

HEALTHIERHERE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT: 2025-2026 FOOD ASSISTANCE INVESTMENT – Round 2 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Introduction

HealthierHere is a nonprofit collaborative dedicated to reducing health disparities, advancing equity, and improving the well-being of all people in King County through innovative, cross-sector collaborations. We partner with community members and leaders from diverse sectors, including health providers, social service and behavioral health agencies, community organizations, Tribes, government agencies, consumers, and more. HealthierHere works to connect and strengthen health and social care systems by providing organizations with expertise, resources, and robust data and technology solutions. We don't provide direct health care or social services to clients. Instead, we engage and support the organizations that do.

HealthierHere is one of nine Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) in Washington State working to transform the health and social care delivery systems, improve population health, prevent disease and address health related social needs.

As an organization, HealthierHere operates under a set of core values that include equity, community, partnership, innovation, and results. These values guide our work with each other and with our community partners. HealthierHere leads with equity. We work to intentionally eliminate disparities and address the current power dynamic and structural racism in our health and social care systems that perpetuates inequities.

We believe that every community member in King County should receive the type of care that they deserve - with respect and without stigma - to address their unique and individual needs. As our name suggests, we are committed to advancing health equity and believe that here, in King County, everyone's health matters. More information about HealthierHere can be found at: <https://www.healthierhere.org>.

Background

HealthierHere's Community Hub, and the other regional Hubs run by Accountable Communities of Health (ACHs) across the state, are one part of the broader vision for a coordinated system of whole person care in King County and Washington State. As the Community Hub for King County, HealthierHere leads the implementation of the Community Hub infrastructure and contracted network in accordance with Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) protocols for the [Medicaid Transformation Project \(MTP\) 2.0](#). HealthierHere provides ongoing management and backbone support for the Community Hub, including receiving and distributing referrals.

Objectives and Scope of Work

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.

Purpose

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.

Funding distributed through the Food Assistance Investment will be distributed in two distinct funding rounds following the timeline identified below:

Funding Round	RFP Due Date	Partner Selection	Funds awarded	Length	Funding Window
Round 2	February 11th, 2026	March 6 th , 2026	March 16 th , 2026	March 16 th -June 30 th , 2026	March 2026 – June 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 purposes of this investment, large food assistance providers are defined as those organizations distributing more than 5.0 million pounds of food per year (or one million pounds for sovereign Tribal entities). Smaller food assistance providers are defined as those organizations distributing between 250,000 pounds and 5.0 million pounds of food per year.

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

To be considered eligible, food assistance providers must:

- (1) Operate as a non-profit entity in the King County region (individuals and for-profit entities are not eligible to apply)
- (2) Operate as a registered, active entity with the Washington Secretary of State
- (3) Demonstrate experience in the provision and distribution of culturally tailored food assistance to priority populations (priority populations identified below)
- (4) 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

Applicants are encouraged to utilize current partnerships and networks with public or private, or for-profit entities, and community-based organizations. Only the primary applicant must meet the eligibility requirements identified above. 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

Allowable uses of funding include food purchase and distribution. If selected for contracting, applicants will be required to attest that their organization will utilize 90% of the total awarded 2025-2026 Infrastructure Investment: Food Assistance Investment – Round 2 dollars, on the purchase and distribution of food. A maximum of 10% of the awarded 2025-2026 Infrastructure Investment: Food Assistance Investment – Round 2 dollars, may be utilized to cover 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 include food storage and distribution equipment, technology investments supporting 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.

Duration

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

Application Timeline

Description	Date
Request for Proposal release (includes Readiness Assessment)	January 20, 2026
Question and Answer Webinar	January 26, 2026
RFP Submissions due	February 11, 2026
Partner Notification	March 6, 2026
Contract Start Date	March 16, 2026

Application Process

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

1. Completed Request for Proposal (via submitting the [Google Form](#)).
 2. [Readiness Assessment](#) on file with HealthierHere.
- If your organization has previously completed and passed HealthierHere's Readiness Assessment, no additional action is needed.
 - If your organization has not completed a Readiness Assessment or you are unsure of your organization's status, please email elisa@cascadecrestconsulting.com and jessica@cascadecrestconsulting.com to confirm.
 - Organizations without an approved Readiness Assessment must complete the assessment and submit all required supporting documentation by the RFP deadline. The Readiness Assessment can be [downloaded here](#).

Selection Criteria

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
2. Application completeness
3. Responses to qualitative prompts clearly answer all parts of the question
4. Requested funding is in alignment with the eligibility criteria

Deliverables

- Final Report: Funded partners will be required to submit a final report to HealthierHere by July 31st describing how funds were utilized and impact to the

community (including any client stories). The report template will be issued to partners with their contract.

Disclaimer

Issuance of this Request for Proposal (RFP) does not constitute a commitment by HealthierHere to award a contract. HealthierHere reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any informalities or irregularities in any proposal received, and to accept or reject any items or combination of items. Submission of a proposal in response to this RFP does not obligate HealthierHere to enter into any agreement with any proposer. The implementation of the Food Assistance Investment Request for Proposal is subject to continued MTP 2.0 funding and a contract between HealthierHere and the Washington State Health Care Authority.

1. Primary Contact for 2025-2026 Food Assistance Investment – Round 2

- a. Full name: _____
- b. Title: _____
- c. Organization: _____
- d. Email address: _____

2. Authorized Contract Signatory at Your Agency

- a. Full name: _____
- b. Title: _____
- c. Organization: _____
- d. Email address: _____

3. Organization Type (select all that apply):

- ☐ Community-based organization (organization focuses on a specific priority population or geography)
- ☐ Social services organization (organization focuses on specific services such as food access)
- ☐ Physical health/primary care provider
- ☐ Behavioral health/mental health provider
- ☐ SUD provider
- ☐ Hospital

- ☐ Tribal led/tribal serving community -based organization
- ☐ Other: _____

4. What type of food assistance does your organization provide to communities in King County? (select all that apply)

Please select the option(s) that best reflect your organization's food assistance programs:

- ☐ Food bank (distribute pounds of food to multiple food pantries)
- ☐ Food pantry (provide food directly to clients)
- ☐ Provides community meals for community members
- ☐ Provides prepared meals for community members
- ☐ Mutual aid network
- ☐ Community food network

5. How many pounds of food does your organization distribute on average to individuals in King County on a monthly basis?

Number of Individuals Served

6a. How many UNIQUE individuals in King County does your organization serve on a monthly basis?

- ☐ 0-149
- ☐ 150-300
- ☐ 301-500
- ☐ 501-999
- ☐ 1,000-1,999
- ☐ 2,000 – 2,999
- ☐ 3,000 or more

6b. Is your organization a food distributor to smaller food assistance providers in King County?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

6c. If yes, please list the organizations in your food distribution network:

7. Service History

How long has your organization been providing food assistance services?

- ☐ Less than 1 year
- ☐ 1-3 years
- ☐ 4-6 years
- ☐ 7-10 years

- ☐ More than 10 years

8. If your organization is currently a member of a food distribution network or community-led food distribution campaign, please share which one(s):

9a. Does your organization collect background information (home address, demographics) about the clients you serve with food assistance services?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Yes, for those who will provide the information

9b. If you answered “No” or “Yes, for those who will provide the information”, please estimate approximately how many individuals your organization serves in King County monthly that you are UNABLE to collect background information on.

10. Geographic Areas Served

For each geographic area, estimate the percentage of your food assistance client population residing in that area. If you do not collect this information, please select ‘Not collected.’

a) Central/South Seattle

- ☐ <10%
☐ 11-25%
☐ 26-50%
☐ 51-75%
☐ >76%
☐ Not collected

b) North Seattle

- ☐ <10%
☐ 11-25%
☐ 26-50%
☐ 51-75%
☐ >76%
☐ Not collected

c) North King County

- ☐ <10%
☐ 11-25%
☐ 26-50%
☐ 51-75%

- ☐ >76%
- ☐ Not collected

d) South King County

- ☐ <10%
- ☐ 11-25%
- ☐ 26-50%
- ☐ 51-75%
- ☐ >76%
- ☐ Not collected

e) East King County

- ☐ <10%
- ☐ 11-25%
- ☐ 26-50%
- ☐ 51-75%
- ☐ >76%
- ☐ Not collected

f) Outside King County

- ☐ <10%
- ☐ 11-25%
- ☐ 26-50%
- ☐ 51-75%
- ☐ >76%
- ☐ Not collected

11. Demographics Served

Estimate the percentage of your total client population by race/ethnicity.

For each race/ethnicity option, estimate the percentage of your food assistance client population from the listed group. If you do not collect this information, please select 'Not collected.'

a. American Indian/Alaska Native

- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

b. Asian

- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

c. Black or African American

- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

d. Hispanic/Latino

- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

e. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

f. White

- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

g. Middle Eastern/North African

- <10%
- 11-25%

- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

h. Unknown race/ethnicity

- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

i. Other (Please list any other race/ethnicities that you serve)

Languages

12. What languages are spoken by staff at your organization (select all that apply):

- a. Amharic
 - b. Arabic
 - c. Cantonese
 - d. Dari
 - e. English
 - f. French
 - g. Korean
 - h. Mandarin
 - i. Russian
 - j. Somali
 - k. Spanish
 - l. Swahili
 - m. Ukrainian
 - n. Vietnamese
 - o. Other (include all other languages spoken by your staff): [free text]
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Priority Populations Served

13. What is the depth of your organization's reach with the following priority populations?

For each population, estimate the percentage represented in your food assistance client population. If you do not collect this information, please select 'Not collected.'

a. Older adults (54-64)

- <10%
- 11-25%

- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

b. Families with young children (0-13)

- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

b. People for whom English is not their primary language

- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

c. Refugees

- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

d. Immigrants

- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

e. Tribal members or AI/AN communities

- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%

- >76%
- Not collected

f. Homeless/unstably housed

- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

i. Other

Current Capacity to Provide Services and Resource Constraints

Partners must provide complete responses to the qualitative questions below.

Budget Impacts

14a. Was your organization's 2025 or 2026 budget impacted by federal, state and/or local budget changes, reducing your ability to serve King County community members?

Yes/No

14b. If your organization's budget was impacted, what years were impacted (please select all that apply):

- ☐ 2025
☐ 2026

14c. For the budget year with the **biggest impact**, please provide the following:

(a) the impact to your organization's budget (in dollars), and

(b) the impact to your organization's budget as a percentage of the total budget

(100 words or less)

15a. Have you experienced changes in demand for your food services in the past year?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

15b. If yes, please describe these changes and the change in the number of people seeking services from December of 2024 to December of 2025. (250 words or less)

15c. Provide an estimate of the number of individuals seeking services for the following quarters (this can include individuals you have had to turn away due to limited resources):

Q4 2024	Q4 2025

16. How would additional funding enable your organization to meaningfully expand food distribution during the funding period? Please describe how these funds would be used. (250 words or less)

17a. Does your organization currently provide culturally tailored food options?

17b. If yes, please describe the specific foods you offer and which communities you serve. (250 words or less)

The response to question 18 constitutes the minimum budget information required for submission.

18a. What is the total amount of funding your organization is requesting (\$200,000 limit for large organizations, \$25,000 for small organizations based on the definitions above)?

18b. How many people do you estimate being able to serve with this funding amount in the 3-month funding period?

18c. How many pounds of food do you estimate being able to distribute with the amount requested in the 3-month funding period?

18d. Please provide a narrative on the intended use of the requested funding (types of food, culturally tailored options, delivery method, etc.)