



HealthierHere



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# **Infrastructure Investment: 2025-2026 Food Assistance Investment – Round 2**

*Request for Proposal Q&A Webinar*

*January 26, 2026*



# Agenda

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3:00 – 3:05	Objectives for Today's Webinar
3:05 – 3:20	About HealthierHere and the Community Hub
3:20 – 3:35	Overview of Food Assistance Investment Funds
3:35 – 3:45	2026 RFP and Next Steps
3:45 – 4:00	Questions

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Note: Please hold your questions until the end of today's webinar. You can enter questions into the chat as we go but they may not be answered until the end.

# Objective

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The objective of today's webinar is to ensure interested prospective partners have a full understanding of the procurement opportunity to receive investment funds for HealthierHere's 2025-2026 Food Assistance Investment – Round 2.

# About HealthierHere

# Building Healthier Communities TOGETHER



HealthierHere is a **non-profit collaborative** that partners with organizations across sectors to **advance health equity** in King County, WA.

# Vision

All people in King County are healthy and achieve their optimal physical, mental and social well-being.

# Mission

Eliminate health disparities and improve the health and well-being of all people in King County through innovative, cross-sector collaborations.

# Values

- EQUITY
- COMMUNITY
- PARTNERSHIP
- RESULTS
- INNOVATION





# We Work to **Connect** and **Strengthen** our Health and Social Systems

by providing organizations with:

- Expertise and knowledge
- Resources and technical assistance
- Robust data and technology solutions

to support the delivery of coordinated whole-person care





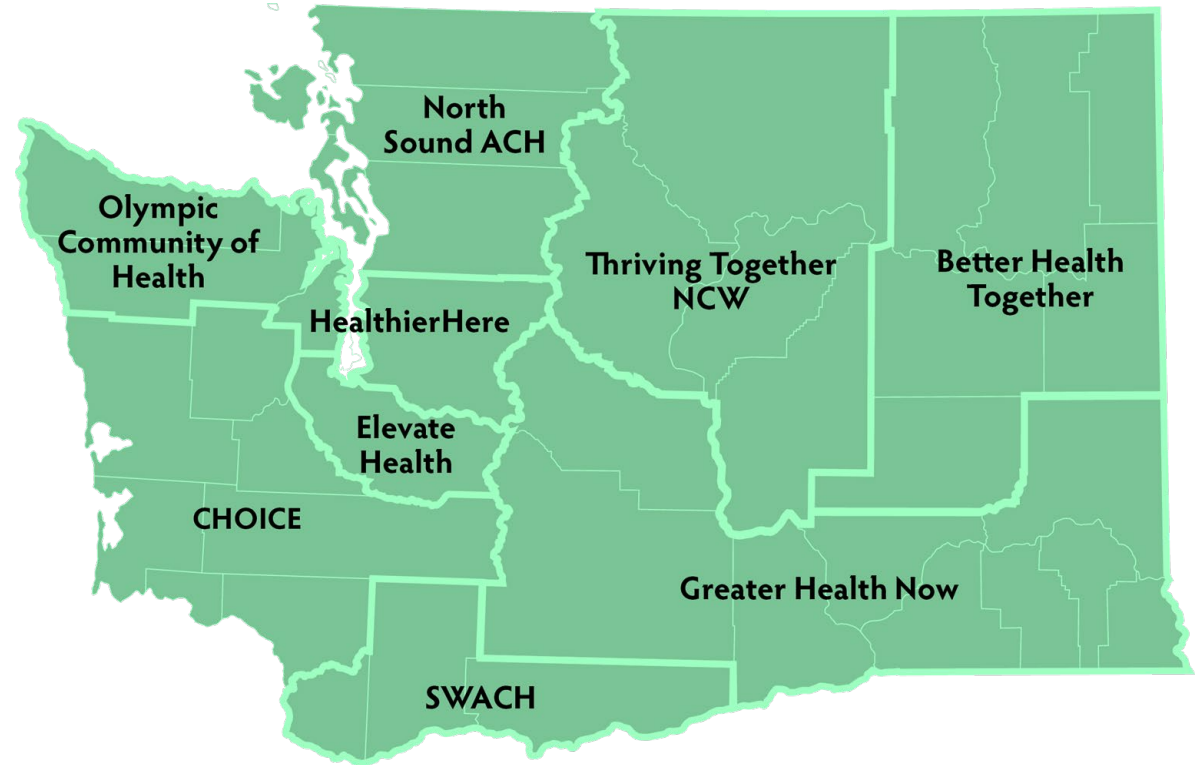
*We don't provide direct health care or social services to clients.*

*Instead, we engage and support the organizations that do.*

# We Serve as King County's Accountable Community of Health (ACH)

Part of a collaborative statewide network of 9 ACHs, each with:

- A commitment to improving the health of their community
- Community Care Hubs with aligned standards and outcomes
- Social care networks of community-based organizations, tribes and health care providers who employ a community-based workforce



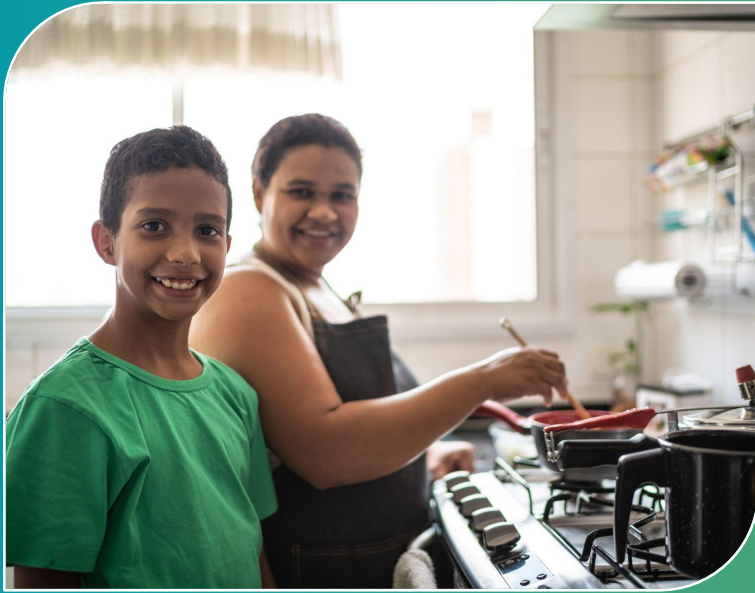
# The HealthierHere Community Hub

# Connecting People to Whole-Person Care

The HealthierHere Community Hub pairs individuals and families in King County with **Community-Based Workers** (CBWs) who provide one-on-one assistance to help them:

- Find and connect to available resources
- Navigate systems
- Champion their needs





# Available to Anyone in King County who Needs its Support

- Free and confidential for everyone
- Focused on Medicaid-eligible individuals with multiple health issues
- Ideal for individuals and families (of all types) who have complex needs, need comprehensive support, and don't know where or how to start.
- Creates a “no-wrong-door” approach, reducing barriers to accessing resources



# Facilitates Connection to Culturally Appropriate Services Addressing Social Needs



Food



Utility Assistance



Healthcare



Behavioral Health Services



Transportation



Job Training and Placement



Housing



Education



Financial Literacy



Legal Support



# Partners of the HealthierHere Community Hub

## Case Management Partners

A Supportive Community For All - Asian Counseling and Referral Service - Association of Zambians in Seattle, Washington - Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC) - El Centro de la Raza - Living Well Kent Collaborative - Lutheran Community Services Northwest - Mother Africa - Neighborhood House - Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington (PICA WA) - PEER Washington - POCAAN - Project Access Northwest - Somali Health Board - Sound Generations - Teenagers Plus - Utopia WA - Villa Comunitaria - Within Reach - YMCA of Greater Seattle

## Inbound Referral Partners

Harborview Medical Center  
Harmony Health Partners WA -  
International Community  
Health Services (ICHS) - Kent  
Youth and Family Services -  
Perinatal Services - Roots of  
Hope - The Seattle Public  
Library - Seattle Veterinary  
Outreach



# Community Based Workers Reflect the Communities They Support.

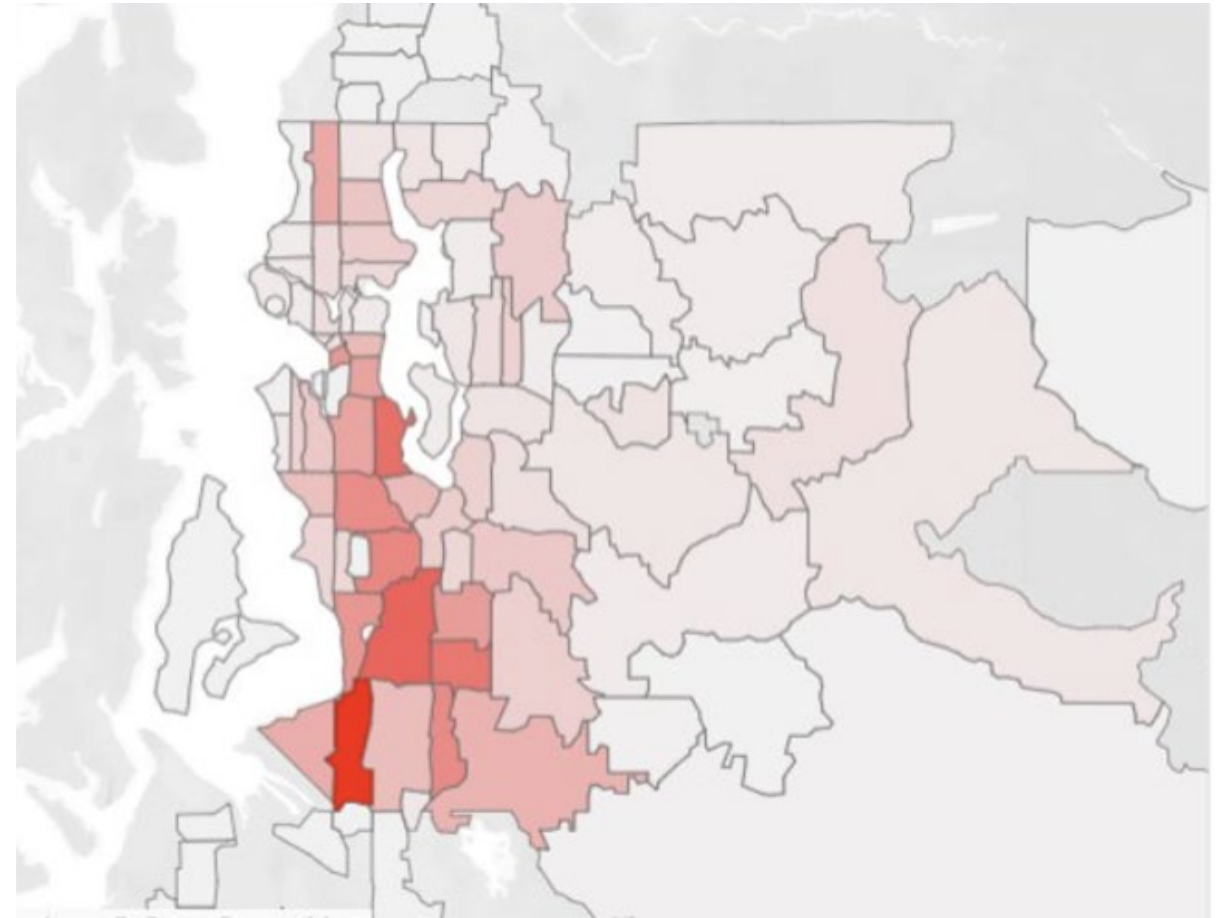
- Trusted community members.
- Provide culturally and linguistically responsive social care support.
- Bring lived experience of the communities they serve.
- Are available to follow up and check in
- Can also provide emotional support for clients.

# Common Resource and Referral Needs for Community Hub Clients

- Financial Assistance Services *(including move in assistance, rental/eviction assistance, and utility assistance)*
- Shelter & Housing Services *(Including permanent supportive housing, overnight shelter, transitional housing, coordinated entry for all)*
- Food and Basic Needs Services *(Including Community-based grocery delivery, food bank/pantry, Orca LIFT, clothing and housing items, baby supplies)*
- Healthcare *(Including insurance enrollment/navigation, dental, and primary care)*
- Employment Services *(Including adult employment and job search assistance)*

# Zip Codes with Highest Concentration of Hub Clients

- 98003 Federal Way
- 98032 Kent
- 98118 South Seattle-Columbia City, Rainier Beach
- 98030 Kent
- 98002 Auburn
- 98168 Burien, Tukwila, SeaTac
- 98104 Seattle downtown core



# Overview of 2025-2026 Food Assistance Investment – Round 2 Request For Proposal

# Food Assistance Investment Funding Overview

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- HealthierHere intends to invest in King County food assistance providers to maintain or increase their capacity to serve individuals and families due to multiple factors including funding reductions and assistance eligibility changes, which are causing increased demand for food assistance in King County and nationwide.
- **For purposes of this investment, food assistance providers are defined as** food pantries, food banks, mutual aid networks, and community food programs.



# Goal of the Food Assistance Investment

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- Provide immediate, short-term food relief and assistance to King County residents through direct services grants to food assistance providers to purchase and distribute food.
- This is a short-term, three-month, food assistance grant intended to help with immediate food assistance needs.
- This is an upfront funding opportunity. It is not a reimbursement model. All funds must be spent by June 30, 2026.

# Eligibility

Eligible organizations include both larger and smaller-scale food assistance providers, including food pantries, food banks, mutual aid networks, and community food programs.

For the purposes of this investment, we've defined small and large organizations as the following:

Organization Size	Definition	Maximum Funding Amount Per Organization Per Round
Large	Organizations distributing more than 5.0 million pounds of food per year (or one million pounds for Tribal sovereign entities)	\$200,000
Small	Organizations distributing between 250,000 pounds and 5.0 million pounds of food per year	\$25,000

# Eligibility Cont.

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- To be considered eligible, food assistance providers must:
  - Operate as a non-profit entity in the King County region (individuals and for-profit entities are not eligible to apply)
  - Operate as a registered, active entity with the Washington Secretary of State
  - Demonstrate experience in the provision and distribution of culturally tailored food assistance to priority populations (priority populations identified below)
  - Demonstrate experience around efforts to reduce food insecurity in the King County community, including food distribution, improving access to services, or the coordination of services and programs
- Award recipients may sub-award to organizations, provided the organizations are necessary to support the applicant's identified scope of work.

# Allowable Uses of Funding

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Allowable uses of funding include food purchase and distribution during the approved funding period, within King County.

- Applicants must spend a minimum of 90% of total budgeted costs on the purchase and distribution of food.
- A maximum of 10% of the total budgeted costs can comprise expenses such as staffing costs, mileage, etc., that are in alignment with the purpose of the grant funding.
- Funded partners will attest that they will comply with this requirement in the contract.

# Impermissible Uses of Funding

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- Technology investments supporting distribution
- Food storage and distribution
- Investment in the structuring or development of food assistance networks
- Direct payments to individuals or families, (e.g. cash assistance, rental payments, utility assistance, gift cards, etc.)
- Video or audio production and media campaigns
- Real estate investment or development
- Capital projects
- Salary support for executive leadership
- Debt restructuring and/or bad debt
- Defense and prosecution of criminal and civil proceedings and claims
- Political donations and/or contributions
- Entertainment, alcoholic beverages, furniture, fines and penalties
- Fundraising and investment management costs
- Idle facilities and idle capacity
- Interest expense
- Lobbying, research and/or assessment and evaluation activities
- Food purchase and distribution outside of King County
- Indirect rate

# Contract Duration and Timeline

The anticipated contract duration resulting from this request for proposal is approximately three (3) months.

RFP Due Date	Partner Selection	Funds Awarded	Length	Funding Window
February 11	March 6	March 16	March 16 – June 30	Three-month funding period (March 2026 – June 2026)



# Application Process

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All eligible organizations are invited to apply.

Eligible organizations must submit the following items no later than **February 11, 2026 at 11:59 PST**, to be considered for funding:

- (1) Completed Request for Proposal
- (2) Completed Readiness Assessment (for organizations who have not already passed HealthierHere's Readiness Assessment)
- (3) Readiness Assessment supporting documentation (as outlined in the Readiness Assessment Explainer tab)

# Review and Selection Criteria

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HealthierHere will review applications based on multiple factors, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Timely submission of the Request for Proposal, Readiness Assessment, and required supporting documentation by the identified **deadline of February 11, 2026**.
- (2) Application completeness (all required elements completed).
- (3) Comprehensive and complete responses to qualitative prompts (Questions 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18).
- (4) Requested funding is in alignment with the eligibility criteria.

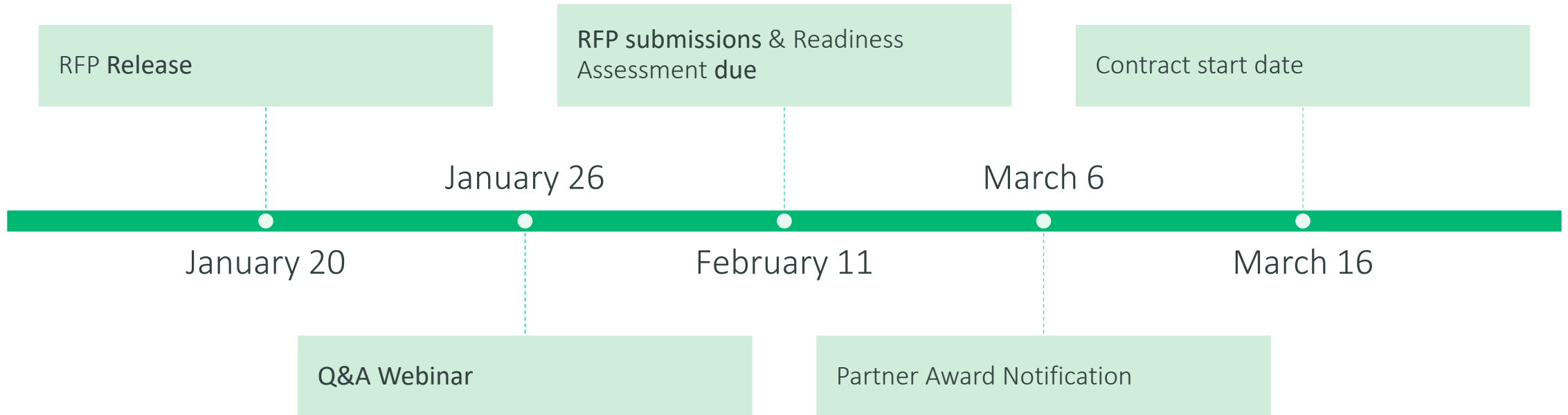
# Selection Criteria: Qualitative Questions

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The Request for Proposal includes five questions that require detailed qualitative responses. The applicant must respond to all prompts identified within the following qualitative questions for the RFP application to be considered complete:

- **Question 14:** Requires the applicant to share 2025 budget impact. *The applicant must include responses to prompts a-b of Question 14 for the response to be considered complete.*
- **Question 15:** Requires the applicant to identify changes in demand for food services. *The applicant must include responses to prompts a-b of Question 15 for the response to be considered complete.*
- **Question 16:** Requires the applicant to explain how additional funding would enable organization to meaningfully expand food distribution during the funding period. *A distinct description of how the funds will be utilized is required for the response to be considered complete.*
- **Question 17:** Requires the applicant to describe culturally tailored food options, if relevant. *A distinct description of how the funds will be utilized is required for the response to be considered complete.*
- **Question 18:** Requires the applicant to state the amount of funding requested. *The applicant must include responses to prompts a-c of Question 18 for the response to be considered complete.*

# RFP Timeline



# Food Assistance – Round 2 Funding Submission Process

# Step 1: Complete the Request for Proposal (Google Form)

- Completing the [Food Assistance Investment application](#) is the first step in the process.
- Submissions are due no later than **February 11, 2026 by 11:59pm PST**. Submission received after this deadline will not be considered.
- Please provide complete and detailed responses to all questions.



## Step 2: Complete Partner Readiness Assessment

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- Completing HealthierHere's [Readiness Assessment](#).
- The Readiness Assessment is due, with supporting documentation, on February 11, 2026, and can be uploaded directly with the RFP submission.
- **If your organization has previously completed and passed HealthierHere's Readiness Assessment, no additional action is needed.**
- The Readiness Assessment for this procurement requires organizations to respond to 10 criteria prompts that allow HealthierHere to assess an organization's readiness to enter into a contract with HealthierHere, as a sub-recipient of federal funds. The criteria are largely fiscal and operational.

# Step 2: Complete Partner Readiness Assessment

Readiness Category		Requirement Description	Yes	No
Core Readiness Requirements	1	The organization maintains a license to operate a business in the state of Washington		
	2	The organization maintains written policies and procedures for administrative, financial, and direct services		
	3	The organization's transactions are recorded in the organization's general ledger		
	4	The organization maintains a conflict-of-interest statement to operate to Federal Programs/Federal Grants		
	5	If applicable, the organization is listed in the IRS database of tax-exempt organizations and has an active Determination Letter		
	6	The organization regularly produces organizational Statements of Financial Position and Statements of Activity for review by internal and external stakeholders.		
	7	The organization employs, or contracts with, an accountant or bookkeeper.		
	8	The organization maintains proper oversight and controls of financial and auditing systems to minimize risk and management of funding.		
	9	The organization has standard procedures for segregation of accounting duties, financial reconciliation, and reporting		
	10	The organization has experience in receiving and managing grants or other funding		
Narrative: Describe any additional information or narrative based on responses to the requirements identified above.				

## Step 2 (Continued): Completing the Assessment

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- For each of the 10 criteria you should determine which of the following 2 options best describes your organization's *current state*:
  - Yes – Your organization currently has this (what is described) in place and is able to meet the criteria.
  - No – Your organization does *not* have the criteria in place, and you have *not started* working on it or developing it.
- Please note that the Readiness Assessment is used to assess an organization's *current state*, not future state. HealthierHere recommends spend no more than 1 hour to complete the full Assessment.
- The second tab of the Readiness Assessment includes an 'explainer' document detailing what each criteria mean and what supporting documentation the partner needs to submit (as applicable).

## Step 3: Partner Selection & Contract Development

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- RFP applications are due by **February 11, 2026 at 11:59pm PST**.
- Once all RFP applications and Readiness Assessments, with associated supporting documentation, have been reviewed, HealthierHere will notify organizations **selected for funding awards by March 6, 2026**.
- Partners not selected for funding will also be notified by March 6, 2026.
- Contracts will be developed with a **start date of March 16, 2026**.

## Step 4: Deliverables

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- Funded partners will be required to submit a final report to HealthierHere by July 31, 2026, describing how funds were utilized and impact to the community (including client stories).
- The report template will be issued to partners with their contract.

# Next Steps

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- Review and complete [2025-2026 Food Assistance Investment Request for Proposal](#) by February 11, 2026.
- Complete and submit the [Readiness Assessment](#), with supporting documentation, by February 11, 2026. (if needed)
- Please reach out to Elisa Shaw ([elisa@cascadecrestconsulting.com](mailto:elisa@cascadecrestconsulting.com)) and Jessica Kendall ([jessica@cascadecrestconsulting.com](mailto:jessica@cascadecrestconsulting.com)) with any questions.

# Questions?

