

M E M O



Meeting Date: January 24, 2025

To: Board of Directors
From: Eric Palmer, Sr., Senior Communications Coordinator
Approved by: Felipe Melchor, General Manager

Subject: FY 24/25 SB 1383 Edible Food Recovery Grant Funding Award

RECOMMENDATION

To receive a report on the FY 24/25 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 SB 1383 shared costs MOUs between ReGen Monterey and its member agencies. ReGen Monterey budgeted \$40,000 and Salinas Valley Recycles budgeted \$50,000 for FY 24/25, which totals \$90,000 of grant funding. The ReGen Monterey Board approved the SB 1383 Edible Food Recovery Pilot Grant Funding Opportunity process at the May 20, 2022 meeting and funding for FY 24/25 funds were approved at the May 24, 2024 meeting. In addition, CalRecycle contributed \$8,950.26 in grants from its Local Assistance Grant Program to help implement SB 1383 requirements, bringing the total available grant funding to \$98,872.90.

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, staffing and kitchen and food preservation supplies. And at the suggestion of food recovery organizations, for the first time this grant cycle allowed for a maximum of XX% operational expenses such as employee compensation, vehicle fuel and food safety supplies. Grant recipients 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.

The grant application was released in August of 2024 and closed on October 31, 2024. Organizations could request a minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$25,000.

Physical Address

14201 Del Monte Blvd.
Salinas, CA 93908

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1670
Marina, CA 93933

Phone / Fax

831-384-5313 PHONE
831-384-3567 FAX

Web / Social

ReGenMonterey.org
@ReGenMonterey

Let's not waste this.

DISCUSSION

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

Members of an Edible Food Recovery Subcommittee of ReGen Monterey's 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.

Six organizations were chosen to receive grant funding in FY 24/25:

Cypress Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Salinas requested funding for commercial-grade refrigeration and freezer units to increase cold and frozen food storage capacity.

Shoreline Church currently distributes food to over 200 families a week. The church needs a replacement for its 25+ year-old, high-mileage SUV that currently picks up and transports food to their food bank: "The purchase of a reliable, fully operational large capacity cargo van/truck will mitigate the risk of disruption or postponement to our daily and weekly food rescue operations."

For over four decades, Dorothy's Place in Salinas has been providing essential services and transitional support to people experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty in Monterey County. They serve 400 meals daily to 1,600 unsheltered guests—the largest producer of no-cost served meals in the region. This grant will allow them to purchase a new oven, a food-safe storage unit and supplies, and gas for the pickup and transport of food.

Salvation Army Seaside is also in need of a pantry storage cabinet, along with mobile food storage bins, part-time food delivery staffing and renovations to their dry storage area that will help them increase individual annual donations from 2,400 to over 3,500 hungry residents of the Monterey Peninsula.

Salvation Army South County typically operates with a skeleton crew of one person who picks up, sorts and packs food donations alone, and then drives from Hollister to South County to distribute the food, including directly to workers in our agricultural fields. The organization is requesting funding for a part-time staffer to provide additional support so they can "increase the number of distribution days, reach more low-income individuals and families, and ensure that food deliveries are made more frequently and promptly with decreased food waste."

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The program is funded by SB 1383 shared costs MOUs between ReGen Monterey and its member agencies. ReGen Monterey budgeted \$40,000 for our agency's portion of grant funding.

CONCLUSION

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

- Cypress Church - \$3,000
- Dorothy's Place - \$17,338.90
- Salvation Army South County - \$15,360

- Salvation Army Seaside - \$22,674
 - Shoreline Church - \$25,000
 - St. Paul's Episcopal Church - \$15,500
- Total - \$98,872.90**

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