



ARKANSAS FULL TABLE FUND

Arkansas Full Table Fund

Supporting Solutions that Help Every Arkansan get the Food they Need

Request for Applications (RFA)

1. KEY DATES AND CONTACTS to the best of our knowledge

- RFA Released: September 25, 2026
- RFA Q&A Webinar: October 20th at 1:00 p.m. central time | Visit the [initiative webpage](#) to register
- Application opens: October 1, 2026
- Notice of Intent (NOI) deadline: November 23, 2026
- Application deadline: December 7, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. central time
- Award Announcement: February 2027

Contact information

- For non-urgent questions: Review the already answered questions, and/or submit new questions, on the FAQ page: <https://www.arcf.org/full-table-fund/>
- For technical questions on the application form/process: Jenna Means, Program Assistant, jmeans@arcf.org
- For urgent questions: Adelia Kittrell, Program Director, akittrell@arcf.org

2. BACKGROUND

For the past four years, Arkansas has experienced among the highest rates of food insecurity in the nation.¹ Recent statewide survey data indicate that nearly 30% of Arkansans are food insecure, highlighting the urgent need for coordinated, sustainable strategies that address hunger and its underlying causes.² Food insecurity is associated with increased risk of chronic disease, poorer mental health outcomes, and greater financial hardship, creating challenges for individuals, families, and communities across the state. Expanding access to nutritious food is therefore not only essential for improving health and wellbeing, but also for strengthening Arkansas's economic resilience and quality of life.

Federal nutrition assistance programs, which are administered by states, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), serve as critical components of Arkansas's food security safety net. However, many eligible Arkansans do not participate in these programs because of barriers such as limited awareness, stigma, administrative complexity, transportation challenges, and access to enrollment and program sites. In Arkansas, only 46% of individuals eligible for WIC participate in the program, well below the national participation rate.³ SNAP participation has also declined in recent years, despite continued high levels of need.⁴ Additionally, Arkansas has ranked among the states with the lowest participation in the Summer Food Service Program.⁵ As nutrition assistance programs continue to evolve in response to shifting federal priorities,

strengthening outreach, enrollment, and access will be increasingly important to ensure Arkansas families can obtain the support they need.

The charitable food system is a critical component of Arkansas's food security safety net, complementing federal nutrition assistance programs by providing emergency food assistance to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. Additionally, these non-governmental programs often provide “wrap-around services” by helping households with resource referral, nutrition education, life skills/jobs training, and other programming to holistically support those in need. Six major regional food banks serve as distribution hubs for hundreds of food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other partner agencies across all 75 counties, collectively distributing millions of pounds of food each year, providing SNAP application support through partnerships with organizations like mRelief, and assisting with wrap-around support that provides a holistic support system to participants. As food insecurity has remained persistently high and household costs have increased, demand for charitable food assistance has continued to grow. At the same time, many food banks and partner agencies face challenges related to staffing and volunteer capacity, infrastructure, technology, and coordination across community partners, highlighting the need for investments that strengthen organizational capacity, improve system coordination, and expand equitable access to food and nutrition assistance statewide.

Addressing these complex challenges requires a comprehensive approach that considers not only whether food is available, but also whether communities can consistently access, utilize, and benefit from food assistance in ways that promote long-term health. The Six Dimensions of Food Security⁶ – availability, access, utilization, stability, agency, and sustainability – provide a framework for understanding and addressing the multiple factors that influence food security. Together, these dimensions can guide the development of initiatives that strengthen both immediate food access and the long-term sustainability of food systems. Complementing this framework, the Hunger Continuum⁷ categorizes households based on their level of food access and use of food assistance. By understanding that households can fall along a continuum that advances towards self-sufficiency, the model helps tailor interventions and advance strategies that improve food security across all six dimensions.

3. ARKANSAS FULL TABLE FUND OVERVIEW

The vision of the Arkansas Full Table Fund is to support solutions that help every Arkansan get the food they need. In pursuing this vision, Arkansas Community Foundation hopes this initiative will help achieve an Arkansas that rises above its regional peers in terms of food and nutrition security rates, with a strong and accessible safety net of governmental and non-governmental programs to help struggling households address immediate needs and move towards resilience.

Arkansas Community Foundation, the Walmart Foundation, Cargill, and other funders will distribute approximately \$10,000,000 through the Arkansas Full Table Fund to Arkansas-based non-profit organizations working to address food insecurity. Funding will be provided within three funding streams called Advocate, Strengthen, and Innovate. **Advocate funding** will focus on projects conducting advocacy, outreach, and/or systems improvements to increase access and participation in federal food assistance programs, especially SNAP, WIC, and SFSP. **Strengthen funding** will focus on projects aiming to improve organizational capacity, infrastructure, systems, and processes to promote efficiency and access within the charitable food sector. **Innovate funding** will focus on projects implementing community-driven innovative solutions to address healthy food access challenges and promote household resilience.

Projects will be funded in two phases including a two-year pilot funding period and a non-guaranteed three-year follow-on funding period. During the piloting phase, selected applicants can initially implement their projects and demonstrate proof of concept. Among the funded pilot projects, grantees may be selected to continue their efforts and receive follow-on funding for an additional three years.

- Expectations for the piloting phase: During the pilot phase, all grantees should intend to pilot their project, evaluate how the pilot went, and modify the project as needed, before applying for follow-on funding. If feasible, it is also acceptable to move into a full-scale launch during the pilot phase funding period (using pilot funding), following a successful pilot (i.e., grantees are not required to wait for the follow-on funding period).
- Expectations for the follow-on funding period: Grantees are expected to build on the findings from the pilot phase. Projects selected for follow-on funding will be drawn from the pilot grantees who choose to apply for or are selected for this continued funding. It is possible that not all pilot phase grantees will be selected for follow-on funding.

4. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

4.1. General Eligibility Criteria

- Lead organization must be a 501(c)(3) organization, or a hospital, government entity, and/or educational institution (e.g., schools and universities).
- Lead organization must be based in Arkansas, and projects must be solely implemented within Arkansas.
- Lead or co-lead organization(s) must have a demonstrated track record working in Arkansas within the areas of food insecurity, nutrition, healthy food access, food systems, and/or related topics.
- Proposed projects must address at least one of the six dimensions of food security and at least one of the stages of the hunger continuum.
- Proposed projects must be focused on sustainable solutions (i.e., solutions that can live on, and/or continue to have impacts, beyond the grant period) that incorporate approaches to address policy or systems change.
- The organization(s) leading a proposed project must demonstrate capacity to accomplish their stated objectives. Smaller organizations are encouraged to partner with other organizations to enhance capacity, as appropriate, given the proposed project.

4.2. Project Types that will not be Funded

- Pure research and/or evaluation projects will not be considered. However, research/evaluation can be a secondary objective of funded projects, and all grantees will be required to participate in some initiative-level and grantee-level evaluation/reporting activities (see Section 5).
- Pure educational projects (e.g., nutrition education) without a robust plan to promote sustainability beyond the grant period (e.g., materials/resources, dissemination, infrastructure, etc.) will not be considered. However, education is encouraged to be one component of a multifaceted intervention/project, if applicable, and assuming a sustainability plan is in place.
- Funding purely for food and/or other household necessities will not be considered. However, projects that use food as a key component of an intervention (e.g., medically tailored meals), when combined with other intervention components (e.g., nutrition education, resource referral), and a plan for sustainability can be considered.

- Funding for capital campaigns/investments, which includes funding for property acquisition, purchasing buildings and structures, construction of new structures, endowments, pledges, and other similar purchases/costs will not be considered. However, projects may be considered that include remodeling of spaces to improve service (e.g., converting a pantry to a choice/market model), improved cold storage (e.g., refrigeration to allow increased provision of fresh foods), mobile infrastructure (e.g., mobile markets to reduce transportation barriers for fruits and vegetables), new technology systems (e.g., closed-loop referral models that allow better cross-sector communication and follow-up with households in need), and other such infrastructure enhancements aimed at promoting healthy food access.
- Funding for purely commercial endeavors and/or for-profit entities will not be considered. However, projects that include enhancing access to federal food assistance programs and/or “sliding scale” payment models within a commercial food space with the goal of promoting healthy food access (e.g., implementing SNAP incentives at farmers markets such as “double up food bucks.”), and a plan for sustainability, can be considered.
- Funding to support lobbying and/or contributing to a political campaign will not be considered. However, non-lobbying advocacy efforts can be supported.

4.3. Advocate

4.3.1. Description

The goal of this funding stream is to support projects that aim to improve participation in federal and state nutrition assistance programs, through outreach, advocacy, and/or systems change. Projects that focus on *outreach* will include the use of promotional and educational approaches with the goal of improving perceptions and/or understanding of federal and state nutrition assistance programs. Projects that focus on *advocacy* may use “grassroots” and/or “grasstops” non-lobbying advocacy approaches to influence public and/or decisionmaker awareness, attitudes, and/or action related to federal and state nutrition assistance programs. Finally, projects may also focus on systems change, such as processes, systems, and infrastructure enhancements, to improve the experience of applicants and/or users of federal and state nutrition assistance programs with the goal of reducing barriers, promoting participation, and/or enhancing program efficiency. Projects may include one or more of the elements described above.

4.3.2. Who Should Apply

- Organizations with demonstrated experience conducting projects focused on federal and/or state nutrition assistance programs that are similar to the project types listed above.
- The funded team ideally demonstrates the potential for a regional or statewide reach, and/or plans to scale the proposed project regionally or statewide.

4.3.3. Grant Structure

Grants will have a two-phase structure. Successful applicants will be awarded funding for a “piloting” phase. Organizations awarded pilot funding will have the opportunity to apply or be selected for follow-on funding.

- Pilot phase: Grantees will be selected to receive up to \$200,000 for up to 24 months.
- Follow-on funding phase: Grantees will be selected among the pilot grantees to receive continued funding for up to 36 months.

4.3.4. Example Projects

The following project examples are meant to help with idea generation and do not represent an exhaustive list of the types of projects that will be funded. If your project fits within the scope of this funding stream (as

described above), is needed and feasible, and has the potential for positive impact on food insecurity within Arkansas, then it may be considered for funding.

Outreach project examples:

- **Strengthen and formalize community-based navigators.** Many Arkansans who qualify for food assistance never access it, not because they do not need help, but because the system is hard to understand, time-consuming, or intimidating. Community-based navigators help people move through this complexity. These navigators already exist informally in food pantries, schools, churches, clinics, libraries, and nonprofits. The investment here is in formalizing, training, and supporting this role so it is reliable, trusted, and sustainable.
- **Dedicated school food access coordinators.** Schools are already doing significant food access work, but it is often added onto the responsibilities of counselors, nurses, or administrators. Dedicated food access coordinators could give this work a clear owner. These coordinators can focus on connecting meals, benefits, charitable food, and family support into a coherent system within the school. Investment does not have to mean adding permanent staff immediately. It can include shared roles across schools, stipends, training, clearer authority, and integration into district leadership structures. Coordinators may also need access to data, referral pathways, and decision-makers so they can resolve barriers quickly.
- **Normalize help-seeking and reduce stigma through human connection.** A significant portion of food insecurity in Arkansas is hidden. Many people who are struggling do not seek help because they believe others need it more, fear judgment, or do not see themselves as eligible. Trusted connectors are uniquely positioned to change this dynamic because they operate through relationships, not transactions.

Advocacy project examples:

- **Grass roots campaigns to promote the expansion of eligibility for federal nutrition programs.** Expanding eligibility for federal nutrition programs such as SNAP can reach more people in need while supporting economic stability for low-income families, children, seniors, and people with disabilities. Many eligible households remain unenrolled or excluded by restrictive rules. States can broaden access through higher SNAP income thresholds, simplified reporting, longer certification periods, and reduced asset tests. Community-based organizations can support these efforts by advocating for policies that maximize access, conducting outreach in trusted settings, and providing culturally and linguistically appropriate information about available benefits.
- **Nonpartisan policy learning and feedback loops.** Food security policy often lacks accompanying learning and feedback mechanisms. Projects might consider creating nonpartisan spaces for outcome-focused policy assessment and refinement. Approaches might include convenings, facilitated dialogue, lessons documentation, and shared analysis. This strategy may lead to better policy over time through continuous refinement.
- **Policy translation and support for on-the-ground policy implementation.** New rules, eligibility adjustments, or program expansions only matter if local systems can implement them effectively. Many organizations lack the capacity to interpret policy changes and adjust operations quickly. Projects could help bridge the gap between policy language and practical explanation through systematic translation. Strategies might include plain-language summaries, regular briefings, direct communication channels, and feedback mechanisms. This approach may lead to increased trust and accuracy in system communications.

Systems change project examples:

- **Streamlining WIC enrollment via cross-agency data sharing.** Cross-agency data sharing can streamline WIC enrollment through determining “adjunctive eligibility” by sharing application or approval information across programs, allowing agencies to determine eligibility without redundant applications. It can also identify eligible households for targeted outreach and enrollment assistance. Successful implementation requires interagency agreements, interoperable systems, technology expertise, privacy protections, and effective outreach.
- **Equip farmers’ markets to accept federal nutrition assistance benefits to address limited grocery store availability.** Farmers' markets and farm stands connect consumers with fresh, locally grown foods and may increase fruit and vegetable consumption. They can improve food access in areas without supermarkets, especially when accepting SNAP, WIC, and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program benefits. Successful markets should be conveniently located, reflect consumer demand, support small farmers, and operate regularly. They can also strengthen local economies by directing customers to nearby businesses.
- **Administrative simplification and burden reduction.** Complex processes discourage participation, even among eligible households, and might contribute to administrative inefficiencies. Projects may consider implementing approaches to simplify the application process for those seeking governmental assistance benefits, and/or reducing burdensome administrative processes to free up the workforce for other people-focused tasks to enhance customer service for applicants and benefits enrollees.

4.4. Strengthen

4.4.1. Description

The goal of this funding stream is to strengthen the capacity, infrastructure, and coordination of Arkansas’ nonprofit food system to improve efficiency of distribution of and/or access to healthy food and other related supports for households in need. Projects will focus on organizational capacity, system coordination, and/or structural barriers within the charitable food system. Projects that focus on *organizational infrastructure* will include efforts to enhance operational systems, technology, infrastructure, workforce development, and process improvements that increase efficiency, stability, and sustainability of the food system. Projects that focus on *systems coordination* will include collaborative, regional, or statewide efforts to strengthen coordination, partnerships, and system alignment across the food assistance ecosystem to improve how organizations work together to address food insecurity and increase access to food. Projects that focus on *structural barriers* will include efforts pursuing systems-level solutions that address structural barriers to food security and healthy food access through policy implementation, systems redesign, and/or physical environment approaches. Projects may include one or more of the elements described above.

4.4.2. Who Should Apply

- Food banks, food pantry networks, food security organizations, collaboratives/coalitions, hospitals, schools, non-profit farmer organizations/coalitions, and/or other entities that work to improve food access.
- Organizations with demonstrated experience implementing systems-level strategies that strengthen the charitable food system and the broader food access ecosystem.

4.4.3. Grant Structure

Grants will have a two-phase structure. Successful applicants will be awarded funding for a “piloting” phase. Organizations awarded pilot funding will have the opportunity to apply or be selected for follow-on funding.

- Pilot phase: Grantees will be selected to receive up to \$200,000 for up to 24 months.

- Follow-on funding phase: Grantees will be selected among the pilot grantees to receive continued funding for up to 36 months.

4.4.4. Example Projects

The following project examples are meant to help with idea generation and do not represent an exhaustive list of the types of projects that will be funded. If your project fits within the scope of this funding stream (as described above), is needed and feasible, and has the potential for positive impact on food insecurity within Arkansas, then it may be considered for funding.

Organizational infrastructure project examples:

- **Food pantry enhancements.** Effective, client-focused food pantries can meet immediate food needs while promoting dignity, health, and well-being. Key strategies include nutritious and culturally appropriate foods, client-choice models, refrigeration and space enhancements, welcoming environments, referrals to assistance and community services, and flexible distribution options such as extended hours, mobile pantries, online ordering, and streamlined intake.
- **Technology improvements.** Technology-focused projects can strengthen food banks and charitable food networks by improving procurement, inventory management, ordering, donation coordination, and distribution. Examples include shared platforms that connect food banks with donors and suppliers, automated inventory and ordering systems, and digital tools that match available food with community needs. Closed-loop referral systems can connect families to food assistance and track whether they successfully receive services. These improvements can reduce administrative burdens, minimize food waste, improve coordination, and help ensure that healthy foods reach families efficiently.
- **Cold storage and food handling capacity.** Many food banks and pantries in Arkansas struggle to store and handle fresh food safely. Limited refrigeration and freezer space force organizations to turn away produce, dairy, and protein even when supply exists. This limits nutrition quality and increases reliance on shelf-stable items.

Systems coordination project examples:

- **Statewide food system collaborative/coordination.** Multi-sector state food system coordination aligns the work of food banks, state agencies, anti-hunger organizations, agriculture, schools, hospitals, grocery retail, etc. to address food security and nutrition outcomes. Collaboratives can reduce silos, improve efficiency, and advance shared goals related to food access, affordability, and health equity. Key components may include regular cross-sectorial meetings, data sharing agreements, and developing or updating tools such as dashboards or public reports to track progress.
- **Resource hubs.** “One-stop” resource hubs (physical and/or virtual) co-locate or coordinate food assistance with social, economic, and health services, making it easier to access multiple supports in one place. By integrating services such as food pantries, SNAP/WIC enrollment, housing, employment, health care, and benefits navigation, these hubs reduce transportation, time, referral, and stigma barriers. Successful models require strong partnerships, data-sharing and privacy protections, culturally responsive services, flexible access, clear referral pathways, and sustainable funding.

Structural barriers project examples:

- **Projects to address access to the charitable food system among people with disabilities.** People with physical, cognitive, and/or developmental disabilities can face a variety of challenges to accessing the charitable food space. Projects are needed to better understand and address these challenges.

- **Mobile markets.** Mobile markets and fresh cart initiatives offer fresh, affordable produce and groceries directly to neighborhoods where traditional grocery stores are scarce or inaccessible. These programs aim to reduce barriers like transportation, cost, and time. Key components include proper equipment, reliable locations and schedules, community partnerships, and outreach. Markets should offer culturally appropriate foods, accept SNAP/WIC and other nutrition incentives, and remain accessible.

4.5. *Innovate*

4.5.1. Description

The goal of this funding stream is to support community-driven solutions and/or innovative approaches that have not yet been tried in Arkansas or not tried at a large scale. Projects within this funding stream might develop, test, implement, or expand innovative solutions that address local food access challenges, strengthen household resilience, and improve healthy food access. Projects should be informed by community needs and designed to respond to gaps, barriers, or opportunities identified by the populations being served. Therefore, robust community engagement activities are strongly encouraged within this funding stream.

4.5.2. Who Should Apply

- Organizations that work in the realm of food insecurity, nutrition, healthy food access, food systems, and/or related topics within Arkansas.
- Specifically, organizations who are community-based, have proven track records in food security, and have community buy in for their proposed projects.

4.5.3. Grant Structure

Grants will have a two-phase structure. Successful applicants will be awarded funding for a “piloting” phase. Organizations awarded pilot funding will have the opportunity to apply or be selected for follow-on funding.

- Pilot phase: Grantees will be selected to receive up to \$100,000 for up to 24 months.
- Follow-on funding phase: Grantees will be selected among the pilot grantees to receive continued funding for up to 36 months.

4.5.4. Example Projects

The following project examples are meant to help with idea generation and do not represent an exhaustive list of the types of projects that will be funded. If your project fits within the scope of this funding stream (as described above), is needed and feasible, and has the potential for positive impact on food insecurity within Arkansas, then it may be considered for funding.

Innovate project examples:

- **Medically tailored meals/groceries.** Medically tailored meals (MTM) and groceries (MTG) are “food as medicine” models. Patients are screened for food insecurity and diet-related conditions, then referred to meal or grocery programs providing foods tailored to their health needs, often with nutrition and disease management education. Projects are encouraged to include local farmers, the charitable food sector, and/or other Arkansas-based organizations for food sourcing. Benefits may include improved health outcomes, medication adherence, quality of life, fewer hospital and emergency department visits, and potential health care savings. Key considerations include clinical screening and referral, registered dietitian involvement, food safety and quality, cultural relevance, delivery logistics, data-sharing and evaluation, and sustainable funding.

- **Health information exchanges.** Health information exchanges can help make stronger clinical-WIC linkages by more formally connecting pediatric and obstetrics locations with WIC to allow HIPAA-compliant data sharing. Such an approach can enable closed-loop referrals from hospitals and sharing recent clinical data to reduce duplicated measurements in the WIC clinic during certification, which can streamline WIC enrollment.
- **Farm aggregator food markets.** Similar to a cross between a farmers' market and community supported agriculture, these markets purchase local produce from nearby small and mid-sized farmers, sell it to the community using a sliding scale payment approach, and accept SNAP/WIC. Some models offer online ordering and pick-up. For areas with limited access to full-service grocery stores, these markets can offer an accessible and affordable option for fresh produce. Also, farmers benefit by having a consistent predictable purchaser and no marketing or in-person selling responsibilities.
- **Gleaning projects.** Food waste is a tremendous problem across the country, and in Arkansas, where usable food goes to waste and often ends up in landfills. This contributes to detrimental environmental impacts and human impacts since many struggling families could utilize that food. Gleaning programs partner with farmers, grocery retail, and/or other points in the food system to save food that would otherwise be discarded and direct that food to help households in need.

5. REQUIREMENTS FOR EVALUATION, REPORTING, AND PARTICIPATION

5.1. *Evaluation*

An external evaluator will partner with Arkansas Community Foundation to focus on initiative -level evaluation. For example, they will help assess the initiative reach, impacts, and degree to which the initiative accomplished its objectives and why. While the focus of the evaluation is not on the individual grantee's projects, the evaluator will need the assistance of grantees to report activities and reach of their projects, participate in interview(s) about their projects and experiences as a grantee, and other data collection and data sharing activities that will be designed to be low burden for grantees. Additionally, the evaluator will also provide grantees with evaluation technical assistance (e.g., guidance on data collection, analysis, reporting) to support grantee's own reporting responsibilities for the funder and any additional evaluation of interest to the grantee.

5.2. *Reporting and Deliverables*

During the pilot phase, grantees will submit a brief mid-point progress report (after the first year). Near the end of the second year, grantees will submit an application for follow-on funding, which will include progress reporting, feasibility findings, and early indications of efficacy/effectiveness. For projects selected for follow-on funding, grantees will have an additional mid-point progress report and final reporting requirements (e.g., describing activities, accomplishments, challenges, project reach, indications of impact, etc.). Also, copies of all materials and other resources created as part of the project must be submitted.

5.3. *Participation*

5.3.1. Funder Meetings

Grantees will meet with Arkansas Community Foundation, and some of their partners, for virtual bi-annual/annual one-on-one meetings to provide updates, express concerns, and request technical assistance outside of other scheduled convenings and/or reporting requirements.

5.3.2. Financial Reporting

This funding will be administered by Arkansas Community Foundation through a grant provided by the Walmart Foundation, Cargill, and other funders. Grantees will be required to track monthly expenses and retain records/receipts and should be able to provide that documentation upon request. Grantees will be required to submit semi-annual (twice a year) financial reports. Documentation should be retained for three years from the date of submission of the final financial report.

5.3.3. Learning Collaborative

As part of this funding opportunity, grantees will virtually convene regularly (e.g., quarterly) for peer-learning and outside technical assistance opportunities. This learning collaborative will be designed to be a collegial space to accelerate learnings and facilitate project guidance. While some scheduling conflicts can be unavoidable, grantees are strongly encouraged to fully participate in this learning opportunity.

6. HOW TO APPLY

6.1. *Instructions for Submission*

6.1.1. Notice of Intent

As a first step in the application process, applicants are strongly encouraged to complete a notice of intent (NOI) to apply at the link below. The notice includes a brief description of the planned project and should take less than 5 minutes to complete. NOIs will be due at least 2 weeks before the application deadline. The NOIs are crucial to aid planning for the review process.

- NOI Link (please complete by November 23, 2026): [Notice of Intent – Fill out form](#)

6.1.2 Application Submission Process

Applications for this RFA must be submitted in the Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM) online system. Please utilize the offline template (See appendix) included to formalize your application prior to entering information into the portal. All interested applicants should submit the required application information included in the application template. All information and accompanying documents should be uploaded to the portal by the deadline stated in the Key Dates section (see Section 1). Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

6.1.3. Budget and Disbursement Information

When submitting your pilot phase budget and justification, follow the template linked below. You will be asked to describe the budget request, including justifications of the amounts and line items in each major category. Please see the category descriptions tab for each section's definition. Also, it may be helpful to consult the following list of budgetary considerations before completing your submission.

Budget Template: Please use the provided budget application template in the application portal

Budget Considerations:

- Pilot phase funding maximums
 - Advocate projects: up to \$200,000 for up to 24 months.

- Strengthen projects: up to \$200,000 for up to 24 months.
- Innovate projects: up to \$100,000 for up to 24 months.
- In addition to the maximums listed above, annual funding requested that is greater than 50% of an organization's operating budget may be denied.
- Indirect rates will be capped at 20% and must be included within the maximums listed above.
- Allowable expenses include: Staff salaries (include the % FTE and amount), fringe benefits, consultants/subawards (should not exceed 50% of the total requested amount), necessary travel, and project supplies, equipment, and other direct costs necessary to accomplish the objectives of the project.
- Funding will be disbursed to awarded pilot phase applicants in two halves. The first payment will be soon after the initial contract is executed, and the second payment will be disbursed near the pilot phase mid-point and contingent on a grantee's midpoint report being submitted.
- Budget modifications above a certain limit will require written approval by Arkansas Community Foundation.
- No cost extensions will be limited to up to three months for pilot phase grants and must be submitted within three months of the award end date.

7. REVIEW PROCESS

7.1. Description of Steps

1. Applications are screened for eligibility.
2. Eligible applications will be scored by three reviewers. The review panel will include researchers and practitioners familiar with the field of food insecurity and/or nutrition.
3. The merits of the top scoring applications will be discussed. The pool of proposed projects will be reviewed holistically to ensure coverage based on geography, project-type, and the six dimensions of food security and hunger continuum. Following this discussion, the review panel will submit funding recommendations.
4. Final funding decisions will be made by Arkansas Community Foundation.

7.2. Scoring Considerations

Reviewers will consider the following areas when reviewing applications.

Overall Approach & Project Plan

- Detailed description of proposed project provided
- Strategies are in alignment with the goals of the initiative
- Demonstrated need and support for the project
- Project is innovative (especially for the Innovate funding stream)
- Timeline provided and project seems feasible
- Potential for the project to be scaled up to address food insecurity at the regional and/or statewide level
- Project seems likely to lead to substantive impacts to address food insecurity
- Clearly articulated and feasible plan for the project to have lasting impacts beyond the life of the grant

Project Team (including partners and sub-grantees) & Organizational Capacity

- Organizational readiness to implement the proposed project
- Relevant experience/expertise based on the proposed project plan

- Clear descriptions of the responsibilities of the key personnel and other partners and staff involved in the proposed project
- Clearly articulated and feasible project management approach
- Plan for hiring and/or contracting personnel and selecting sub-grantees, as applicable
- Include most recent audit and most recent year's operation budget

Budget Proposal & Narrative

- Reasonable, necessary, and allowable costs proposed
- Allocated staff time (not counting any in-kind support) is reasonable for completing the project objectives
- Appropriate compensation of community members, as applicable
- Effective internal controls of funds

6.1.4 Partnerships and Letters of Support

The Arkansas Full Table Fund wants to promote community engagement, collaboration, and multi-sector partnerships across the state. These partnerships can include local groups, organizations, and other community partners.

To show these partnerships, grant applications may include letters of commitment or letters of support. A letter of commitment explains what a partner will provide to help with the project, such as staff, services, funding, or other resources. A letter of support shows that a group or organization supports your project.

These letters are not required, but applicants are encouraged to include them when possible.

8. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

8.1. *Q&A Webinar*

Date/Time: October 20th at 1:00 p.m. central time

8.2. *Frequently Asked Questions*

Link to FAQ page to see past answers and submit questions: <https://www.arcf.org/full-table-fund/>

8.3. *Community-Driven Strategies for Arkansas*

Developed through statewide listening sessions with community members and stakeholders, the Community-Sourced Interventions report captures recommended approaches for addressing food insecurity based on the experiences and priorities of Arkansans. Applicants are encouraged to use this resource to support idea generation. The report should be viewed as a planning resource rather than a required or exhaustive list of eligible interventions. Applicants are welcome to propose innovative or alternative strategies not listed in the report, assuming the strategies are within scope based on the descriptions of the funding stream above.

[*Link to report*](#)

8.4. *Other Planning Resources*

The planning resources below are meant to provide additional context and/or support idea generation. Not all approaches or strategies discussed are necessarily within scope for this funding opportunity, and the resources are not meant to provide an exhaustive list of all types of projects that will be considered.

[Arkansas Hunger Continuum](#) — 2025 Hunger in Arkansas Survey

The Hunger Continuum illustrates how Arkansas households experience food insecurity by considering both food access and participation in food assistance programs. Applicants are encouraged to use this framework to identify where their proposed project will intervene along the continuum, describe the populations they intend to serve, and explain how their activities will strengthen access to food and nutrition assistance and ultimately support households moving up the continuum towards self-sufficiency.

[A Brief Primer on the Six Dimensions of Food Security](#) — New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate

The Six Dimensions of Food Security is a comprehensive framework for understanding the interconnected factors that influence food security. Applicants are encouraged to use this framework to identify which dimensions their proposed project will strengthen, describe how activities address root causes of food insecurity, and demonstrate the potential for sustainable impact.

[The Case for a Six-Dimensional Food Security Framework](#) — Jennifer Clapp et al., 2022

This peer-reviewed article provides a more in-depth discussion of the six-dimensions framework (with the addition of agency and sustainability to the traditional four dimensions/pillars) and the rationale for its use, particularly in framing policy decisions. This paper discusses how food security has changed over time, and current food policy frameworks should be updated to recognize all six dimensions as essential parts of the concept. Expanding the definition of food security in this way, Clapp et al. argues, has important implications for how food security is addressed, measured, and evaluated. This resource may be helpful for applicants who want to understand the six-dimensions framework on a deeper level.

[New Jersey Food Security 3-Year Strategic Plan](#) — New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate

The New Jersey Food Security 3-Year Strategic Plan presents a set of focus areas and strategies for advancing food security that can be tailored to different communities, organizations, and local contexts. Applicants are encouraged to use this resource as inspiration when developing program strategies and designing projects that address food security through systems-level and community-driven approaches.

[New Jersey Food Security 3-Year Strategic Plan: Implementation Planning Toolkit](#) — New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate

The Implementation Planning Toolkit, released alongside the New Jersey Food Security 3-Year Strategic Plan, offers practical guidance and planning templates to support program development, implementation, and evaluation. Applicants are encouraged to use this resource to strengthen their grant proposal by clearly defining community needs, selecting evidence-based strategies, developing measurable objectives, and creating realistic implementation plans.

9. REFERENCES

1. <https://arhungeralliance.org/arkansas-continues-to-rank-highest-in-the-nation-for-food-insecurity-what-it-means-for-families-and-why-action-matters-now/>
2. <https://news.uark.edu/articles/80745/new-study-shows-nearly-30-of-arkansans-face-food-insecurity>

3. <https://www.fna.usda.gov/research/wic/eer/2023>
4. <https://www.fna.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>
5. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas>
6. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306919221001445>
7. <https://arhungeralliance.org/home/hunger-in-arkansas/>

APPENDIX – Offline Application Template

Note: This template is for planning purposes only. All applications will be submitted online.

1. Organizational Information

Please complete the following information about the lead organization that is requesting funding. For the project(s) described in this application, the lead organization should be the organization primarily responsible for implementing the project(s) and that meets the eligibility criteria outlined in the Request for Applications (RFA).

Lead organization name: [TEXT BOX]

Lead organization address: [TEXT BOX]

Organization EIN: [TEXT BOX]

Organization's authorized signing authority full name and title: [TEXT BOX]

Organization's operating budget for most recent fiscal year: [TEXT BOX]

Number of full-time paid staff in total at organization: [NUMERICAL TEXT BOX]

Year organization was founded: [TEXT BOX]

Please upload your most recent 990 form or your IRS determination letter for 501(c)3 status: [UPLOAD]

Please upload your most recent independent financial audit or audited financial statement: [UPLOAD]

[Optional question]

- If your organization does not have a recent audit to share, please explain: [TEXT BOX] [Optional question]

Primary contact for organizational questions (e.g., someone who can handle financial, administrative, and/or organizational questions):

- Organization primary contact's full name: [TEXT BOX]
- Organization primary contact's title: [TEXT BOX]
- Organization primary contact's email address: [TEXT BOX]

I have read the *General Eligibility Criteria* section of the RFA and my organization is eligible: [Yes/No]

I give Arkansas Community Foundation permission to share our proposal with other funders: [Yes/No]

2. Funding Streams

The Arkansas Full Table Fund has three funding streams that applicants can submit proposals to: Advocate, Strengthen, and Innovate. Lead applicants may apply to all three funding streams through one application but may not apply to the same funding stream more than once. You may be a subgrantee or partner on someone else's application.

If you apply to more than one funding stream, you will automatically be presented with separate application questions specific to each funding stream. If submitting to more than one funding stream, please create a unique name for each project.

For the purposes of this application, the term “project” is defined as the specific program, initiative, intervention, etc. for which you are requesting funding. Capacity is defined as aptitude, skill, or ability. Infrastructure is defined as systems or resources such as personnel, buildings, or equipment.

Which funding stream(s) are you applying for? [Options: Advocate, Strengthen, Innovate]

3. Application for Funding

3.1. Project Information

3.1.1. Project name: [TEXT BOX]

3.1.2. Primary contact for this project

- Full name: [TEXT BOX]
- Job title: [TEXT BOX]
- Email address: [TEXT BOX]

3.1.3. Key partner organizations (list partner organizations included in the budget; include Agency EINs)
[TEXT BOX – 1,500 characters]

3.1.4. Grant applications may include letters of commitment (i.e., explaining what a partner will do to help with the project) or letters of support (i.e. showing that a group or organization supports your project). Letters are not required, but applicants are encouraged to include them when possible.

Merge any accompanying letters into one file and upload here: [UPLOAD BUTTON]

3.1.5. Counting your organization and the list of partners included in your project, which food system sectors are represented? (CHECK BOX – Select all that apply)

- Economic Development & Food Financing
- Emergency Food Assistance
- Farmers & Ranchers
- Federal Food & Nutrition Programs
- Food Processing, Waste, & Recovery
- Food Transportation
- Food Wholesale & Retail
- Governmental Agencies & Social Services
- Health Care
- Nonprofits, Advocates, & Academia
- Schools, Child Care, & Older Adult Centers

3.1.6. Brief summary of project: [TEXT BOX – 1,500 character limit]

3.1.7. Total Requested funding amount for pilot phase (first 24 months, see RFA). Before entering your requested amount, please review the RFA carefully, including allowable project types and budget considerations sections.

Requested funding amount: [TEXT BOX]

3.1.8. Per the *Project Types that will not be Funded* section of the RFA, I believe my project is eligible:
[Yes/No]

3.2. Focus Areas

See the RFA, and resources linked in the RFA, for a more detailed description of the following and focus areas.

3.2.2. Which of the Six Dimension of Food Security is most aligned with your project?

Availability: Sufficient quantities of appropriate foods are physically present.

Access: Having adequate economic, social, and physical resources to acquire the available food.

Utilization: The ability to safely prepare, process, and biologically use accessible food to make healthy meals.

Stability: A household's reliable and consistent supply of food over time, especially within intra-monthly and yearly timeframes.

Agency: The capacity of individuals and communities to act on their decisions about what they eat, how food is produced, and how to shape their food systems.

Sustainability: Food systems can provide adequate quantities of healthful food for future generations.

Select one or two that fit best (CHECK BOX):

1. Access
2. Agency
3. Availability
4. Stability
5. Sustainability
6. Utilization

3.2.3. Please explain how your project aligns with the dimension(s) of food security you selected: [TEXT BOX – 1,500 character limit]

3.2.4. Which type of household, as defined by the Hunger Continuum, is your project seeking to support?

Facing hunger: Households with food needs not met, and are not accessing assistance

Facing hunger with support: Households accessing food assistance, but still do not have enough

Meeting food needs with support: Households who have food needs met through food assistance programs

Food needs met: Households meeting food needs without assistance. However, these households may still be marginally food secure and/or meet food needs with difficulty. For example, making just enough income to preclude qualifying for assistance programs, facing other related socioeconomic challenges, being nutritionally insecure even if food quantity is sufficient, and/or at risk for future food insecurity.

Select one or two that fit best (CHECK BOX):

1. Facing hunger
2. Facing hunger with support
3. Meeting food needs with support
4. Food needs met

3.2.5. Please explain how your project aligns with the stage(s) of the Hunger Continuum you selected: [TEXT BOX – 1,500 character limit]

3.3. Need(s) Addressed

3.3.1. Describe the specific need your project will address and any supporting rationale: [TEXT BOX – 1,500 character limit]

3.3.2. Describe the population served and the geographic focus: [TEXT BOX – 1,500 character limit]

3.4. Project Description (Pilot Phase)

3.4.1. List the primary objectives of the pilot phase of your project: [TEXT BOX – 1,500 character limit]

3.4.2. Community engagement is encouraged in all aspects of the projects, such as project planning, implementation, oversight, and/or evaluation. Include planned engagement activities, as well as completed activities that are directly relevant to this proposed project. (*Note: The Innovate funding stream application includes a slightly different version of this item: “Describe how this proposed project or solution to the need described above was community driven. Include how the project/solution was identified and the planning process.”*)

Describe your community engagement approach here: [TEXT BOX – 1,500 character limit]

3.4.3. Describe the primary activities planned to accomplish each objective: [TEXT BOX – 7,500 character limit]

3.4.4. Upload a simple project timeline that shows the planned activities for the pilot phase: [UPLOAD]

One-year Gantt chart example (This example is meant to be helpful, but not prescriptive):

Objectives and activities	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Objective 1												
Activity 1	•	•										
Activity 2			•	•	•							
Activity 3						•						
Objective 2												
Activity 4							•	•				
Activity 5								•	•			
Objective 3												
Activity 6										•		
Activity 7											•	•

3.4.5. List the expected tangible outputs for each activity. These are the “products” of your work or the things that are conducted, accomplished, and people reached that indicate that a planned activity occurred. For example, if an activity for a hypothetical project was conducting educational workshops for school nutrition

professionals, then outputs might include things like the quantity of workshops conducted, counts of attendees taught, and/or number of pre-post knowledge assessments collected.

List expected outputs here: [TEXT BOX – 1,500 character limit]

3.4.6. Describe potential challenges your project may face and plans to address these challenges: [TEXT BOX – 1,500 character limit]

3.4.7. Funding sustainable solutions is important for the Arkansas Full Table Fund. In this context, sustainability (also sometimes called maintenance or sustainment) refers to the potential for your proposed project to have lasting impacts and/or influence beyond the life of the grant.

Describe your sustainability approach and rationale for why your project is a sustainable solution:
[TEXT BOX – 3,000 character limit]

3.4.8. Describe how your proposed project is innovative: [TEXT BOX – 1,500 character limit]

(Note: This item is only included in the Innovate funding stream application)

(Unscored/Optional) Describe potentially helpful project or programmatic technical assistance needs: [TEXT BOX – 1,500 character limit]

(Unscored/Optional) Describe plans for evaluation and/or anticipated technical assistance needs: [TEXT BOX – 1,500 character limit]

3.5. Describe the Team (Pilot Phase)

3.5.1. In general, briefly describe the type of work your organization and key partners have conducted over the past five or more years, including topic areas, programming, geographic reach, and key target populations.

Include your description here: [TEXT BOX – 3,000 character limit]

3.5.2. Describe specific recent projects your organization and key partners have conducted that are directly related to your proposed project, including brief descriptions, results of those projects, geographic reach, project size, and populations served.

Include your description here: [TEXT BOX – 3,000 character limit]

3.5.3. Describe roles and responsibilities of key personnel including descriptions of experience/expertise:
[TEXT BOX – 3,000 character limit]

3.5.4. Upload a succinct and relevant resume, CV, or biosketch for key personnel (place all in one file):
[UPLOAD]

3.5.5. Describe your approach to project management to ensure on schedule implementation and deliverables:
[TEXT BOX – 1,500 character limit]

3.6. Follow-on Funding Phase

3.6.1. While this application is only relevant for pilot funding, some of the pilot grantees will be selected for follow-on funding. Assuming your project gets accepted for follow on funding, please briefly describe how you would build on to the results of the pilot phase, including primary activities.

Describe here: [TEXT BOX – 3,000 character limit]

3.7. Requirements

I understand that as part of the initiative-level evaluation, grantees will be required to participate in low-burden evaluation activities. These might include sharing data you are collecting (e.g., activities tracking, participant reach, impact data), participating in shared measures collection (e.g., as feasible, adding/aligning metrics to allow initiative-wide assessment), participating in reach tracking (e.g., quarterly reporting of numbers of participants served), and participating in interviews about your project.

Affirm the above statement here: [YES Check Box]

I understand that programmatic and evaluation-focused technical assistance will be provided to grantees, and grantees are strongly encouraged to fully participate in these activities.

Affirm the above statement here: [YES Check Box]

I understand that during the pilot phase, grantees will submit a brief mid-point progress report (after the first year), and near the end of the second year, grantees will submit an application for follow-on funding (if they desire to be considered for follow-on funding), which will include progress reporting, feasibility findings, and early indications of efficacy/effectiveness.

Affirm the above statement here: [YES Check Box]

I understand that funding will be disbursed to awarded pilot phase applicants in two halves. The first payment will be soon after the initial contract is executed, and the second payment will be disbursed near the pilot phase mid-point and contingent on a grantee's midpoint report being submitted.

Affirm the above statement here: [YES Check Box]

I understand that budget modifications greater than a certain amount may require written approval by Arkansas Community Foundation.

Affirm the above statement here: [YES Check Box]

I understand that no cost extensions will be limited to up to three months for pilot phase grants and must be submitted within three months of the award end date.

Affirm the above statement here: [YES Check Box]

I understand that grantees will be required to track monthly **grant** expenses and retain records/receipts and should be able to provide that documentation upon request.

Affirm the above statement here: [YES Check Box]

I understand that grantees will be required to submit semi-annual (twice a year) financial reports. Documentation should be retained for three years from the date of submission of the final financial report.

Affirm the above statement here: [YES Check Box]

3.8. Budget

Upload your budget information for your pilot project (*Note: use the template provided in application portal.*)