

CHARITABLE FOOD SYSTEM QUARTERLY NETWORKING CALL

September 20, 2023



AGENDA

- Welcome and introduction
- Funding opportunities and grant writing resources
- Network communication preferences
- Network directory
- Vote for next call topic
- Partner updates and news



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & GRANT WRITING RESOURCES



Based on feedback on the last quarterly networking call, the major topic covered on the call today will be funding opportunities and grant writing resources for charitable food organizations.

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF LOUISIANA FOUNDATION

Speaker: Chloe Wiley

Website: <https://bcbslafoundation.org/>



Grant opportunities offered:

New Horizons Grants

- support innovative approaches that solve or more effectively address existing issues related to health or community well-being
- up to \$25,000
- one year length

Special Projects Grants

- support scaling up successful projects that have been funded by the Foundation before or demonstrate clear evidence of need
- up to \$100,000
- one year length

Collective Impact Grants

- support community-wide efforts addressing complex issues in LA; proposals may cover a wide range of issues in health or well-being to meet the unique needs of each community
- up to \$1 Million
- up to three years length

Community Crisis & Disaster Response Grants

- unrestricted funds in support of organizations meeting short and long-term needs after a natural disaster or community destabilizing event
- funding amount varies per event

- one year length

Grant applications are quarterly. The next deadline for application submissions is December 1st.

Other giving opportunities:

Corporate Sponsorships

- funding to support nonprofit events, special programs, and events for health and wellness
- up to \$10,000
- apply six months in advance

Employee Volunteering

- Team Blue: volunteers available for organizations in need of an extra hands for events. Apply six weeks in advance.
- Taproot Plus: employees virtually volunteer business skills in marketing, HR, IT, finance, and more for nonprofits in need of pro bono services. Sign up and submit a project at louisiana.taprootplus.org

LOUISIANA HEALTHCARE CONNECTIONS

Speakers: Tanzel J. Montgomery, Paula Jordan

Website:

<https://www.louisianahealthconnect.com/about-us/community/community-health-grants.html>



- Charitable giving must align with LHC strategic priorities (which includes food security) and guiding principles. Focus on organizations that serve Louisiana's Medicaid population. Organizations supported should represent the demographic and geographic diversity of members.

Charitable giving opportunities:

Grants

- grant cycle not offered this year, but will likely resume next year
- last year, five \$20,000 and two \$10,000 grants were awarded (included an urban gardening grant in Shreveport)

Sponsorships

- ongoing; can be requested at any time
- award amount varies and sponsor a variety of events, conferences, operational costs, project implementation
- also do in-kind donations
- have an employee impact network available to provide support to organizations during work hours

Funding criteria:

- alignment with LHC purpose, principles, and priorities
- be in good standing with the Secretary of State and IRS
- community orgs must be registered as a 501 (c)(3), charitable group, veteran's group, school, or hospital

How to request funding:

- submit a sponsorship letter to Tanel or at the community mailbox
- grant submission information can be found on the website
- there is an onboarding vendor process (need updated W-9, authorization form, vendor maintenance form, and attestation)

Other partnership opportunities:

SNAP Match Program- provide match funding

Food Banks and Kitchens- community health services team is always equipped with food bank information for each area of the state and has direct relationships with these organizations

- can provide manpower through volunteerism

- can supply supplemental funds for the purchase of supplies needed to package and/or distribute food and prepare hot meals for those in need

- organizations have access to share information about their services on Find Help- a free online tool that allows people to do a free search for reduced cost resources, including food

AETNA BETTER HEALTH OF LOUISIANA

Speaker: Judy Gibson Houston

Email: gibsonhoustonj@aetna.com



- Aetna has representatives in all regions
- Look to address social determinants of health through sponsorships
- Work with non-profits, housing agencies, food distributions, farmers markets, faith-based organizations, healthcare providers, social groups, and federally qualified health centers
- Send a request to Aetna for funding
- Aetna also does community outreach, can reach out to regional representatives if you are interested

QUESTIONS?



Question from network member: I have a question for the healthcare folks... wondering if there are key things that you are not allowed to fund or that we should not include in our requests? Would you supporting funding of advocacy dollars to support Social Determinants of Health?

Response from Aetna: If you are addressing a Social Determinant of Health, it's a simple request. Aetna sponsorships are sent to the state for approval, so the final decision does not lie with Aetna. As long as it is addressing a community need, you should be ok. Just send a proposal for review and you will receive a response.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Feeding Louisiana Reach & Resiliency Grant funding

- Feeding Louisiana Food Banks have received allocations from Reach & Resiliency Grant Round II
- Food Banks have submitted budgets for these funds, but there is some flexibility with how funds can be spent
- Pantries can initiate a request to their respective Food Bank for assistance
- Pat Van Burkleo (pat@feedinglouisiana.org) can provide guidance or assistance in navigating this process



ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

AARP Community Challenge Grants

- Annual grant opportunities for projects that benefit residents- especially those 50 and older
- Application usually opens in Jan
- <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/info-2023/2023-challenge.html>

Weight Watchers Wellness Impact Award

- Grants to address one or multiple barriers to health
- Focus on female-founded organizations working to improve health of BIPOC communities
- Current application window closes Oct 1



ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Louisiana Healthy Communities Coalition (LHCC) mini-grants

- Annual funding opportunity
- \$1,000-\$3,000 to fund PSE efforts
- Grant writing support offered
- <https://healthylouisiana.org/grants>

LSU AgCenter Healthy Communities

- Local agents may be able to support some projects
- Contact your local LSU AgCenter Nutrition Agent
- https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/food_health/healthy-communities



You can find your local LSU AgCenter nutrition agent using these regional handouts:

<https://lsuagctr->

[my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/rlosavio_agcenter_lsu_edu/EuIFD7FRITZEueD6YFNuUj8B-ZjikQS2VUSlmZc-b7_nOA?e=8tIVcv](https://lsuagctr-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/rlosavio_agcenter_lsu_edu/EuIFD7FRITZEueD6YFNuUj8B-ZjikQS2VUSlmZc-b7_nOA?e=8tIVcv)

You can find out if there is a LSU AgCenter Healthy Communities Coalition in your community here:

<https://lsuagctr->

[my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/rlosavio_agcenter_lsu_edu/EjA4bxcarpBPvfvvY9h7CJIBItA5XquQOUoblmsJHqXQvg?e=KwMkRA](https://lsuagctr-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/rlosavio_agcenter_lsu_edu/EjA4bxcarpBPvfvvY9h7CJIBItA5XquQOUoblmsJHqXQvg?e=KwMkRA)

ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

USDA Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program (CFPCGP)

- Funding to improve community food and nutrition security
- Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) available to applicants
- Current grant proposals due Oct 30th
- <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/community-food-projects-competitive-grants-program>

Look for local or regional foundations in your area. They often offer funding opportunities to non-profit organizations.



Some local/regional foundations include:

Baton Rouge Area Foundation

<https://www.braf.org/braf-grants/>

Bayou Community Foundation

<https://www.bayoucf.org/>

Baptist Community Ministries

<https://www.bcm.org/grants/>

Central Louisiana Community Foundation

<https://www.clcf.net/>

Beaird Family Foundation

<https://beairdfoundation.org/>

Community Foundation of North Louisiana

<https://cfnla.org/>

Gheens Foundation

<https://www.gheensfoundation.org/>

Greater New Orleans Foundation

<https://www.gnof.org/>

Huey and Angela Wilson Foundation

<https://www.hawilsonfoundation.org/>

Irene W. & C.B. Pennington Foundation

<http://penningtonfamilyfoundation.org/>

The Brown Foundation

<https://www.thebrownfoundation.org/>

Rapides Foundation

<https://www.rapidesfoundation.org/>

The RosaMary Foundation

<http://www.rosamary.org/index.html>

The Stuller Foundation

<https://stullerfoundation.org/>

GRANT WRITING RESOURCES

United Healthcare Free Online Training


- Grant Writing 101 and Grant Writing 201 recorded presentations and slide decks are available for free
- Presentations given by non-profit management expert, Allison Rojas
- <https://www.uhcommunityandstate.com/content/articles/community-grants-program>

- Additional online resources:
 - Community Toolbox
<https://ctb.ku.edu/en/toolkits>
 - The Grantsmanship Center
<https://www.tgci.com/>
 - Candid Learning
<https://learning.candid.org/>



- There is a dearth of grant writing support in Louisiana.

- Some funders may provide support with their application process. Check out funder websites or inquire prior to submitting an application.



DISCUSSION

What funding sources have you been able to take advantage of?

Are there any funding opportunities you are interested in pursuing?

Have you used any grant writing services or do you know of any organizations that offer grant writing support?

Well Ahead Louisiana will be launching Lets Be Healthy grants to child care centers in mid to late October

Link to Let's Be Healthy grant information: <https://wellaheadla.com/prevention/early-childhood-education/lets-be-healthy-grant/>

Link to other grant opportunities on Well-Ahead website:
<https://wellaheadla.com/prevention/school-health/grant-opportunities/>

COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES

Please complete the poll questions to indicate your communication preferences for the network.



Poll Question 1: What information would you like to receive through the network email group?

100% of respondents would like to receive information about upcoming networking calls AND charitable food system events and news, including information from network members.

Poll Question 2: Are there any other communication platforms that you would like the network to utilize?

58% of respondents would like to utilize a MS Teams page to share call updates, news, and events

Poll 3: Do you have any other suggestions for communication channels the network should utilize?

- Create a listserv if not already created
- Program/Organization highlights and updates; connectivity to other groups
- Hylo platform

Based on the responses, the LSU AgCenter will:

- Continue to email updates about calls through the network email list.
- Begin to send a monthly email update about charitable food system events and news. Network members can submit news or updates to be included in the email.
- Create a MS Teams page for the network. All network members will be sent an email invitation to join the MS Teams page.

LA CHARITABLE FOOD SYSTEM NETWORK DIRECTORY

Complete the form (using the QR code or link in the chat) if you would like to be included in a network directory on the LSU AgCenter website.



The LSU AgCenter would like to include a LA Charitable Food System Network Directory on the Charitable Food Summit webpage. This will allow network members to get in contact with one another more easily and allow individuals not involved in the network to view it's members.

Inclusion in the directory is optional. If you would like your organization to be listed in the directory, please use the QR code on the slide or follow this link

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mFBLgAiZ30ucBrPfd3VjqgaURY8WYBtEkcF-oeD5ZHdUMzU4NVhOUDFKRlk4VzY2UVVSMVFPQTg2Sy4u)

[id=mFBLgAiZ30ucBrPfd3VjqgaURY8WYBtEkcF-](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mFBLgAiZ30ucBrPfd3VjqgaURY8WYBtEkcF-oeD5ZHdUMzU4NVhOUDFKRlk4VzY2UVVSMVFPQTg2Sy4u)

[oeD5ZHdUMzU4NVhOUDFKRlk4VzY2UVVSMVFPQTg2Sy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mFBLgAiZ30ucBrPfd3VjqgaURY8WYBtEkcF-oeD5ZHdUMzU4NVhOUDFKRlk4VzY2UVVSMVFPQTg2Sy4u) to submit your organization's information.

NEXT CALL TOPIC

Potential call topics:

- Improving community engagement and acquiring new clients
- How to partner with local growers
- Best practices for food pantries
- Exploring new models and technology (e.g., client choice, mobile pantries, school pantries)
- Accessing state and local health data
- Sustainability of food pantries
- Partnership opportunities with the LSU AgCenter

Please complete the poll question to indicate your preference for the next call topic.



Call topic options are based on feedback from the LA Charitable Food Summit and the last quarterly networking call. Based on the poll results, respondents were most interested in:

- Accessing state and local health data (20%)
- How to partner with local growers (18%)
- Improving community engagement and acquiring new clients (16%)

Q&A AND PARTNER UPDATES



Dr. Lupe LaMadrid shared information about the Hunger-Free Campus Program, a Louisiana Board of Regents Initiative:

- Initiative is the result of legislation that came about last year from Rep. Barbara Freiberg.
- At the past board meeting in August, had the first class of Hunger-Free Campus designees, which consisted of all public post-secondary community colleges and four-year institutions as well as four private institutions (Tulane, Loyola, Centenary, and Fran U).
- Legislation requires that designated institutions have established services for students and establish a task force around Hunger-Free campus, and sponsor activities throughout the year revolving around the initiative.
- Designation lasts two-years.
- There will be a competitive grant opportunity for designees to apply for. Funding intended to help schools to offer a minimum of basic services.
- If re-elected, Rep. Freiberg will put forth additional legislation to create a line item of monies dedicated especially for the Hunger-Free campuses.

Hunger-Free Campus Program One-Page flyer available here:

<https://www.lahungercoalition.org/s/2023-04-28-Hunger-Free-Campus-One-Pager-002.pdf>

Louisiana has launched the State Nutrition Action Council (SNAC). This group is being facilitated by Greaux the Good and the Department of Children and Family Services. If you are interested in joining email greauxthegood@marketumbrella.org

THANK YOU

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Louisiana Charitable Food System
QUARTERLY NETWORKING CALL

Dec. 6 | 10am - 11am | Microsoft Teams

Join the call for opportunities to learn, network, and share best practices with fellow charitable food system stakeholders across the state. Together we'll work toward improving food access in Louisiana!

For more information or to sign up for the call, email Makenzie Miller makenziemiller@agcenter.lsu.edu

The LSU AgCenter and LSU provide equal opportunities in programs and employment. Visit our website: www.LSUAgCenter.com



The next quarterly call will be December 6th. A save the date and call agenda will be sent prior to the meeting.

Please begin to think about any activities you would like the network to pursue. What changes would you like to see in the charitable food system in Louisiana? What can this network accomplish together? We will brainstorm ideas during the next call.