2026 Food Security Grants

More individuals and families are facing hunger and experiencing food insecurity. Food insecurity is defined as a condition in which households have inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints. According to a University of Toronto study[1] "The prevalence of household food insecurity in Canada matters because food insecurity is such a potent social determinant of health."

Food insecurity is becoming a significant problem in Ontario. It has and will continue to negatively impact individuals' and families' physical, mental, and social health. To alleviate this problem, ShareLife and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto (CCAT) are collaborating to fund initiatives enhancing food security within the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Funding Objective

These grants will support initiatives and help groups build the capacity to address food insecurity in their communities. The funding is aimed at assisting groups to purchase food, distribute food, and increase accessibility to nutritious and healthy food for 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.

Conditions for Funding

The organization must:

- Be an incorporated non-profit agency or a registered charity by the Canada Revenue Agency
- Be operating within the Archdiocese of Toronto and
- Have been offering food programming for more than one year.

The proposal must:

- Respond to an identified target group's existing or emerging food insecurity issues.
- Articulate expected concrete benefits to the target groups.

[1] 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/

- Describe a plan to assess how the project will determine that the project objectives have been achieved.
- Explain a process to track outcomes and the impact on target clients and partner agencies, if there are any.
- Outline a sustainability strategy or plan.
- Present a reasonable budget and the amount requested is realistic for activities or items to be funded.

Funding should not be used for the following:

- Capital expenses to acquire or rent appliances and equipment
- Salaries
- Stipend/honorarium
- Volunteer incentives
- Gasoline expenses
- Transportation fees

Outline of the Funding Request

The application will consist of the following four 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 for the current environment and the target population, the problem the program/project will address, and how the program/project will respond to the target population's perceived needs.
    - Describe briefly how the program/project serves the Catholic and the broader community
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 include an itemized budget detailing estimated revenue and expenses. Please indicate other funding sources under revenue and identify expenses to be covered by ShareLife and Catholic Charities funding.

Section 4: Endorsement or Reference Letter

This is mandatory for organizations, not members or affiliates of Catholic Charities.

A letter of endorsement/reference from a partner or leader in the area you serve should be submitted, demonstrating your relationship and good standing within the Catholic and broader community you aim to help with this grant.

For example, a letter from a local pastor/parish official, a school principal, a community partner, a funder or a local official.

Deadline for Submission

Proposals should be submitted by email to **slife@archtoronto.org** by September 30, 2026 using the subject line: *2026 Food Security Grant Application*.

If your organization received a grant last year and is considering applying for a 2026 grant, please submit a copy of your 2025 grant report as soon as possible to **slife@archtoronto.org.**

Review and Approval

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

- Alignment with Catholic Charities' and ShareLife's 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

Disbursement of Funds

ShareLife will contact each recipient and disburse the grant.

Grant Reporting

A project/program progress and expense report must be submitted on **July 31, 2027**. Please describe how the project/program achieved its objectives and intended outcomes as outlined in the proposal, the challenges encountered, and how the funds were spent and made a difference for the people served.

Grant Recognition

ShareLife and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto appreciate public recognition of the grant received, whether online or in print, wherever possible.

Recognition of funding helps us raise awareness of ShareLife and CCAT and the important charitable work both organizations do. A list of recognition requirements will be provided to successful applicants.