

MEMO



Presentations

Item #: 7.b

Meeting Date: January 19, 2024

To: Board of Directors
From: Public Education & Outreach Coordinator, Eric Palmer
Approved by: General Manager, Felipe Melchor

Subject: FY 23/24 SB 1383 Edible Food Recovery Grant Awards

Recommendation

To receive a report on the FY 23/24 SB 1383 Edible Food Recovery Grant program and grant recipients.

Background

The Edible Food Recovery grant program awards grants to non-profit organizations, businesses, charities or public entities that collect, generate, and distribute food to those in need within the County of Monterey. This funding opportunity is intended to support California Senate Bill 1383 – Short Lived Climate Pollutants, which mandates a 75% reduction in landfilled organic material and a minimum of 20% of currently disposed food recovered for human consumption by 2025. In addition to reducing the amount of edible food and organic material that ends up in landfills—which wastes valuable resources and generates greenhouse gas emissions—SB 1383 and this program will help aid local food recovery organizations and feed local residents and families in need.

The program is funded by CalRecycle SB 1383 Local Assistance Grant Program funding and an MOU between ReGen Monterey and its member agencies for SB 1383 compliance. For the FY 23/24 funding cycle, ReGen Monterey contributed \$42,599.20 and Salinas Valley Recycles budgeted \$55,519.61 towards the grant funding. The ReGen Monterey Board of Directors approved the SB 1383 Edible Food Recovery Pilot Grant Funding Opportunity process at the May 20, 2022 meeting.

Applicants were required to submit proposals based on individual organization needs that fund the purchase of equipment, materials and supplies that will increase the total pounds of edible food an organization is able to recover and distribute. Eligible expenses could include shelving, freezer and refrigeration units, food recovery vehicles and transportation, staffing and kitchen and food preservation supplies. They also must create and utilize a free account for their organization on the Careit online/mobile application to connect with food generators to identify edible food sources, and track and report project results, including quantification of increased capacity of food collected and distributed, square feet of storage, and/or meals and individuals served.

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Let's not waste this.



The grant application was released in August of 2023 and closed on October 31, 2023. Organizations could request a minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$22,500.

Discussion

Fifteen local organizations submitted applications to apply for the edible food recovery grants.

Members of an Edible Food Recovery subcommittee of the Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the applications and scored the organizations on their abilities to serve a wide variety of Monterey County residents and/or high population areas, their potential to increase the edible food they are able to process and distribute, accessibility to the public, demonstration of innovative solutions to problems they face, along with other considerations.

Seven organizations were chosen to receive grant funding in FY 23/24. The Veterans Transition Center, Gateway Center and Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network (FOEJN) requested commercial refrigerators and freezers to increase food storage and preservation. Meals on Wheels of the Monterey will purchase shelving, storage containers, and cryovac machines to increase the shelf life and freshness of food, along with starting a pickling program.

CSUMB Basic Needs serves over 3,000 students a week who confront food insecurity and other basic needs with an on-campus, free grocery store supplied by local farms and food banks. Their grant could help double the amount of food they can recover and distribute to local students by purchasing transportation and storage resources. It will enable them to recover hot food from catered events on campus that is currently disposed of or composted.

FOEJN and Parallel Church want to expand the services of their food pantries. Gathering for Women wants to fund additional hours for their food service manager to receive, pick up, store and distribute increased food donations. Gateway Center will purchase a commercial freezer to help them serve their mission of feeding and caring for adults with developmental disabilities.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

ReGen Monterey and Salinas Valley Recycles would like to recognize and award the following local organizations with Edible Food Recovery grant funding awards:

- Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula - \$12,500
- CSUMB Basic Needs - \$9,318
- Veterans Transition Center - \$13,017.73
- Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network - \$19,504.00
- Gathering for Women - \$11,259.71
- Parallel Church - \$22,500.00
- Gateway Center - \$10,020.00