Second Harvest Canada: Local Food Infrastructure Fund: Community Support Stream (LFIF-CSS) Applicant Handbook

Second Harvest is pleased to be one of 2 organizations selected by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to receive funding from the Local Food Infrastructure Fund: Community Support Stream. These funds will be further distributed to eligible non-profit and charitable organizations across Canada (referred to as ultimate recipients) and are to be used to improve the distribution of nutrient-dense, culturally appropriate food.

LFIF-CSS is delivered as Canada is facing a growing food affordability and food access crisis while the non-profit sector is struggling to withstand the steadily increasing demand for food supports.

Funded under the Local Food Infrastructure Fund (LFIF) by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

Second Harvest is pleased to be one of 2 organizations selected by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to receive funding from the Local Food Infrastructure Fund: Community Support Stream (LFIF-CSS). These funds will be further distributed to eligible non-profit and charitable organizations across Canada (referred to as ultimate recipients) and are to be used to improve the distribution of nutrient-dense, culturally appropriate food.

LFIF-CSS is delivered as Canada is facing a growing food affordability and food access crisis while the non-profit sector is struggling to withstand the steadily increasing demand for food supports.

To be considered for funding through the LFIF-CSS, ultimate recipients must apply through one of the initial recipient organizations, Second Harvest or Food Banks Canada. Key project outcomes include:

- Organizations have increased capacity to supply nutritious food.
- Food environments are improved within community programs.
- Strengthened community food security.

Qualified Areas of Support

- Applicant must be a registered nonprofit or charitable organization that operates food security initiatives

- LFIF-CSS grants must be used for the purchase of food, with a small allocation for associated non-food costs.
- Eligible non-food costs (up to a total 25% of entire request) include: fridges, freezers, storage racks.
- For approved food types, see the Food Eligibility List.

Application Guidelines

- Applications can be completed online, via Survey Monkey Apply (SMA). Should you require support, please reach out to our *Grants Coordinator* at grantadministrator@secondharvest.ca.
- Deadline to submit your application is **November 30, 2026.**
- Applications will be reviewed and granted based on our scoring criteria.
- Funding decisions will be communicated to applicants by **January 11, 2027.**
- Minimum Requests: $20,000
- Maximum Requests: $200,000
- Applicants requesting $100,000+ will be required to provide financial statements that have been audited by a licensed public accountant.
- Proposals will be assessed based on their cost-effectiveness, feasibility and overall impact.
- All awarded funding must be spent by March 31, 2027.

Who Can Apply to Second Harvest

- Applicant must be a registered nonprofit or charitable organization operating a food program.

Ineligible Costs

Please review our guidelines for a full list of ineligible costs. Please note, grants awarded through the LFIF:CSS funding **CANNOT** be used towards any of the following:

- Refundable costs. Any project-related costs that are eligible for reimbursement from another source **cannot** be claimed for reimbursement and should therefore be excluded from the project budget. For example, if your organization qualifies for a rebate or refund on HST or has secured additional funding that will offset the project cost, these amounts must be excluded from the budget submitted with this application.
- Administration costs.

Reporting Requirements

- If your application is successful, you will be required to complete a final report upon completion of your project by June 1, 2027.
- Successful applicants will be provided with the report upon the disbursement of funds.

Before you complete this application

- Please be prepared to submit a grant budget that itemizes how you will spend the funding amount you are applying for.
- The ultimate recipient is responsible for retaining these quotes and subsequent receipts for a minimum of seven (7) years after project end, in case of an audit.
- Applications requesting $100,000+ will be required to provide financial statements that have been audited by a licensed public accountant.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the LFIF-CSS Grant through Second Harvest, ALL the following criteria must be met. Your organization:

- is a nonprofit, charitable organization, or Indigenous community
- operating an existing food program
- is not part of the Food Banks Canada network

The following types of organizations are NOT ELIGIBLE to receive funding through this granting stream.

- Municipal or school bodies, including local governments, health authorities, school boards or schools
- Academic and educational institutions
- For-profit entities
- Programs from not-for-profit organizations supporting schools
- Organizations that are members or affiliates of Food Banks Canada, or agencies that receive food through a Food Banks Canada member or affiliate

Selection Criteria

- **Location and Population Served:** Are you a community-based or Indigenous organization? Are you a registered charity or non-profit organization? Are you supporting underserved populations? Are you supporting remote or rural communities? How many individuals are expected to be reached? How many additional food support services do you expect to provide with the funding?
- **Activities and Timelines:** Will the proposed activities increase your capacity to support and/or deliver food programs and increase access to nutritious foods for communities before March 31st, 2027? Does the proposed project align with the grant's objectives?
- **Budget:** Does the budget reflect reasonable costs for the proposed activities? Are expenses related to the successful delivery of food programs within communities facing food insecurity? Can the funds realistic be spent by March 31st, 2027?

- **Impacts:** Does the proposed project increase the organization's capacity to support and/or deliver food programs? Does the project improve availability and access to nutritious foods and contribute to strengthening community food security? Is there an expected increase in individuals and households served? Will the proposed project result in new partnerships to undertake community-led action on food?
- **Funding qualification:** The applicant has not already received LFIF:CSS funding through Food Banks Canada (FBC) and is not a part of FBC's network.

What You'll Need to Apply

- Please be prepared to submit a grant budget that itemizes how you will spend the funding amount you are applying for.
- Applications requesting $100,000+ will be required to provide financial statements that have been audited by a licensed public accountant.
- The ultimate recipient is responsible for retaining these quotes and subsequent receipts for a minimum of seven (7) years after project end, in case of an audit.

Distribution of Funds & Reporting

The Second Harvest Grants Management Team conducts a due diligence review to assess applicant eligibility, ensuring they meet required criteria and have submitted complete applications. Eligible applications are then reviewed and scored based on a standardized evaluation framework, with assignments made according to relevant categories or regions. Final funding decisions are made based on overall scores and reviewer feedback. Successful applicants are notified of the outcome, required to complete necessary agreements, and receive funding based on a structured disbursement plan.

Successful applicants will be required to complete a final report on completion of their project, before June 1, 2027.

Grant Timeline

Grant Announcement	October 23rd, 2026
Applications Open	November 1st,2026
Applications Close	November 30th,2026
Funding Decisions Communicated	January 11th,2027
Deadline to Spend Funds	March 31st, 2027
Final Reports Due	June 1st,2027

Grant Budget Sample

Note: The budget your organization provides is meant to serve as an estimate and not necessarily a concrete breakdown of expenses. If awarded, you will be able to amend the expense items to meet real-time needs (within the constraints of approved $ amount). **Reminder:** Eligible non-food costs cannot exceed 25% of total budget.			
Expense Item	**Description**	**$ Expense**	**$ Second Harvest**
Dairy	Cheese Yogurt Milk	11000	11000
Protein	Chicken Beef Pork	15000	15000
Fruits and Vegetables	Assorted	12500	12500
Storage	Fridge Freezer Shelving	5000	5000
Total Expense Budget		43500	43500

Questions?

Please see our FAQ and Food Eligibility list to help guide you on your application

If you have funding questions, please email our *Grants Coordinator* at grantadministrator@secondharvest.ca or call us at 437-291-5186