



FIRST PRINCIPLE
GROUP

Fundable Initiatives **Organizations on the front lines of COVID-19**

April 2020

As a result of the new coronavirus outbreak, there are a significant amount of food business closures, furloughed and laid-off employees, as well as scarcity of resources leading to an increased need for safe, efficient, and effective distribution and access of food for those that need it most. A variety of organizations, especially food recovery organizations, have stepped up to the challenge and are doing tremendous work to serve those impacted by COVID-19. This *Fundable Initiatives* resource, made in partnership with ReFED, highlights initiatives and organizations on the front lines of COVID-19. First Principle Group will update this resource as more opportunities arise and encourage our partners and colleagues to share this broadly.

If you're interested in donating to any of these organizations, please click on the organization title to be directed to their website or email them directly.

With questions or additional opportunities, contact:

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National Organizations

Food Rescue US

Headquarters: Norwalk, CT

Contact: Melissa Spiesman, melissa@foodrescue.us

Funding Needed: \$100,000

Food Rescue US is committed to ending food insecurity in the U.S. by directly transferring fresh, usable food that would have otherwise been thrown away from grocery retailers, restaurants, and other food businesses to food insecure families across the nation. They achieve this through their technology based, volunteer-driven, direct transfer platform. In response to COVID-19, Food Rescue US launched two new initiatives. One initiative engages community groups and works with them to purchase meals from local restaurants and deliver those meals to agencies for immediate distribution, in an effort to support local restaurants and simultaneously feed food insecure individuals. They also launched Community Kitchens in partnership with the World Central Kitchen and Marcus Samuelsson Group. These kitchens are staffed by foodservice personnel who prepare meals that are delivered by Food Rescue US. **They are seeking funding to continue running these two new programs.**

James Beard Foundation (Food & Beverage Industry Relief Fund)

Location: New York, NY

Contact: Katherine Miller, kmiller@jamesbeard.org

Funding Needed: Please contact organization for funding details

The James Beard Foundation's mission is to celebrate, nurture, and honor chefs, and other leaders making America's food culture more delicious, diverse, and sustainable for everyone. In response to COVID-19, JBF has created the JBF Food and Beverage Industry Relief Fund to provide critical financial assistance to small, independent restaurants that due to the coronavirus outbreak, have an immediate need for funds to pay set operating expenses, keep from going out of business, and provide food to their communities. The Fund's goals are to provide for furloughed and laid-off restaurant workers, sustain local business, and reduce the financial impact on communities. Within three hours of launching the Fund Application, JBF received over 3,000 applications, demonstrating the overwhelming financial need the restaurant industry is facing. **JBF is seeking funding for the Food and Beverage Industry Relief Fund to address the tremendous need from independent restaurants across the nation.**

MEANS Database

Location: Washington, D.C.

Contact: Maria Rose Belding, mariarose@meansdatabase.org

Funding Needed: \$42,000

MEANS (Matching Excess and Needs for Stability) Database is a nonprofit dedicated to improving communication and coordination between food agencies and food donors. To achieve this, they have partnered with nonprofits, companies, and a variety of other organizations to meet the needs within the food recovery space. MEANS Database is facing a significant increase in food donations, and if the trend continues, they anticipate they will move an average of 200,000 lb of food weekly. **They are seeking funding to hire additional employees to keep up with the high volume of food donations.**

Move for Hunger

Location: Red Bank, NJ

Contact: Adam Lowy, adam@moveforhunger.org

Funding Needed: \$50,000-\$400,000

Move for Hunger is a nonprofit organization that mobilizes the relocation industry to fight hunger and reduce food waste by partnering with professional moving companies, corporate housing providers, relocation management companies, and multi-family apartment communities across the U.S. & Canada. **They are seeking funding to cover general operating costs, as they anticipate they will lose revenue due to canceled fundraisers and partners restricting their budgets.**

Off Their Plate

Headquarters: Boston, MA

Contact: Tracy Chang, tracy@offtheirplate.org

Funding Needed: Please contact the organization for funding details.

Off Their Plate is a grassroots movement that began with the idea of rallying around the tireless frontline COVID healthcare workers and restoring the work and livelihoods to the community frontline force. Off Their Plate is a conduit for the community to provide nutritious meals to hospital teams and jobs to those who lost them. **They are seeking funding to cover operational costs.**



Replate

Headquarters: Oakland, CA

Contact: Maen Mahfoud, maen@replate.org

Funding Needed: \$50,000

Replate is a nonprofit food recovery organization that provides coordination and transportation services to get surplus food from food businesses to food insecure individuals. In response to COVID-19, they are conducting contactless deliveries directly to end recipients, expanding food donation services beyond offices and caterers to restaurants and cafes for surplus food in partnership with DoorDash, and broadening their services to food banks and other food relief organizations like central kitchens to strengthen their logistics. **They are seeking funding to pay their drives and cover other general operating costs.**

Northeast Region

CT, ME, NH, MA, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT

City Harvest

Location: New York, NY

Contact: Rebeckah Piotrowski, rpiotrowski@cityharvest.org

Funding Needed: \$16,000,000

City Harvest is New York City's largest food rescue organization, helping to feed nearly 1.2 million New Yorkers that are food insecure. They deliver food, free of charge, to hundreds of food pantries, soup kitchens, and other community partners across the five boroughs and deploy programs that empower individuals through nutrition education, increasing their partners' capacity, and strengthening the local food system. In response to COVID-19, they have adjusted their volunteer experience in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease and Prevention as well as the New York City and State Departments of Health. **They are seeking funding to support general operating costs, cover emergency response needs, and compensate for the cancellation of their annual Gala.**

Daily Table

Location: Boston, MA

Contact: Doug Rach, drauch@dailytable.org

Funding Needed: \$25,000-\$30,000

Daily Table is a nonprofit grocery store that seeks to transform how groceries are supplied in America's inner cities and alleviate obstacles to inner-city health and nutrition by providing fresh produce and other high-quality foods to the urban marketplace at a fraction of the typical prices. **In light of the pandemic, they are seeking funding to provide and move more food to families in need, deliver healthy meals to seniors that are homebound, and better compensate and retain the Daily Table employees, who live in the communities they serve.**

Lovin' Spoonfuls

Location: Boston, MA

Contact: Lauren Palumbo, lauren@lovinspoonfulsinc.org

Funding Needed: \$200,000

Lovin' Spoonfuls is an organization that facilitates the recovery and distribution of healthy, perishable food that would otherwise be discarded. They lead a team of highly trained and passionate Food Rescue Coordinators that pick up from over 75 vendor partners weekly using their fleet of refrigerated trucks to deliver the product to food agencies across MA. In response to COVID-19, they have provided sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer, and disposable gloves to their teams delivering food. They also limited each truck to one Food Rescue Coordinator to limit exposure among the team and have instructed all team members to make contactless deliveries. Lovin' Spoonfuls is seeking funding to cover general operating costs, due to the cancellation of their annual Spring gala.

Philabundance

Location: Philadelphia, PA

Contact: Kait Bowdler, kbowdler@philabundance.org

Funding Needed: Please contact organization for funding details

Philabundance is a Philadelphia-based nonprofit dedicated to ending hunger in the communities they serve. As the main food bank in their region, Philabundance has been the backbone organization during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are experiencing extreme fluctuation in donation availability as well as closures of food agencies while the number of food insecure individuals is increasing. To address this, they are working with the city and other large hunger relief organizations to build a coordinated group of sites across the city. They are also collaborating with three food rescue logistics groups to handle smaller donations and coordinate delivery of product to the appropriate outlets. Philabundance is currently seeking immediate funding to cover general operating costs and to purchase food as well as packaging supplies. **They anticipate that they may need future funding to hire additional staff, as they may deplete their volunteer pool, as well as additional offsite storage.**

Plentiful

Location: New York, NY

Contact: Rebeckah Piotrowski, rpiotrowski@cityharvest.org

Funding Needed: Please contact organization for funding details

Plentiful is a free, easy-to-use reservation system for food pantries and the people they serve. The Plentiful app has been transformational for its partners during this public health crisis and in high demand. Specifically, the reservation system has been important as agencies adjust their service modalities to ensure safety for all staff and clients, and the messaging function has been critical in enabling partners to communicate service changes, safety protocols, resources, and health guidance to end recipients. Over the course of one week, Plentiful has seen a 62% growth in client SMS interactions and have received urgent outreach from food banks across the country, including Seattle and Chicago, and from the Feeding America Network. To handle the increased messaging traffic, they have added additional database capacity, server capacity, and Twilio phone number capacity and are exploring partnerships to integrate direct delivery components. **Plentiful is seeking funding to maintain and scale-up the app in order to meet the increasing demand for its services during the pandemic.**

Rescuing Leftover Cuisine

Location: New York, NY

Contact: Robert Lee, robert@resucingleftovercuisine.org

Funding Needed: \$25,000

Rescuing Leftover Cuisine is a food rescue organization that picks up excess, wholesome cuisine and delivers it directly to food agencies. Because of restaurant closures due to the Coronavirus outbreak, they are experiencing a higher amount of donated food and have managed to meet this demand. **They are seeking funding to increase their capacity in order to conduct pick-ups and delivery of larger sized donations, as their current model primarily handles smaller sized food donations.**



SOUTHERN REGION

AL, AR, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, OK, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV

Brighter Bites

Location: Houston, TX

Contact: Jennifer Boone, jennifer.boone@brighterbites.org

Funding Needed: \$1,000,000

Brighter Bites is a Houston-based nonprofit that delivers fresh fruits and vegetables directly into families' hands, while teaching them how to use and choose nutrient-dense products through their three-step program of Food Access, Food Literacy, and Food Engagement. For 16 weeks during the school year and eight weeks in the summer, Brighter Bites provides 30-35 lb of fresh produce to each participating family; nutrition education consisting of handbooks, recipe cards, healthy tip sheets, and support for the implementation of a coordinated school health program; and a fun food experience. In response to the coronavirus outbreak, they created a COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund in an effort to ensure that families are able to access healthy, nutritious food. They have partnered with retail and online grocers and have invited families in their network to receive \$25 in grocery vouchers to redeem on fruit and vegetable purchases. **With 25,000 Brighter Bites families nationwide, they anticipate needing to spend between \$1.5 and \$2 million on grocery vouchers in the next couple of months and are seeking an additional \$1 million for the Response Fund.**

Equal Heart

Location: Dallas, TX

Contact: Keven Vicknair, keven@equalheart.org

Funding Needed: \$25,000

Equal Heart is dedicated to alleviating Hunger by expanding access to food for hungry individuals regardless of their circumstances. To reach the most vulnerable communities, they have a mobile food pantry to conduct last-mile deliveries. In response to COVID-19, they doubled their staff and supply budget in order to meet demand for emergency food supplies. **They are seeking funding to cover the cost of supplies like cardboard boxes to continue delivering food to at-risk families.**

Second Helpings Atlanta

Location: Atlanta, GA

Contact: Andrea Jaron, andreaaron@secondhelpings.info

Funding Needed: Please contact organization for funding details

Second Helpings of Atlanta aims to reduce hunger and food waste in the metropolitan Atlanta area by rescuing surplus food and delivering it to those in need. They are responding quickly to address changes in food donor capacity and partner food agencies' schedule changes. **Second Helpings Atlanta has been experiencing a shortage of volunteers and are seeking funding to hire drivers and cover general operating costs.**



Second Servings of Houston

Location: Houston, TX

Contact: Barbara Bronstein, BBronstein@secondservingshouston.org

Funding Needed: \$25,000

Second Servings is Houston's only prepared and perishable food rescue organization. They seek to alleviate hunger and reduce waste by rescuing surplus food from businesses and conducting free, same-day delivery to over 90 approved charitable meal sites. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been able to manage the sudden increase of food donors that need surplus food picked-up on an urgent basis due to sudden closures and event cancellations. They have been successful in partnering with an idled Party Tent Rental Company and municipal agencies to make large food pick-ups and deliveries. Additionally, they started a new Mass-Meal Production Program to feed furloughed and unemployed restaurant workers through a partnership with a local Houston Chef. The program is operating out of a large church kitchen and conducting refrigerated deliveries of chilled meals to two drive-through distribution sites. **Second Servings of Houston is seeking funding to continue running the new Mass-Meal Production Program.**



WESTERN REGION

AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY

Boulder Food Rescue

Location: Boulder, CO

Contact: Hayden Dansky, hayden@boulderfoodrescue.org

Funding Needed: \$186,000

Boulder Food Rescue aims to create a more just and less wasteful food system by facilitating sustainable redistribution of healthy food that would otherwise be wasted to low-income communities through programs like their No Cost Grocery Program, a food distribution program that exist within end recipients' community rooms and schools, and their Fresh Food Connect program, a technology solution that connects excess garden produce to those in need. In response to COVID-19, they are distributing food directly to food insecure families and collaborating with other food pantries to conduct direct delivery as well as empowering communities to lead food rescues. **They are seeking funding to cover new program costs with the public health crisis and general operating costs.**



Food Forward

Location: North Hollywood, CA

Contact: Rick Nahmias, rick@foodforward.org

Funding Needed: \$750,000

Food Forward fights hunger and prevents food waste by rescuing fresh surplus produce from backyards, farms, orchards, farmers markets, and wholesale produce vendors and giving the food to people in-need. During this public health crisis, Food Forward is experiencing an upheaval in its programmatic work flows, a cancellation of its annual fundraiser, and a great deal of flux to its normal produce supply chains and distribution channels. **They are seeking funding to cover general operating costs and increase capacity to respond to the increase demand for donated food.**

Harvest Against Hunger

Location: Seattle, WA

Contact: David Bobanick, david@harvestagainsthunger.org

Funding Needed: Please contact organization for funding details

Harvest Against Hunger connects farmers, truckers, volunteers, and food banks to reduce food waste and hunger. They do this by soliciting large-scale donations of produce from growers and partnering with truckers to utilize their "deadhead" space on return trips in order to move the produce to their partner warehouse for sorting and distribution. Local food agencies in Seattle are reporting a dramatic increase in the number of first-time clients requesting food assistance, while Harvest Against Hunger is experiencing significantly less produce availability from their usual sources due to consumers panic-buying. In response to this, they are focused on gathering excess produce and engaging donated trucking to help reposition food and materials to accommodate changes in service delivery as a way to support hunger relief partners. They have also fast-tracked their Farm to Pantry program by using funds from their reserves in order to give funding to participating small-scale farmers that have been impacted by restaurant and farmers market closures. **They are seeking funding to cover general operating costs and the Farm to Pantry program.**

O'Side Kitchen Collaborative

Location: Oceanside, CA

Contact: heather Sorgine, heather@theokc.org

Funding Needed: Please contact organization for funding details

O'Side Kitchen Collaborative is a zero food waste initiative focused on conscious catering, food rescue, and education. They operate within Green Oceanside Kitchen and are focused on leveraging culinary design and techniques to prevent wasted food and provide meals to those in need. In response to COVID-19, they are preparing packaged, ready-to-eat and frozen meals to support local seniors, immunocompromised, and otherwise food insecure individuals including all children currently enrolled in free lunch programs with K-12 schools. These meals are also available for delivery-service based meal programs for residents, who are able to pay using companies like GrubHub, DoorDash, Postmates, and UberEats. O'Side Kitchen Collaborative is also supporting the local restaurant community by purchasing restaurants' at-risk food inventory as funding is available and distributing any income generated from delivery service sales among impacted restaurant owners as well as exploring the option of hiring employees affected by restaurant closures. **O'Side Kitchen Collaborative is seeking funding to cover general operating costs and purchase additional supplies.**

Produce Good

Location: San Diego, CA

Contact: Nita Kurmins Gilson, producegood.nita@gmail.com

Funding Needed: \$75,000

ProduceGood provides fresh, healthy food to San Diego's charitable food supply and upcycles edible organics through their farmers market produce recovery program. In response to COVID-19, ProduceGood has developed new versions of their services to account for the public health crisis and are piloting 1-2 new services to directly address the impacts of the Coronavirus. **They are seeking funding to pay drivers and cover other general operating costs due to lost revenue from grants and service fees.**

MIDWEST REGION

IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MO, MN, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI

After the Harvest

Location: Kansas City, MO

Contact: Zach Callaway, zach@aftertheharvestkc.org

Funding Needed: Please contact organization for funding details

After the Harvest seeks to prevent hunger by rescuing fresh, nutritious produce that would otherwise go to waste and distributing it to food agencies that feed hungry individuals, families, children, and seniors. They achieve this by gleaning farmers' fields of excess produce, picking-up already harvested excess produce from farms and markets, and then transporting the food to food banks and food agencies. They also secure truckloads of donated fruits and vegetables from large commercial producers and give it to food banks. In response to COVID-19, they have taken the necessary safety precautions and are following the CDC and State Department of Health guidelines, as they remain committed to their mission of nourishing hungry people. **They are seeking funding to increase capacity, as the current lack of funding is limiting the amount of rescued food they can get to local food agencies.**

La Soupe

Location: Cincinnati, OH

Contact: Suzy Deyoung, suzy@lasoupecincinnati.org

Funding Needed: Please contact organization for funding details

La Soupe bridges the gap between food waste and hunger using a chef-based model by rescuing perishable food, transforming it into delicious and nutritious meals and providing it to food insecure individuals. They achieve this through their Bucket Brigade Program, in which participating Chefs use their overages or produce from La Soupe and create soups and meals that are then distributed to local food agencies. **They are seeking funding to cover general operating costs during the Coronavirus pandemic.**

Thank you for your consideration of these fundable initiatives during this public health crisis. If you have any questions regarding these opportunities or would like to share other funding opportunities, please reach out to Hospitality Advisory Director, Angel Veza, at aveza@firstprinciplegroup.com. Together, we can support organizations on the front lines of COVID-19.