

# City & Borough of Juneau Community Funding Request

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## Basic Information

Name of Requesting Group or Organization	Southeast Alaska Food Bank (SEAFB)
Summary of request (sentence or phrase)	Strengthening food security through program expansion, increased collaboration with our membership agencies, and emergency response preparedness.
Amount of request	\$150,000
Assemblymember Sponsor	Ella Adkison Wade Bryson
Is this a request for a one-time event, purchase or grant match?	No
Does this request provide monetary support for the group's ongoing or operating expenses?	Yes
Primary contact individual for this group	Jeremiah Beedle, Board President
Primary contact's phone number	907-209-1480
Primary contact's email	<a href="mailto:jerbeedle@gmail.com">jerbeedle@gmail.com</a>

### 1. Funding Request (Project) Title (Suggested heading):

Strengthening Food Security Through Program Expansion and Collaboration.

### 2. Project description and benefit. Describe the project (in half a page or less), including specific aspects of the funding request and project. Explain how the project will benefit the community. What sector(s) of the community will this project benefit and/or serve?

The Southeast Alaska Food Bank is seeking \$150,000 in funding from the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) to support food security initiatives in response to increasing challenges in food accessibility. 40% of the funds are designated to operational staffing, 10% to administration, and 50% to direct bulk wholesale purchases. Our grocery store rescue has been stagnant, while the need for food has significantly grown in the last 5 years and continues to grow. Families who experience food insecurity are at increased risk of experiencing housing instability, and vice versa. The causes of hunger are linked to a high cost of living, such as a lack of affordable housing, as well as other environmental and psychological factors. This is why it is so important to couple these issues and address both short-term hunger relief with our collective ability to make sustainable reform.

This funding will allow us to hire an Assistant Manager to expand programs, such as The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) throughout Juneau and support the development of the Juneau Food Coalition - uniting local food security efforts across various agencies. It will also allow us to provide much needed support to the weekend / school break programs. Collaboration is more important than ever with the upcoming cuts to non-profit Federal (and State) funding, stricter eligibility criteria to qualify for social service programs, and increased unemployment rates.

With a growing number of school-aged children relying on free and reduced meal programs—rising from 630 last year to over 700 this year, with more than 1,000 eligible—we are committed to addressing the needs of food-insecure families. The added position will allow us the appropriate time to help facilitate the weekend and school break programs which are losing their leadership. This funding will help us establish emergency response reserves to provide quick food aid during natural disasters such as mudslides and floods. With the capacity provided by our new warehouse, we are now equipped to take on these challenges and provide comprehensive food security solutions to the community.

50% of the requested funding will be allocated toward bulk food purchases. This will ensure that we have sufficient reserves on hand to respond effectively to natural disasters and meet the increasing demand for food assistance in our region. The low-income individuals and families, school-aged children, seniors (especially with mobility issues), victims of natural disasters such as the Mendenhall River Flood, Federal employees that have lost or will lose their jobs, various Tlingit and Haida programs, and the patrons of local non-profit member agencies will all directly benefit from SEAFB's expanded programs and services.

3. Plans and progress. Describe (in one or two paragraphs) what has been accomplished so far (if anything) toward this project's or funding's goal. This may include studies, designs, grant application status, fundraising activity, and total funds raised to date.

SEAFB recently built an onsite warehouse which has enhanced our ability to store and distribute food, positioning us for further development of emergency response reserves and expanded community food support programs. Creating the space for expanding our programs and services was a giant step forward. SEAFB has also taken initial steps in expanding our food security efforts, including increasing outreach to community partners and identifying additional resources such as the Federal TEFAP food commodities. This funding will also allow us to conduct a Community Needs Assessment in conjunction with the establishment of the coalition. This would be a project that the new position would head that would empower us to optimize efficiencies, identify blind spots, eliminate redundancies, across community and all our member agencies. We are actively seeking new operating grants and increasing our fundraising efforts.

4. Project support. Is the project supported in CBJ or other community plans (List where the project is mentioned or supports concepts in planning documents such as the Assembly Goals, Legislative Priorities, CIP Plan, etc.

This project aligns with CBJ's legislative priorities related to community resilience, emergency preparedness, and public welfare. It supports broader city planning goals by ensuring that food security remains a priority in the face of economic hardship, rising living costs, and environmental threats. The establishment of the Juneau Food Coalition will further unify food security initiatives in the region, addressing the growing demand for assistance, while proceeding with the highest level of efficiency.

5. Goal of project. In one sentence or less, state the goal of the project. For example "economic development" or "improve non-motorized transportation routes."

Enhance food security for the vulnerable populations in Juneau through program expansion, emergency food reserves, bulk food purchases, and coalition-building.

6. Total cost:

- A. TOTAL COST (including funds already secured) = \$150,000
- B. AMOUNT SECURED (include funding source) = \$0

7. Timeline: Indicate when you hope to complete the project.

The project will begin upon receipt of funding, with the hiring of an Assistant Manager and the establishment of the Juneau Food Coalition within the first six months. TEFAP expansion efforts will continue throughout the year, with emergency response reserves fully operational by year-end. The issues identified by the Juneau Food Coalition will be ongoing, as the group will identify needs within our community and create action plans to address these issues.

8. Physical Location. Please provide the address or physical description of where the project is located.

Southeast Alaska Food Bank 10020 Crazy Horse Drive Juneau, AK 99801