



Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative Food Recovery Mini-Grants Request for Proposal

Introduction:

The Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative expects to award 3-5 mini-grants of up to \$500 each to faith-based organizations in Sonoma County to advance congregational programming that supports: food waste reduction. We recognize that a small amount of cash during the beginning stages of a project can be vital to fruition. Mini-grants further our mission to empower faith communities to increase access to healthy sustainably-produced food. We are happy to meet with you at your site to assist with planning.

Applications must be received by Thursday, August 13th, 2026 at noon.

Terms:

Awardees agree to: share results; allow project photos to be released; and may be asked to present at a roundtable and/or conference to discuss their project. The project period would be 1-6 months in duration, with a simple progress report due to Interfaith Food by mid-December. Grantees will agree to participate in some evaluation through month 12. This may include a survey or focus group. Funds go to a faith-group (i.e. congregation's account) not an individual. Grants will typically be \$300-\$500 and paid in full at the beginning of the project. Awards are expected to be announced by August 31st.

What is an eligible project?

Applicants must be religious congregations, camps, or schools located in Sonoma or Marin County. The mini-grants are intended to help a congregation start a new project or expand a current project to ensure ongoing impact. Eligible uses of funds include: purchasing a refrigerator or insulated boxes (for transporting food before it spoils); hiring an intern to cover a temporary contract or personnel to establish or grow a project; recovering edible food that would otherwise be wasted; distributing food to facilitate food access for low-income individuals (e.g. how many participants you plan to serve.); or using composting or other strategies to minimize food waste going to a landfill. Ineligible uses of funds include: a one time allocation of dollars for expenditures that are meant to be ongoing, for example gas to reimburse food deliveries/pick-ups. *Please note: a project located at a church or other faith-based site can apply for a mini-grant in partnership with a faith-based group.*

How does my congregation or faith-based service group apply?

A short 1-2 page application can be filled out online, or in a word document and mailed or emailed in to the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative. To complete the application online via 'Google Forms' go to: <https://forms.gle/kJdfhNcNbST5dBNb8>

Application Review:

The deadline to receive applications is *Thursday, August 13th, 2026 at noon*. Applications can be submitted by email or mailed to the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative. A committee of the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative's Advisory Board will evaluate applications. Applicants can turn in a draft application for preliminary feedback. These should be received before August 10th at noon.

The criteria for evaluating proposals include:

1. Clear concept, objectives and plan for the project. Start-up project or expansion of current project (Reminder: Funds will not support a continuation of an ongoing project i.e. paying electricity bill for the month of March).
(Up to 15 points)
2. Clear description of budget expenses. (Up to 10 points)
3. Strong justification and likelihood of success. (Up to 10 points)
4. Breadth of support for the idea (i.e. more than one person has 'bought in'); evidence of more than one volunteer or staff person committed to carrying the project or event forward. (Up to 15 points)
5. Support from group's board and clergy leadership. (Up to 10 points)
6. Supports healthy food access for low-income individuals. (Up to 10 points)
7. Engages congregation with community work to reduce food waste. (Up to 10 points)
8. Congregation has engaged with Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative (i.e. attended roundtable, conference); and/or clearly explained the concept for partnership with Interfaith Food.
(Up to 10 points)
9. Beneficiaries clear - e.g. broader community or the faith-based organization's members exclusively.
(Up to 10 points)

We are thankful to sponsors of the mini-grant program including Zero Waste Sonoma and Negley Flinn Charitable Foundation.

Note: It is not necessary to address all of the criteria in your proposal, but doing so will increase the chances of your proposal's selection for funding. We anticipate a competitive pool of proposals by applicants.