

Request for Legislative Action

Res. #21016

Sponsor: Crystal Williams

Date: July 25, 2022

Completed by County Counselor's Office		Revised 7.28.2022	
Action Requested:	Resolution	Res.Ord No.:	21016
Sponsor(s):	Crystal J. Williams	Legislature Meeting Date:	7/25/2022

Introduction
Action Items: ['Authorize', 'Award']
Project/Title:
Authorizing the County Executive to execute \$1,000,000 contract with Harvesters-The Community Food Network using previously appropriated American Rescue Plan-Disadvantaged Communities -Food Insecurity Fund after procurement through RFP 64-22.

Request Summary
<p>This resolution authorizes the County Executive to enter into an agreement with Harvesters - The Community Food Network in an amount of \$1,000,000 to continue to support and address food insecurity in Jackson County. Resolution #20949 allocated \$1,000,000 of Jackson County American Rescue Plan - Disadvantaged Communities funding subject to a formal procurement. A total of 10 proposals were received through Request for Proposals 64-22 which was issued by the County on May 17, 2022 and were due on June 7, 2022.</p> <p>After review by County Administration, it was determined that a single contract with Harvesters would provide the food requested by the other respondents and would maximize the financial impact of the award while simplifying project administration. Under the provisions of this pending agreement, Harvesters would seek to increase the amount of fresh food (fruits, vegetables, bread, meat, dairy, and eggs) available to food pantries in Jackson County. In addition, Harvesters would seek to expand its permanent operational capacity or the operational capacity of its member agencies in Jackson County in order to maximize the value of the investment from these ARPA funds. Funds provided to Harvesters would be on a reimbursable basis, meet all ARPA regulatory and reporting requirements and would need to be fully expended by December 31, 2026.</p>

Contact Information			
Department:	County Executive Office	Submitted Date:	6/30/2022
Name:	Troy Schulte	Email:	TSchulte@jacksongov.org
Title:	County Administrator	Phone:	816-881-1079

Budget Information	
Amount authorized by this legislation this fiscal year:	\$1,000,000
Amount previously authorized this fiscal year:	\$ 0
Total amount authorized after this legislative action:	\$1,000,000
Is it transferring fund?	No

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Single Source Funding:			
Fund:	Department:	Line Item Account:	Amount:
050 (American Rescue Plan Fund)	1526 (Food Insecurity)	56789 (Outside Agency Funding)	\$1,000,000

Prior Legislation	
Prior Ordinances	
Ordinance:	Ordinance date:
5371	July 13, 2020
Prior Resolution	
Resolution:	Resolution date:
20949	May 10, 2022
20437	May 26, 2020

Purchasing	
Does this RLA include the purchase or lease of supplies, materials, equipment or services?	Yes
Chapter 10 Justification:	Formal Bid
Core 4 Tax Clearance Completed:	Not Applicable
Certificate of Foreign Corporation Received:	Yes
Have all required attachments been included in this RLA?	Yes

Compliance	
Certificate of Compliance	
In Compliance	
Minority, Women and Veteran Owned Business Program	
Goals Not Applicable for following reason: Non-profit Entity	
MBE:	.00%
WBE:	.00%
VBE:	.00%
Prevailing Wage	
Not Applicable	

Fiscal Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a balance otherwise unencumbered to the credit of the appropriation to which the expenditure is chargeable and there is a cash balance otherwise unencumbered.

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History

Submitted by County Executive Office requestor: Troy Schulte on 6/30/2022. Comments: Needs fiscal note

Approved by Department Approver Sylvya Stevenson on 6/30/2022 1:49:47 PM. Comments:

Approved by Purchasing Office Approver Barbara J. Casamento on 6/30/2022 1:57:59 PM. Comments:

Approved by Compliance Office Approver Katie M. Bartle on 6/30/2022 3:05:59 PM. Comments:

Approved by Budget Office Approver Sarah L. Matthes on 7/1/2022 11:15:45 AM. Comments: Fiscal Note Attached

Approved by Executive Office Approver Sylvya Stevenson on 7/1/2022 11:27:55 AM. Comments:

Returned for more information by Counselor's Office Approver Elizabeth Freeland on 7/1/2022 2:56:34 PM. Comments: Please double check the previous legislation dates. Thanks!

Submitted by Requestor Troy Schulte on 7/13/2022 3:59:41 PM. Comments:

Approved by Department Approver Sylvya Stevenson on 7/13/2022 4:42:53 PM. Comments:

Approved by Purchasing Office Approver Barbara J. Casamento on 7/14/2022 8:39:30 AM. Comments:

Approved by Compliance Office Approver Katie M. Bartle on 7/14/2022 9:39:23 AM. Comments:

Approved by Budget Office Approver Sarah L. Matthes on 7/14/2022 9:56:51 AM. Comments:

Approved by Executive Office Approver Sylvya Stevenson on 7/14/2022 10:33:25 AM. Comments:

Approved by Counselor's Office Approver Elizabeth Freeland on 7/21/2022 9:16:37 AM. Comments:



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Kansas City, MO 64129

215 SE Quincy Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Toll-Free 877.353.6639
www.harvesters.org

Harvesters – The Community Food Network has been a grateful recipient of funding from the Jackson County Legislature since 2011. Over the last 11 years, the Legislature has provided nearly \$1,200,000. This generous support has enabled Harvesters to purchase millions of pounds of food and provide over 3 million meals for Jackson County neighbors.

For more than 40 years Harvesters has been our region’s solution to hunger. Harvesters distributes food and household products through an extensive network of over 420 schools and 760 nonprofit agencies in 26 counties across northeastern Kansas and northwestern Missouri.

In Jackson County over 600 food pantries, community kitchens, shelters, day cares, schools and senior centers rely on Harvesters to order highly desirable and nutritious food at no cost. In fact, our agency partners say that they get nearly 75% of the food they provide from Harvesters and if food was not available from Harvesters it would have a major effect on their programs.

Inflation & the Ongoing Need for Food Assistance

Our Jackson County neighbors are finding their dollars don’t stretch as far as they used to. Virtually every type of food has become more expensive over the last year. As of March, grocery prices were up 8.8% year-over-year and it is estimated to increase an additional 3-4% by the end of 2022. This rise in costs means families, children and seniors are having to make tough choices between buying food and other critical expenses like housing, utilities or medical care.

According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap, approximately 89,820 Jackson County residents were food insecure prior to COVID-19. While numbers have fluctuated, Harvesters is consistently seeing that the need for food assistance is 30% higher than it was prior to the pandemic. This means more than 100,000 Jackson County residents may not know where their next meal is coming from.

The Cost to Feed Jackson County Neighbors:

The high price of food coupled with price increases in fuel and freight, means the cost to feed neighbors in need has increased. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted Harvesters business model, which relied on donated food and volunteer labor. Since the pandemic began, Harvesters has needed to purchase shelf stable and other food items in short supply. Fewer volunteers has required the purchase more expensive “retail pack” produce, rather than bulk.

To meet the ongoing need, Harvesters believes we will continue to need to make a significant volume of additional food purchases. Over the last twelve months, Harvesters has spent nearly \$5 million in food purchase costs for distribution in Jackson County.

Harvesters’ mission is to feed hungry people today and work to end hunger tomorrow.



How The Jackson County Legislature Can Help:

Financial support from the Jackson County Legislature will help Harvesters to meet the significant and costly need for emergency food assistance in Jackson County and support our network of over 600 agency partners.

Harvesters is requesting that the Jackson County Legislature consider a grant of up to \$1 million in support of food purchases for Jackson County residents. During the ARPA-eligible period of calendar years 2021 and 2022, Harvesters estimates it will incur approximately \$2.4 million in food purchase costs to serve Jackson County neighbors.

Despite rising costs, Harvesters remains committed to providing food to anyone who finds themselves in need. In order to meet this need, Harvesters relies on financial support from organizations like the Jackson County Legislature. Harvesters will maximize the funds from this grant and leverage it to purchase the food that our network of partner agencies needs. This request also aligns with Jackson County's goal of using American Rescue Plan funds to address food insecurity needs in Jackson County as well as mitigate the continuing public health and economic impact of COVID-19. Thank you for your consideration.