the field
4. Research and development
5. Individuals
6. Capital campaigns
7. New start-ups
8. Profit making enterprises as applicants

#### **Completing the Application**

The Program Milestone Document is available to be downloaded. The completed Program Milestone Document is to be uploaded to the application as an attachment. Basic information – name of organization, program title, amount requested, etc. – will be requested within the application. Overall goal/purpose, populations served, objectives, strategic activities/services, performance indicators, outcomes/results, and other details will be captured within the Program Milestone Document. The information within the Program Milestone Document will then be the basis for all reporting for the programs selected for funding.

#### **Important Dates/Deadlines**

- Application due date: **Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 5:00 PM (Eastern Time)**
- All applicants will be notified of their status on or before **October 13, 2023**
- Required grantee orientation: **October 2023**

#### **Grantee Requirements**

- Please be aware that should your program be selected for funding; Florida Blue Foundation will disburse payments via ACH transactions, and you will be required to provide requested banking information.
- Successful applicants should be prepared to attend a mandatory grantee orientation that is tentatively scheduled to take place in October 2023. Specific date, time, and location will be provided once confirmed.
- Successful applicants are required to attend Florida Blue Foundation's annual Community Health Symposium and Sapphire Awards each year for the life of the grant. Dates and locations will be provided once they are confirmed.
- When developing your budget, please include funds each year of the grant to cover the required orientation (first year), at least one Foundation meeting (subsequent years),

and the Community Health Symposium and Sapphire Awards each year for the life of the grant.

- Grantees must have the capability to administer the Six-item Short Form USDA Survey to new program participants twice annually. This survey is a retrospective six-item survey (for a total of 12 questions).

### **Eligible Applicants**

Nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organizations, public agencies, universities, colleges, training centers, faith-based organizations, and other health related facilities that:

1. Are incorporated in Florida
2. Have the capacity, expertise, resources, knowledge in the field, and time needed to carry out the intent of the program
3. Have expertise in delivering educational and awareness programs on targeted topics to targeted populations described in this application
4. Have a five-year or longer track record in the field
5. Have the capability to reach target populations described under this application

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the online application for the Food Security grant program. CHANGE LINK TO smart simple link.

### **Need Help?**

Questions also may be sent via email: [Florida Blue Foundation](#); or via phone: 1-800-477-3736, ext. 63215.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **2023 Food Security Program**

**Q: Are current grantees eligible to apply to the same program? Or for a different program?**

A: Yes, as long as the proposal aligns with the intent of the grant. And, if applying to the same grant program, the proposal needs to be different than what is currently being funded.

**Q: The 2023 Food Security grant opportunity includes two Areas of Interest. Can an organization apply for both Areas of Interest?**

A: Yes, applicants can apply for one or both Areas of Interest. Organizations applying for both opportunities **must** complete a separate application for each Area of Interest.

**Q: Is the Foundation firm on the five years of experience in the field requirement?**

A: Yes. The Foundation expects the requesting organization to be operational for five or more years and the proposed project/program should include work that the

organization has knowledge and experience/expertise in and fits within the mission of the organization.

**Q: What is the deadline to submit the 2023 Food Security Program application?**

A: Food Security: Before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Wednesday, May 10, 2023

**Q: When will applicants be notified of their status as approved or declined?**

A: Food Security: on or before October 13, 2023

**Q: Do you fund 12-month applications?**

A: No. The Food Security grant program will award four-year grants to nonprofit organizations.

**Q: How many proposals do you expect to receive? How many will you fund?**

A: We do not have an estimate of how many proposals we will receive. The Florida Blue Foundation has approximately \$3,200,000 for the funding of the 2023 Food Security initiative.

**Q: What is the decision-making process of selecting applications for funding?**

A: A review committee made up of internal and external individuals who are knowledgeable and/or experts in this funding area make recommendations to the Foundation. The Foundation's Board of Directors has the final approval for all recommended applications.

**Q: For budgeting purposes, can you please provide an estimate of the numbers of days and nights spent at each of the three events: Orientation, Sapphire Awards, and at an annual meeting?**

A: Orientation -- Required grantee orientation is usually held at the corporate office in Jacksonville on Gate Parkway (32246). No more than one hotel night should be necessary. The schedule generally allows for organizations located closer to Jacksonville to be able to travel back and forth in one day. It is recommended that the person who is running the program and the person who will enter data into the reporting tool attend. Community Health Symposium and Sapphire Awards -- This is a two-day event held in Orlando. We recommend estimating the hotel cost at \$200 per night and registration at \$150. There is no limit to the number of attendees from your organization. It is recommended that, at a minimum, the person who is managing the day-to-day operation of the program attend. Other meetings -- Meetings in subsequent years are not set in stone and sometimes they are scheduled in conjunction with the Community Health Symposium and Sapphire Awards or at another time during the year that may be scheduled at a central location. Like the orientation, the schedule generally allows for closer organizations to be able to travel back and forth in one day.

**Q: Can these grant funds be used to purchase a building?**

A: No, our programs are not designed to fund brick and mortar grants. Our grants are designed to provide direct delivery services to the underserved and low-income individuals and communities across Florida.

**Q: Are indirect costs allowable?**

A: Yes, up to 10% of indirect costs are allowable under these programs.  
*Indirect costs represent the expenses of doing business that are not readily identified with a particular grant project function or activity but are necessary for the general operation of the organization and the conduct of activities it performs.*

**Q: What if our organization does not have an audited financial statement?**

A: In lieu of an audited financial statement, the Foundation requests the organization's operational budget signed by the Board Chair and notarized.

**Q: What format do you require for the letters of agreement with collaborators and partners?**

A: We do not have a preferred format for the letters of agreement between partners and collaborators; however, they must be specific to the grant application you are submitting and dated in line with the submitted application.

**Q: Is there a limit to the number of collaborations and partnerships?**

A: There is no limit.

**Q: Is there a maximum number of objectives in the logic model?**

A: No, there is no maximum number of objectives.

**Q: For these programs, how does the Foundation define demographics?**

A: For the purposes of these programs, the Foundation defines demographics as the statistical data relating to the human population and particular groups within it (gender, age, ethnicity, income, etc.).

**Q: If an organization is not based in Florida but provides direct services in markets across the country including Florida, would the organization still be eligible to apply?**

A: We would ask that you email a State of Florida Solicitation of Contributions certificate from the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services or other documentation demonstrating the organization can conduct business in Florida and we will make a determination.

**Q: When will the grants become effective?**

A: As soon as the grant agreements are fully executed in October 2023, operations can begin when the organization is ready to launch the program.

**Q: I cannot register online or my organization Tax ID number is not recognized.**

A: If you are having trouble registering or cannot find your organization, please click on “Contact Us” located in the blue box at the top of the page and provide the organization name, address and tax ID number. Someone will get back to you.

**Q: What is the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Certificate? Do state agencies need to provide one?**

A: The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services requires this certification for nonprofits seeking to solicit funds in the state of Florida. It is renewable yearly. We request that you upload the current certificate that is less than one year old. It is a required attachment so if your organization is exempt, please attach a brief note/letter stating that.

**Q: Is there someplace we might find a list of previously funded/successful proposals for examples of projects that suit the Foundation’s funding needs in this program?**

A: The Foundation’s website <https://www.floridablue.com/foundation/overview> is a great resource for additional information and there you can find a link to the most current Impact Report which highlights many grantees.