



**Department of
Workforce Services**
Community Services
Division

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Policies & Procedures

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Introduction:

The Emergency Food Assistance (EFA) Program supports emergency food agencies, including nonprofits and associations of government, with the costs of providing emergency food services including operations, transportation, supplies (excluding food or other commodities directly distributed to the public), equipment, capacity building, technical assistance, advocacy, and staffing. The program is funded by 2 state funds: Emergency Food Network (EFN) and Qualified Emergency Food Agency Fund (QEFAF). The program is administered by the State Community Services Office (SCSO).

Emergency Food Network (EFN):

The Emergency Food Network (EFN) is a grant program for non-profit 501(c)(3) agencies and local governmental entities that host emergency food pantries, food banks, prepared meal sites, and other food distribution sites with the primary mission of meeting the emergency food needs of low-income Utahns. EFN funds are distributed statewide through the Department of Workforce Services (DWS), Community Services Division (CSD), State Community Services Office (SCSO) to eligible entities. EFN funds may be used by eligible entities for costs of providing emergency food services including operations, transportation, supplies (excluding food or other commodities directly distributed to the public), equipment capacity building, technical assistance, advocacy, and staffing.

In order to be considered eligible for this grant, an organization shall meet the following requirements:

- Applicant must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or government entity operating an emergency food program. Eligible organizations include:
 - emergency food pantries,
 - food banks,
 - prepared meal sites,
 - and other organizations whose primary mission is to meet the emergency food needs of low-income Utahns.

Qualified Emergency Food Agency (QEFAF) Fund:

The Qualified Emergency Food Agency Fund (QEFAF) is a state-funded competitive grant available to qualified emergency food agencies in Utah. QEFAF funds are distributed statewide through DWS, CSD, SCSO to eligible entities. The application to be a qualified emergency food agency is included within the grant application (defined in State Administrative Rule R990-101-1). Eligible activities under the QEFAF grant include activities related to: warehousing food and food ingredients, distributing food and food

ingredients to other agencies and organizations providing food and food ingredients to low-income persons, and providing food and food ingredients directly to low-income persons.

In order to be considered eligible for this grant, an organization shall meet the following requirements:

- Applicant must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, association of governments, or municipality currently operating a food pantry.
- Applicant must operate programs with the primary purpose of:
 - Warehousing food or food ingredients;
 - Distributing food or food ingredients to other agencies and organizations providing food or food ingredients to low-income persons;
 - or Providing food or food ingredients directly to low-income persons.
- Applicant must collect and maintain required records of tax-deductible donations.

Applying for Funds:

Public Notice:

A Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) is advertised statewide through local media and through direct email notice to prior year grantees. Information regarding application for funding is provided in public notice forums including the Department of Workforce Services Grant Opportunities Page:

<https://jobs.utah.gov/departments/rfg/index.html>

All applications received by the deadline and in the format indicated in the published RFGA will be reviewed and scored by a scoring panel. Available funds are awarded based on score. Notices of conditional award are emailed within 30 days of application review.

Application and Scoring:

RFGAs for the EFA Program are published annually outlining application questions, deadlines, eligibility requirements, and scoring rubrics. Application and scoring guidelines include but are not limited to:

- Each organization may only submit **one** application for the Emergency Food Assistance grant, regardless of the number of projects proposed or sites supported by the funding.
- Application asks may not exceed \$150,000.

- The amount of the grant will be awarded based on the program application, evaluation criteria and funding availability. Funding sources are assigned by SCSO once eligibility is determined.
- Grant applications that receive 60% or less of total possible points may not be considered for funding.
- Returning applicants will be evaluated on prior year grant performance. Applicants that receive 60% or less of total possible admin points may not be considered for funding.
- Returning applicants will be evaluated on prior year monitoring results. Applicants that have unresolved or ongoing findings and/or weaknesses may be disqualified from consideration for award.
- Funding is distributed on a cost reimbursement basis.

Required Documentation:

Applicants are required to submit the following documentation with their EFA Application in order to be considered eligible for funding:

- A 501(c)(3) designation documentation (if not an association of government or municipality)
- Registration as an entity with the office of Lt. Governor
- Most recent audit, financial review, or 990
- List of Board of Trustees
- Proof of Liability Insurance (if a non-government entity)
 - DWS Grant Terms and Conditions requires non-government entities to maintain general liability coverage of a minimum of \$1,000,000 per occurrence, and \$3,000,000 in aggregate (which can include umbrella coverage). During the grant term, DWS must be named as an additional insured for general liability, however if the organization's insurance does not currently include this, it can be updated after an award is made.

Allowable Costs:

Capacity Building:

EFA funds may be used for capacity building activities. Examples of capacity building projects include:

- Staffing of emergency food service operations
- Purchase of Commercial Freezer/Refrigerator
- Storage Bins
- Pallet Racking

- Shelving
- Purchase of Forklift* **(with restrictions and approval only)**
- Delivery Truck** **(with restrictions and approval only)**

**required approval based upon pantry need and reasonable cost*

***for trucks, collaboration of food delivery services of various pantries within designated county is expected*

Other Operations:

Examples of allowable operational costs include:

- Utility Operation Costs
- Emergency Food Facility General Repairs
- Vehicle Minor Maintenance Repair Costs
- Emergency food facility staff salary

Transportation:

Examples of allowable transportation costs include:

- To assist with the cost of transporting various food items statewide
- Cost to transport food to other emergency food facilities or to collect food from grocery rescue programs
- Cost to transport food via Mobile Outreach programs

Unallowable Costs:

- Purchase of food or other commodities directly distributed to grantee's customers/clients will no longer be permitted as an allowable cost as of July 1, 2026.

EFA Program Policies and Procedures:

Program Eligibility Determination:

Direct services funded by either QEFAF or EFN are designated for low-income Utahns. Low-income **must be clearly defined by Grantees. Additionally, Grantees must define how eligibility is determined.** The grantee's definition and method of determination are included in the grantee's scope of work. Grantee will be held to this defined process during monitoring.

Eligibility Determination During Period of Declared State of Emergency:

During a period of declared state of emergency in Utah, grantees may use self-declaration of income as a method of determining program eligibility, even if their scope of work is more restrictive. Grantees should retain a signed and dated self-declaration of income from the client. During a declared state of emergency, clients may be unable to access income documentation.

Reporting:

Reporting requirements for awarded entities are as follows:

- Grantees must submit Quarterly Reports detailing progress made on spenddown and Scope of Work outcome goals. Deadlines are outlined in the Grantee's Scope of Work or provided by SCSO.
- Grantees must submit a Final Outcome Report for project activities based on their contract Scope of Work within 15 days from the contract's expiration, detailing total outcomes achieved within the contract period (July 1-June 30). Specific contract reporting requirements are detailed in the scope of work.
- Other reports may be requested by SCSO on an ad hoc basis and timely submission is expected.

Requests for Reimbursement:

Requests for Reimbursement for the EFA Program are submitted using the process required by DWS.

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Expectations for requests for reimbursement (claims) are as follows:

- Requests for reimbursement must be submitted at least quarterly.
- At minimum, all claims submitted for reimbursement are expected to include a general ledger detail reflecting all incurred expenses. Additional documentation may be requested for any claim.
- Claims must be limited to activities and costs allowed by the funding source and by the organization's scope of work and budget.
- Additional considerations for claims:
 - Costs incurred during appropriate and reported time frame
 - Include description of product/service

- Include evidence of payment ■ Invoices, quotes, and estimates are not evidence of payment
- Sales tax is NOT allowed
- Copies must be legible
- Date of Purchase
- No accruals
- Include notes as needed
- For equipment or other purchases, construction, or other projects requiring a vendor, SCSO defaults to each organization's internal procurement policies & procedures so long as it is **at least as restrictive** as the DWS procurement policies & procedures. Procurement policies include but are not limited to:
 - When the individual procurement item cost is more than \$1,000 the organization must obtain at least 3 competitive quotes.
 - Grantee shall not use Grant funds to make any payments to related parties without the prior written consent of DWS. Grantee is obligated to notify DWS of any contemplated related party payment prior to making a purchase. Payments made by Grantee to related parties without prior written consent may be disallowed and may result in an overpayment assessment.
 - Grantee is defined as all owners, partners, directors, and officers of the organization or others with authority to establish policies and make decisions for the organization.

Record Retention:

All records shall be retained by GRANTEE for at least six (6) years after final payment, or if an audit is conducted following contract expiration, 6 years following completion of the audit.

Contract Amendments:

Contract amendments require approval from SCSO prior to initiating the amendment process. Requests to revise the contract period, budget, and/or Scope of Work shall be submitted to SCSO in writing and shall include:

- Detailed information addressing the need for the proposed change
- Description of the impact that the change will have on services to low-income community members
- Updated budget sheets and budget narrative, if applicable

- Updated performance targets and/or Scope of Work outcomes, if applicable
- Other information as requested by SCSO

Contract amendments that are proposed within two months of contract expiration will not be considered by SCSO. Exceptions may be granted by SCSO on a case-by-case basis.

SCSO will respond in writing to contract amendment requests within twenty days of receipt of the request.

Budget Adjustments:

Budget adjustment requests require approval from SCSO and DWS Finance. Budget adjustments are limited to moving funds between budget lines and to adding narrative to budget lines. The movement of funds may include moving to a newly created budget line. Budget adjustments **DO NOT** involve the addition or reduction of funds.

Budget adjustment requests need to be made to SCSO as soon as Grantee is aware of a need for one. These requests shall be submitted in writing to SCSO using the appropriate budget adjustment form.

Budget Adjustment Requests include:

- Detailed information addressing the need for the proposed change
- Description of how the change will help the organization facilitate spenddown
- Detailed description of each line item that needs to be changed including
 - amounts of reduction and/or addition of funds to a line item
 - removal and/or creation of a new line item
 - updated line item narrative(s)
- Updated budget narrative (template provided by SCSO)
- Other information as requested by SCSO

Monitoring:

Program Monitoring Requirements and Process:

Grantees will be monitored at least once a year by an on-site visit or remote/desktop review for programmatic and fiscal compliance. Notification of visit will be provided at least twenty days in advance of the scheduled monitoring review.

Each awarded grantee is subject to ongoing contract monitoring for the entirety of the grant period of performance. Monitoring may include, but is not limited to, site visits, technical assistance, desk reviews, expenditure document review, or monitoring by a third party.

Monitoring reports will be issued within 30 days of the monitoring visit. The monitoring report will include any findings or weaknesses identified during the on-site visit as well as any findings or weaknesses identified during the ongoing review of the contract. The organization will have the opportunity to respond to any identified weaknesses or findings.

Monitoring Preparation:

A monitoring notification letter and questionnaire will be emailed to the grantee. The questionnaire may also be accessed by a link to a remote form. The grantee will return the questionnaire 1 week (no earlier than 3 weeks) in advance of the monitoring visit, per SCSO instruction. Additional documentation may be requested at that time.

For desktop reviews as well as desktop preparation for on-site visits, relevant documents for compliance with the terms of the contract including permits, proof of insurance, and eligibility determination will be reviewed. SCSO may request documentation it does not already have. Review will include the following:

- Executed EFA contract agreement and Scope of Work
- Submitted Requests for Reimbursements including attached fiscal back up documentation, timeliness, accuracy, and spenddown progress
- Progress on Scope of Work outcomes including review of measurement tools and data tracking tools
- Submitted Quarterly Reports
- Client files (or other eligibility determination documentation)
- Donation Logs
- Records pertaining to previous monitoring reviews (if applicable)
- Updated copy of insurance, if expired since application submission

Contract Findings & Weaknesses:

Organizations will be issued grant management contract findings and/or weaknesses for issues of non-compliance. Grant management includes but is not limited to:

- Timeliness and Accuracy of Reporting
- Timeliness and Accuracy of Requests for Reimbursement

- Eligibility Documentation
- Data Tracking
- Timely communication with SCSO regarding contract or budget challenges and changes in organizational staff. Grantees must notify SCSO of any changes in agency leadership and finance leadership as well as in EFA program management **within 30 days of the change.**

Recurring issues with timeliness, accuracy, or other areas of non-compliance may result in findings and/or weaknesses and will adversely affect administrative scores on future applications. Recurring weaknesses across funding cycles may result in contract findings.

Failure to address and resolve monitoring weaknesses and findings may result in reduction of award and/or termination of contract.

Corrective Action:

When findings and/or weaknesses are identified during a monitoring review, SCSO requires that a corrective action plan be outlined and executed by Grantees in order to stay in compliance with contract requirements and maintain EFA funding. SCSO will send a preliminary monitoring report identifying each contract finding and/or weakness. Grantees will have 10 days to respond to SCSO with a plan for correction for each identified finding and/or weakness. Grantees that 1) do not respond with an acceptable corrective action plan to resolve the identified findings and/or weaknesses; 2) do not follow through on the corrective action plan; 3) refuse to take corrective action may have funding reduced, have their contract terminated, and/or jeopardize future funding through SCSO.

Compliance:

Once compliance is determined, the Organization will receive from SCSO confirmation of compliance and closure of the finding(s). If compliance is not met, the process will be repeated for determining proper corrective action. If compliance continues to not be met, SCSO may move to termination of funding.

Grievances and Fraud:

Grievance Procedure:

Grantee shall establish and implement a system through which beneficiaries of the services provided may present grievances about the operation of the program as it pertains to and affects said beneficiary. The Grantee shall advise applicants of their right to present grievances concerning denial or exclusion

from or operation of the program. The Grantee will advise applicants in writing of their rights and the procedures to appeal. The Grantee will accommodate limited English proficiency and visually disabled applicants in advising applicants of their rights and the procedures of appeal.

Fraud, Waste, and Abuse:

Fraud occurs when an EFA applicant, vendor, grantee, sub-recipient, or employee knowingly and willfully misuses or withholds information, or provides false information to provide eligibility-based assistance, distribute funds, or claim grant reimbursement:

- If there is evidence that fraud has been committed by a vendor, grantee, or employee, appropriate measures will be taken under the direction of SCSO or DWS Internal Audit team.

Procedures for Fraud, Waste, and Abuse:

The monitoring review process ensures that each organization has internal controls that would protect EFA funds from waste, fraud, and abuse. During the monitoring reviews, SCSO staff will ensure that organizations are compliant with the rules. If fraud is discovered, SCSO may move to terminate the contract.