HEALTHIERHERE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT:
2026 Food Security Infrastructure and Sustainability Funding
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 increase their capacity to serve individuals and families by improving and/or increasing their infrastructure. Funds must be used to purchase, install, and / or improve essential food storage and distribution equipment, and /or make technology investments supporting food distribution. For purposes of this investment, food assistance providers are defined as food pantries, food banks, mutual aid networks, and community food programs.

Purpose

Help address long-term infrastructure and sustainability needs of food assistance providers serving King County residents.

Timeline

Total Amount to be Awarded and Spent by June 30th, 2026

RFP Due Date	Partner Selection	Contracts Finalized	Funds Must be Spent By:
March 2, 2026	March 16, 2026	April 6, 2026	June 30, 2026

Amount Awarded and Organization Size

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)	$100,000
Small	Organizations distributing between 100,000 pounds and 5.0 million pounds of food per year	$50,000

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 100,000 pounds and 5.0 million pounds of food per year.

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 listed 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

Allowable Uses of Funding

Allowable uses of funding are limited to the following:

- Replacing food storage equipment
- Purchasing new food storage equipment
- Replacing food distribution equipment
- Set up or installation of food storage and/or distribution equipment
- Purchasing new food distribution equipment
- Investing in new technology to support food distribution
- Investing in current technology to support food distribution
- Other items related to essential food storage and distribution equipment that support food distribution.

A maximum of 10% of the awarded 2026 Infrastructure Investment: Food Security Infrastructure and Sustainability dollars may be utilized to cover expenses such as delivery costs, equipment and technology set up and installation, 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 short term emergency food relief, 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)	Monday, February 9, 2026
Question and Answer Webinar	Thursday, February 12, 2026
RFP Submissions due	Monday, March 2, 2026
Partner Notification	Monday, March 16, 2026
Contract Start Date	Monday, April 6, 2026

Application Process

Eligible organizations must submit the following items no later than Monday, March 2, 2026, to be considered for funding:

1. Completed Request for Proposal (via submitting the Google Form).
2. Proposed budget (upload)
3. A visual representation of the proposed essential food storage and distribution equipment, and/or technology purchase. This could be a link to product information, a vendor quote, or specifications. Include a photo or image of the equipment or technology. For example, if you are asking for funds to purchase a scale, include a picture that includes the make, model number, and price of it.
4. Readiness Assessment on file with HealthierHere.
    a. If your organization has previously completed and passed HealthierHere's Readiness Assessment, no additional action is needed.
    b. If your organization has not completed a Readiness Assessment or if you are unsure of your organization's status, please email elisa@cascadecrestconsulting.com and jessica@cascadecrestconsulting.com to confirm.
    c. Organizations without an approved Readiness Assessment must complete the assessment and submit all required supporting documentation by the RFP deadline.
    d. 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
5. Visual representation of proposed purchase of essential food storage and distribution equipment, and /or technology investments supporting food distribution that includes cost and product information.

Deliverables

Funded partners will be required to submit a final report that includes:

- A photo of purchased, installed, new or improved essential food storage and distribution equipment, and /or technology investments supporting food distribution and
- Overview of how the funds were utilized and impact the funds had on the organization and the community by July 31, 2026.
- 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 2026 Food Security Infrastructure and Sustainability Funding Request for Proposal is subject to continued MTP 2.0 funding and a contract between HealthierHere and the Washington State Health Care Authority.

2026 Food Security Infrastructure and Sustainability Funding Application

1. **Primary Contact for the 2026 Food Security Infrastructure and Sustainability Funding**

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

2. **Authorized Contract Signatory at Organization**

   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

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

- 0-149
- 150-299
- 300-499
- 500-999
- 1,000-1,999
- 2,000 – 2,999
- 3,000 or more

Service History

7. 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

8a. 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

8b. 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.

_____

Geographic Areas Served

9. 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

Demographics Served
10. 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
11. What languages are spoken by staff at your organization? (select all that apply)

Amharic
Arabic
Cantonese
Dari
English
French
Korean
Mandarin
Russian
Somali
Spanish
Swahili
Ukrainian
Vietnamese
Other (include all other languages spoken by your staff): [free text]
_____

Priority Populations Served
12. 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

c. People for whom English is not their primary language
- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

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

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

f. Tribal members or AI/AN communities
- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

g. Homeless/unstably housed
- <10%
- 11-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- >76%
- Not collected

13. 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

14a. Does your organization currently provide culturally tailored food options?

Yes
No

14b. If yes, please describe the specific foods you offer and which communities you serve. (250 words or less)

Food Infrastructure Funds

15a. Please indicate how your organization proposes using the 2026 Food Infrastructure Funds. Check all that apply:

> Replacing food storage equipment
> Purchasing new food storage equipment
> Replacing food distribution equipment
> Set up or installation of food storage and/or distribution equipment
> Purchasing new food distribution equipment
> Investing in new technology to support food distribution
> Investing in current technology to support food distribution
> Other (please describe)

15b. Please describe the impact the items proposed above will have on your organization. (300 words)

16. Please provide a clear description of each of the elements referenced above. Include if available:

- The specific item(s) or service(s) you intend to purchase
- Link to product information that includes a photo or image of the equipment/technology if available, vendor quote, or specifications

Project Description

17. Please provide a clear description of how you will use the requested funds. (300 words)

Budget

Amount Awarded and Organization Size

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)	$100,000
Small	Organizations distributing between 100,000 pounds and 5.0 million pounds of food per year	$50,000

18. What is the total amount of funding your organization is requesting? ($100,000 limit for large organizations, $50,000 for small organizations based on the definitions above)

_____

19a. Equipment or Technology (minimum 90% of budget):

- Estimated cost for project equipment and technology (itemized if purchasing multiple items): $_____

19b. Other Expenses (maximum 10% of budget). Other costs which are in alignment with the purpose of the grant funding, such as:

- Delivery costs
- Equipment and technology set up and installation
- Staffing costs
- Mileage

  Estimate cost for expenses: $_____

Please also include a budget proposal as part of your application submission.

The budget template can be downloaded here.