

## SEAFB Response to Assembly Follow-Up Questions

Dear Adrien,

Thank you for your message and for the Assembly's continued consideration of our funding request. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide additional clarity.

### 1. Why isn't this request going through the JCF Social Service Grants Program?

Southeast Alaska Food Bank (SEAFB) submitted an application to the Juneau Community Foundation (JCF) Social Service Grant Program for the first time this year. However, we were informed that due to the increased financial need of organizations already relying on those funds, our likelihood of receiving our requested support through the program was very low. JCF kindly provided leads to potential alternative funding sources for the "Assistant Manager" position, none of which were viable at this time. We were also informed that we could apply directly through the CBJ Community Funding process.

Importantly, JCF hosted multiple "Listen and Learn" sessions. In the session focused on food security, two major takeaways emerged:

1. Southeast Alaska's food-security efforts lack unifying organization. Due to SEAFB's position as a locus of these efforts, we could lead development of a Southeast Food Coalition—a role we have already begun pursuing—to improve communication, collaboration, and partnership in the region.
2. We identified that leadership for Juneau's youth weekend backpack meal program was stepping down. Additionally, we offered to leverage our status as an Affiliate Food Bank of Feeding America to increase efficiency and effectiveness of the winter, spring, and summer break meal program. SEAFB has committed our facility, staff, and logistics to support these programs with bulk food purchasing, storage, acquisitions, and efficient packaging.

We are eager to act on these points of concern, and many others that will leverage outside food and funding resources, but we cannot do so without the staffing to lead and manage these critical projects.

Historically, SEAFB has not required support from either JCF or CBJ. Our operations were funded primarily through grocery rescue, member dues, and modest donations. However, due to the rapidly rising need for food in Juneau and Southeast Alaska, we have been forced to either expand or severely restrict the food resources made available to our member agencies.

In 2022, JCF made a one-time, unsolicited donation of \$10,000. Outside of some support related to land and at cost pit run during our warehouse construction, we have not previously requested or received funding from CBJ.

### 2. What is the revenue picture for the Food Bank over the last few years?

Approx 58% funded by generous individual donors.

Approx 17% funded by local business donors.

Approx 16% of funding is earned income through membership agency's annual dues, directly correlated to pounds of food we distribute to each.

Approx 6% annual distributions from our JCF endowment fund, this is based on a JCF calculation each year. Originally funded by founding members of SEAFB.

3% Investment Income, slightly higher in recent years while we fundraised for the new warehouse but have since spent those funds.

Non-cash annual food drive fundraiser and grocery store rescue is not included but is significant for our operations.

Fiscal Year   Total Revenue   Notes		
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2021	\$247,000	Private donations, small grants, member dues
2022	\$276,000	Includes \$10,000 unsolicited JCF donation
2023	\$305,000	Increased fundraising and community support

In recent years, grocery rescue has not kept pace with growing demand. The volume of rescued food has declined, while our community's need for support has surged.

With our new warehouse now operational, we are capable of storing and distributing food reserves — something we couldn't do previously. This \$150,000 request is intended to:

- Fund staffing and strategic expansion,
- Support formation of the Southeast Food Coalition,
- Support food programs for youth and school breaks,
- Build out emergency food reserves for natural disasters and job loss scenarios.

The “Assistant Manager” position will allow us to effectively manage our 40+ volunteers and pursue sustainable funding at the state and federal level — unlocking substantial long-term resources for the region. This position has been in planning for over a year and a half, but without funding to support staffing our capacity has been limited. With CBJ's support we can leverage this position to bring much needed outside resources into Juneau and S.E. Alaska.

Please let us know if SEAFB can provide further clarification or attend the April 30 AFC meeting. We are committed to supporting our neighbors during this time of growing need.

Sincerely,

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