



Kansas Healthy Congregations Food Access Mini Grants
Request for Proposals

Release Date: November 5, 2025

United Methodist churches have long served as community anchors, responding to urgent needs with compassion, creativity, and conviction. In this moment—when federal SNAP funding delays are leaving families without food—churches are uniquely positioned to lead with care and purpose.

Feeding the hungry is a deep expression of our faith and values. It reflects our commitment to justice, mercy, and love in action. Through this mini grant opportunity, we invite Kansas Healthy Congregations churches to respond with practical support and spiritual presence, offering nourishment, dignity, and hope to those most affected.

The United Methodist Health Ministry Fund is offering matching mini grants of up to \$500 to Healthy Congregations churches in Kansas to respond to urgent food access needs in their communities. These grants are designed to help churches leverage their leadership, facilities, and partnerships to address both the immediate challenges created by federal SNAP funding delays and to build sustainable systems for food support.

How it works:

- Churches may apply for a matching grant of up to \$500.
- The match may be met through volunteer hours, in-kind support (such as use of church facilities or donated goods), or monetary contributions.
- Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed promptly.
- Funds will be distributed quickly to support immediate implementation.

This is not just a grant — we hope this will represent an opportunity to amplify the impact of your current food ministries and facilitate development or strengthening of community partnerships to not only help prevent hunger in the immediate term but also to raise awareness of the significant growth in need (a trend that was already challenging existing capacity, now compounded by the shutdown) and to help develop more resilient and sustainable food support systems through innovation and collaboration.

Churches are encouraged to creatively leverage their resources, lift their voices, and join forces with others in their communities to respond to food insecurity with meaningful, faith-inspired service. Whether you're organizing a food drive, hosting a pop-up pantry, or building a long-term fundraising campaign, this grant is designed to help you act now and build momentum for the future.

Churches are encouraged to match the grant through:

- Volunteer time (e.g., organizing, packing, distributing food)
- In-kind contributions (e.g., use of church space, donated goods or services)
- Monetary donations (e.g., fundraising campaigns, special offerings)

This is a chance to multiply impact by combining church resources with external partnerships and building community engagement.

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Project Examples:

Example projects might include one or a combination of these approaches:

- **Food Pantry Support:** Partner with food banks and local pantries to expand services, launch matching campaigns, or host donation drives
- **School-Based Programs:** Support backpack food programs and weekend meal kits in collaboration with educators; encourage school systems to develop little pantries, share tables, and other strategies to ensure children have more opportunities to eat at school
- **Food Waste Recovery:** Coordinate with grocery stores and other local partners to rescue shelf stable food and distribute via food pantries, pop-up or mobile pantries, Blessing Boxes, etc.
- **Distribution Infrastructure:** Use church facilities for food storage, pick-up, or delivery hubs
- **Community Engagement:** Host educational or donation drive events, collect stories, and raise awareness about hunger and food justice

Churches are strongly encouraged to work with existing partners such as food pantries, schools, health departments, social service agencies, and local businesses to maximize reach and sustainability.

Faith-Inspired Engagement

This initiative aligns with the values of compassion, justice, and service. Churches are encouraged to consider integrating their projects with the Advent season, using this time of reflection and hope to deepen congregational involvement. Health Fund staff will be working to develop resources for churches to use including:

- Bulletin inserts and prayers
- Devotionals focused on hunger and justice
- Information and resource links to help individuals and congregations engage and take action

Additional examples of congregational involvement include:

- Volunteer mobilization and storytelling, (see [webinar recording](#) for examples, including paper plate story collection campaigns)
- Special offerings or matching campaigns

Opportunities to lead, raise visibility, and support sustainable solutions

As part of your project work, churches are invited to use this opportunity to:

- Educate congregations about the impact of SNAP delays and food insecurity
- Elevate faith voices for policy solutions at the local, state, and federal levels. Examples might include protecting SNAP benefits, expanding eligibility, reducing administrative burdens leading to government waste, and more.
- Empower lay leaders and youth to take active roles in food justice work, living out our faith as we care for our neighbors, feed the hungry, and seek to be good stewards.
- Build long-term fundraising strategies to support food pantries and access initiatives

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Proposal Form Sample:

Applicant Church Contact Information

Project Lead Contact Information

Financial Advisory Contact Information

A church official other than the HC team leader (such as the pastor or administrative council chair). This person will be copied on official grant communications (such as when a check is mailed or report is due).

Project Title: (a brief name for the project)

Project Description: outline of planned use of funds (briefly describe project in 200 words or less)

Request amount: (Up to \$500)

Target Populations: Who will be served/benefit (include numbers expected served where possible)

Timeline:

- Project start date
- Project end date

Matching Plan: How you will meet the match requirement (volunteer, in-kind, or monetary). *Assigning a dollar value to volunteer hours is not necessary; just outline how volunteers will be utilized.*

Partnerships: Any organizations or groups you'll collaborate with.

Leadership Roles: Who will lead the project and how leadership will be shared or developed.

Story Collection: How you will gather stories or feedback from participants and share these stories of hope and of how churches have responded to the growing shortages of food for pantries and food systems within their communities.

Engagement Plan: How you will involve your congregation and/or advance food justice.

Budget: How the grant funds will be used.

Eligible organizations

Kansas United Methodist Churches currently active in the Health Fund's Healthy Congregations initiative are eligible to apply.

Amount of Award

The maximum award per eligible organization is \$500.

Period of grant

Grant work should commence as quickly as reasonably possible. We anticipate that in most cases, grant funding will be expended within a period of less than six months.

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Limitations on Funding Uses

- Grant funds may not be used for lobbying or political activity as defined in the Internal Revenue Code related to tax-exempt organizations.
- Supporting a single event (e.g., community meal) is not an intended use for these grant funds.
- Public funds supporting existing projects may not be replaced or supplanted with grant funds.

Preferences in Review of Proposals

- Projects which provide some benefits beyond the project term will be viewed favorably.
- Projects which leverage grant funds to amplify and extend impact will be viewed favorably.

Application Process

The application for this invitation may be found at <https://healthfund.org/a/hcfoodgrant/> along with additional information including a webinar recording.

Proposals are accepted via the online form at <https://healthfund.org/25hcfoodapp> and will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis while allocated funds remain.

Please note that this RFP uses a different online portal than the annual HC renewal grants. Most applicants will need to set up an initial login (enter email address and set a password). For technical assistance, please contact Jeff jeff@healthfund.org.

Reporting

A brief written report outlining activities, challenges, successes, and including a line-item financial detail will be expected within thirty days of the end of the project period. We strongly encourage inclusion of stories, photos/videos, and any project publicity with your report so the Health Fund can help raise awareness and support continuation of efforts to improve food security and justice.

Near the end of the project period, Health Fund staff will send a notification email with instructions and a link to the online report form. These reports will be reviewed by Health Fund staff and potentially publicized on the web, in whole or by summary.

Questions? Please contact:
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