

Sample Proposal #1

Carver Hunger Alliance. Enriching community through person-centered food support, nutrition education, and access assistance. Seeking \$84,000.

Carver County Hunger Alliance was founded as a volunteer organization in 1962. Our founders were four dedicated women who came together to identify unmet needs of local residents and take action in the face of poverty and inequality. From our humble origins, we have focused on alleviating hunger in our community. We carry out this mission by serving about 1,000 families from 4 locations in Carver County each year. We serve only Carver County, a high-need outer-county area outside of the urban core. Our clientele is 90% non-Hispanic white, 5% Black/African American, 3% Asian/ Pacific Islander, and 2% Other. All of our clients are at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. Our main office houses our food distribution center and our largest food shelf, Groceries and More. The Groceries and More hours are 9-5pm Monday through Friday, although we can accommodate evening hours if our clients give us at least one week advance notice. When clients are finished with their intake or check-in with a volunteer, they are escorted to the food shelf area, the client choice model is explained to them, and children have a play area in the center of the room to play in while parents shop for food of their own selection. We prioritize nutrition in everything that we do, from food pantry marketing materials and lay-out (healthy items are listed first, documented by our photography/art, and located on the shelves at eye-level), to monthly healthy cooking demonstrations, to periodic healthy options seminars, to expanded access to fresh produce in our food shelf. Consistent with industry best-practices, our clients are encouraged to bring home as many fresh fruits and vegetables as they wish on each food shelf visit. Understanding that nutrition must be viewed with cultural awareness, we stock our pantry with culturally-specific foods of many varieties and host multi-lingual nutrition programs when they are requested by the community.

We understand hunger, in almost all cases, is not the only challenge our clients face, and to truly alleviate hunger and reduce poverty, providing food alone will not be sufficient to solve the problem. That is why our food support activities include comprehensive intakes to uncover underlying barriers and root causes to achieving self-sustained success. For example, our intake process includes checks for safety, financial wellness, child education status and health care coverage. This way, we can identify domestic and/or sexual violence in the home, homelessness or unstable housing, unemployment, lack of health insurance and health concerns, and provide both internal and external referrals to help solve these issues.