



## 2023 Food Security Grants

*(Funding opportunity made possible by the generous donors to **ShareLife**)*

### **Background**

Cognizant that food insecurity is becoming a growing major problem in Ontario that has and will continue to negatively impact the physical, mental, and social health of individuals and families, ShareLife is allocating this grant to support food relief initiatives within the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Historically, Catholic Charities does not provide funding directly to food banks, community kitchens, local food organizations, or food/hunger relief activities. While Catholic Charities believes that the right to food is a fundamental human right that the government is responsible for, we recognize the persistent food insecurity crisis exacerbated by the pandemic and acknowledge the invaluable contributions of food banks and other food organizations have made to alleviate hunger and food insecurity, particularly among the impoverished, marginalized, and vulnerable individuals and groups in the community.

More and more individuals and families are facing hunger and experiencing food insecurity. Food insecurity has been defined as a condition where households have inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints. According to a recent University of Toronto study<sup>1</sup>, “the prevalence of household food insecurity in Canada matters because food insecurity is such a potent social determinant of health.”

The study revealed that in 2021, 15.9% of households in the ten provinces experienced food insecurity in the previous 12 months. This translates to 5.8 million people, including about 1.4 million children under the age of 18, living in food-insecure households. Roughly one in 6 households was food insecure. Ontario has a 16.1% prevalence of household food insecurity, higher than the average among the ten provinces.

Sixty-three percent (63%) of households relying on social assistance were found to be food insecure, including forty-two percent (42%) of households relying on Covid-19 benefits and thirty-nine percent (39%) of households relying on employment insurance.

The study further disclosed that the high rate of household food insecurity has continued through the past years, with little change from 2019 to 2021, and predicts that with the record inflation since 2021, the severity of food insecurity will worsen.

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<sup>1</sup> Tarasuk V, Li T, Fafard St-Germain AA. (2022) Household food insecurity in Canada, 2021. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF). Retrieved from <https://proof.utoronto.ca/>

## **Funding Objectives**

These grants will be provided to support food relief initiatives as well as to help the capacity of groups to address food insecurity in the community they serve.

Specifically, the funding is aimed at:

1. Assisting groups to purchase food, distribute and increase accessibility to nutritious and healthy food by individuals and families struggling to afford food and essential living expenses such as people with disabilities, young parents with complex needs, isolated and marginalized seniors, and individuals or families who are precariously housed or employed.
2. Helping groups to develop food and nutritional skills that contribute to advancing food security, health, and well-being of individuals and families.
3. Supporting groups to increase organizational capacity in implementing creative ideas or developing new approaches that can contribute to alleviating food insecurity or facilitating the food security of individuals and families they serve.

## **Conditions for Funding**

The proposal must:

- Respond to existing or emerging food insecurity issues of an identified target group.
- Articulate expected concrete benefits to the target groups.
- Describe a plan to assess how the project will determine that the project objectives have been achieved.
- Outline a process to track outcomes and the impact on target clients, as well as on partner agencies, if there are any.
- Outline a sustainability strategy or plan.

## **Outline of the Funding Request**

The application will consist of the following three sections:

### Section 1: Organizational Information

This should contain essential information about the organization, including partners, their roles in the food security activity, and expected contributions from each agency.

### Section 2: Program/Project Details

This should contain the following information:

1. Rationale and Description
  - Provide a context of the current environment and the target population, the problem the program/project will address, and how the program/project will respond to the perceived need.
2. Desired Results
  - Discuss what the program/project intends to achieve (i.e., overall goal, the expected activities, and outcomes).
3. Implementation Plan
  - Outline the key milestones and timelines.
4. Evaluation and Sustainability Plan
  - Provide details of the evaluation and sustainability plan

### Section 3: Program/Project Budget

This should contain an itemized budget with details of estimated revenue and expenses. Please indicate other funding sources under revenue and identify expenses to be covered by CCAT funding.

### **Review and Approval**

Funding requests will be reviewed and approved based on set criteria which include, but are not limited to the following:

- Alignment with Catholic Charities funding objectives (previously stated on page 2).
- Relevance of the project to the identified target group's needs.
- Impact on the target vulnerable and marginalized group (based on expected outcomes).
- Project cost being realistic based on key activities; and
- Sustainability of activities

### **Deadline for Submission**

Proposals should be submitted by email to [allocations@ccat.ca](mailto:allocations@ccat.ca) by Friday, September 29, 2023 with the subject line: *2023 Food Security Grants*.

Please contact Rosario Pascua at [rpascua@ccat.ca](mailto:rpascua@ccat.ca) for any questions.