

Application to DHCD Submitted through CAMS

County of Albemarle

Albemarle County Food Security Response

Application ID: 76906082021055004

Application Status: Incomplete

Program Name: COVID-19 CV1

Organization Name: County of Albemarle

Organization Address: 401 McIntire Road, Room 149
Charlottesville, VA 22902-4579

Profile Manager Name: Cecilia Baber

Profile Manager Phone: (434) 296-5853

Profile Manager Email: cbaber4@albemarle.org

Project Name: Albemarle County Food Security Response

Project Contact Name: Stacy Pethia

Project Contact Phone: (434) 296-5832

Project Contact Email: spethia@albemarle.org

Project Location: 1600 5th Street Ext., Suite A
Charlottesville, VA 22902-6495

Project Service Area: Albemarle County

Total Requested Amount: \$314,000.00

Required Annual Audit Status: Accepted

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Budget Information:

Cost/Activity Category	DHCD Request	Other Funding	Total
Administration	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
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Program Operations	\$284,000.00	\$0.00	\$284,000.00
Other: Gift cards to local grocers	\$110,000.00	\$0.00	\$110,000.00
Other: Fresh Farmacy produce bags	\$144,000.00	\$0.00	\$144,000.00
Other: Prepared meals	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
Total:	\$314,000.00	\$0.00	\$314,000.00

Budget Narrative:

Albemarle County is requesting \$314,000 in CDBG-CV funding to support efforts to address the food security of low/moderate-income residents and migrant farmworker. The County is requesting \$30,000 of grant funding be used to cover administrative expenses with the remaining \$284,000 in grant funding to be used as follows: 1. Gift cards to local grocers and Walmart: \$110,000 (220 households @ \$500 each) 2. Fresh Farmacy produce bags: \$144,000 (100 households 2 bags/month for 18 months @ \$40 each) 3. Prepared meals: \$30,000 (150 residents 2 meals/day for up to 10 days @ \$10/meal)

Questions and Responses:

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1. Describe the proposed project and the need for the project. How does the project fulfill an identified community need? What additional community needs can be addressed as part of the project?

Answer:

As the country begins to recover from the economic, social, and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Albemarle County proposes implementing a project to support the food security needs of the County's Homeless, Migrant, and low-income populations which were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The project will utilize three strategies for supporting food security needs, honoring both the dietary and cultural nutritional needs of families and farmworkers, as well as county residents and farmworkers that fall sick with coronavirus and need to isolate as they recover. A key component of the proposed approach is to foster resilience by connecting our community's COVID-19 Food Security response to economic recovery within our food and transportation sectors.

Access to healthy, nutritious, culturally appropriate foods will be supported through the following two strategies:

Gift Cards: one-time gifts cards from local grocers and Walmart, in the amount of \$500, will be distributed to county residents and farmworkers living at or below 80% area median income (AMI). These funds will expand opportunities for project beneficiaries to exercise voice and choice over nutritional needs not intrinsic in food box distributions currently handled by the food bank. Households that are currently unable to purchase fresh meats and produce from stores will be able to acquire goods their families need. In addition, partnerships with key Hispanic and international food stores will provide options for residents to access culturally appropriate foods while supporting our local economy. Albemarle County Public Schools will identify homeless and migrant families in need food support while two local nonprofit organizations, Sin Barreras and the Central Virginia Farm Workers Initiative, will manage distribution of the gift cards.

Fresh Farmacy: Managed by Local Food Hub, shares of fresh produce and farm fresh eggs will be distributed on a weekly or twice per month basis (dependent upon need and funding allocation) to County farmworkers living at or below 80% AMI. Each bag will contain 6-9 items, such as one dozen eggs, collard greens, lettuce mix, sweet potatoes, cornmeal (grown and milled in VA), apples, tangerines (from a regional partner farm in GA), brussels sprouts, and carrots. Each bag is suitable for a family of four and includes educational materials about the food, storage and cooking tips, and recipes (in both English and Spanish). Food bags will be delivered to the place of residence by Yellow Cab of Charlottesville and distributed by to migrant workers by the Central Virginia Farm Workers Initiative.

The third strategy meets the needs of county residents and farmworkers that need support to recover from COVID-19 in isolation. Currently, the Blue Ridge Health District has expanded its programming to include approaches that enable our community to mitigate the spread and flatten the curve through the COVID19 Wrap Around Services program. This program provides finances, hotels, PPE/sanitation supplies, medications as well as food boxes/produce. CDBG grant funding will support the delivery of prepared meals to low/moderate-income county residents and farmworkers isolating due to a COVID-19 infection:

Prepared Meals: Cultivate Charlottesville has teamed up with Frontline Foods to contract Albemarle based restaurant owners to prepare and distribute food to COVID cases in the area. Providing healthy, ready-to-eat meals allows for community members who test positive to self-isolate and for their household to quarantine without the extra financial and logistical burdens of securing food. Meals are provided, in coordination with other wrap around services, on a case-by-case basis to entire households with a COVID positive member(s). The partnerships and program will generate local business and support economic recovery for the county-based restaurants involved.

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2. Please provide a timeline for completion of the project or activities associated with the project. Outline appropriate entities to undertake the activities outlined in the timeline.

Answer:

All project activities will be completed within 12 months from date of grant award. Albemarle County will partner with the following organizations to implement project activities:

Sin Barreras: Sin Barreras provides education, direct services, and support to the County's Hispanic immigrant community. Sin Barreras will coordinate distribution of gift cards to County residents involved with the Albemarle County Public School's Homeless and/or Migrant Education Program.

Central Virginia Legal Aid Society (CVLAS): (CVLAS) is a non-profit law firm which provides free legal assistance to low income people in civil cases and preventive legal education in our communities. Since 1971, CVLAS has defended the rights of those who can't defend themselves, including migrant farmworkers. CVLAS will coordinate data collection about and gift card distribution to Migrant workers.

Local Food Hub (LFH): The Local Food Hub is a Central Virginia nonprofit helping small farmers and the local economy by bringing healthy, locally sourced food from the farm to the community. LFH will be responsible for organizing and scheduling delivery of fresh produce and eggs to program beneficiaries through their Fresh Farmacy program. Deliveries will be coordinated with CVFWI and Yellow Cab Company of Charlottesville.

Blue Ridge Health District (BRHD): Blue Ridge Health District has expanded its programming to include approaches that enable our community to mitigate the spread and flatten the curve through the COVID19 Wrap Around Services. Wrap around services will be provided to entire households receiving prepared meals as needed. Services to be provided include hotel shelter, financial support, PPE/sanitation supplies, and medications.

PB&J Fund: The PB&J Fund empowers children and families through culinary and nutritional education, while improving access to affordable, healthful food for under-resourced community members. PB&J will coordinate the preparation and delivery of meals to individuals and households isolating or quarantining due to a positive COVID-19 test. They are partnering with Harvest Moon Catering for meal preparation.

Albemarle County Public School Homeless and Migrant Education Programs (ACPS): These programs work to ensure homeless and migrant students receive the support needed to achieve academic success. Supportive services beyond educational needs, such as emergency services, referrals for health services, or transportation are also provided. ACPS program staff will identify program families in need of grocery gift cards, help with gift card distribution, and collect and report on beneficiary data.

Yellow Cab: Yellow Cab of Charlottesville will provide delivery services for the Fresh Farmarcy component of this program.

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3. Please describe persons from the local government and project partners including PDC, community non-profit organization, etc., that will be utilized to administer and manage the CDBG grant award. Outline what proposed role each individual will play including a description of the role. We are particularly interested in the experience of the project manager or administrator, and knowing that the management team has the capacity (expertise and time) to ensure the compliant and timely implementation of the project.

Answer:

To implement the program, the County will partner with several local nonprofit organizations, businesses, and government agencies. Project partners, and the respective roles of each organization are outlined below.

Albemarle County:

Stacy Pethia, Housing Policy Manager, will be Grant Manager with responsibility for coordination and completion of grant activities. Stacy is currently the Vibrant Communities Initiative Grant Manager for the Southwood Redevelopment project. Prior to joining Albemarle County, Stacy managed the City of Charlottesville's Affordable Housing Fund (CAHF) overseeing \$6.6 million in CAHF grant awards, including grant agreement development and execution, timely disbursement of funds, and grantee compliance.

Sin Barreras:

Central Virginia Farm Workers Initiative (CVFWI):

Local Food Hub (LFH):

Blue Ridge Health District Medical Reserve Corps (MRC):

Albemarle County Public School Homeless and Migrant Education Programs (ACPS):

Yellow Cab:

4. Please describe the direct beneficiaries from the completion of the project/program (i.e. project service area, a particular demographic or subset of the local population, etc.).

Answer:

The proposed gift card and Fresh Farmacy initiatives will serve a total of 320 households with income equal to or less than 80% AMI. Project beneficiaries will be located the Southwood, Barracks West, University Heights, and Commonwealth/Peyton Drive/Triangle Court neighborhoods, as well as farms employing migrant workers.

The Prepared Meals program will serve up to 150 low/moderate-income individuals and families located throughout Albemarle County.

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5. What national objective will this project meet? Even if the project is under the urgent need category or the removal of slums and blight category, how will the project benefit low- to moderate-income individuals in the community?

Answer:

Activities designed to meet a community need having a particular urgency, and Activities benefiting low- and moderate-income persons.

Business closures, and the resulting job losses, due to the COVID-19 pandemic have left many individuals and families living in Albemarle County struggling financially. Approximately 20% of the County's workforce is employed in jobs most affected by these closures, such as retail, accommodations and laundry services including nearly 6,000 workers in the food and beverage sector. Households living on low-incomes have been most affected, with job losses significantly higher among this demographic. This has led to low-income households struggling to prioritize basic needs, such as meeting rent or mortgage payments and buying food. Efforts to support our community have highlighted these struggles. Of the more than 2,600 county households served through a 2020 regional effort to provide financial assistance to households impacted by COVID-19, the majority of requests were for assistance related to housing costs and food access. Although local employers have begun to reopen for business low- and moderate-income households, particularly Latinx and Migrant worker households continue to struggle financially. The proposed Food Security Response program will address the immediate food security needs of the County's LMI and Migrant households by expanding access to healthy and culturally appropriate food options. The proposed program will also support individuals and families need to isolate due to a COVID-19 infection through the delivery of prepared meals. This activity will provide isolating households with the nutrition needed to recover from the infection, and will help stop further spread of the COVID virus.

6. If you are proposing a project in response to COVID-19, what is the proposed use of the facility or organization staffing once COVID-19 activities have subsided?

If you are proposing a project in response to COVID-19, what is the proposed use once COVID-19 has subsided?

Answer:

The proposed project supports the expansion of currently existing programs to meet increased needs due to the pandemic. Each program will continue operations at pre-pandemic service levels once the grant funding has been expended.

7. What sort of documentation are you and your partners prepared to collect and maintain to demonstrate that the proposed objective and benefits are met?

Answer:

The following documentation will be collected to demonstrate achieve of project objectives and benefits:

1. Demographic information for each individual/household receiving assistance.
2. Documentation verifying household income.
3. Geographic location of households receiving assistance.
4. Number of produce bag delivered.
5. Number of households receiving prepared meals
6. Number of prepared meals delivered

Attachments: