

Application: 0000000027

Susan Schmidt - susan@sunshineplace.org
Public Health Madison & Dane County Grant Opportunity: Healthy Community Fund

Application (English)

Completed - Oct 27 2023

Application (English)

Contact Information

Submitting Organization, Group, or Individual:

Sunshine Place

Contract Name:

Sunshine Place

Address:

18 Rickel Road, PO Box 307

City, State, Zip Code:

Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Email Address:

susan@sunshineplace.org

Phone Number:

608-478-5556

Is your proposed project based in Dane County, Wisconsin?

Yes

Funded proposals will need to complete a W-9 and Vendor Letter with the City of Madison Finance Department in order to receive funds. If funded, are you able to complete this process?

Yes

Contacts for funded proposals need to be in communication with our staff at the start and end of the funding cycle. We will use information shared to highlight impact stories and discuss project progress, as well as to create relationships for future collaboration. If funded, are you willing to be in communication with our staff?

Yes

Project Information

This funding is open to new or existing projects and programs, including the operations of groups or agencies. Please tell us about what you will use these funds to do. Short phrases or sentences are fine—you don't need to write long paragraphs.

Name of Project/Program/Initiative

Food for Kids

Amount requested

\$ 10,000

Anticipated start date

01/01/2024

Anticipated end date

01/01/2024

1. Description of project(s) (in a sentence or two):

This project will support a partnership between the Sun Prairie Food Pantry program at Sunshine Place and Sun Prairie Community Schools to provide nutritious and robust community-based food options for children in underserved communities beyond what they receive as part of their school day. More specifically, the project will increase equitable access to healthy food by bolstering in-school food pantries and distributing snacks and meals directly to children in low-income neighborhoods.

2. Briefly, tells us how much money you are requesting and what you plan to spend it on.

Sunshine Place is requesting \$10,000 to enhance our community-based food program for children in 2024. In direct response to a substantially growing demand for food related support in eastern Dane County, Sunshine Place hired a Food for Kids Coordinator in September of this year to bring all projects related to feeding kids at our organization under one program. This program aims to ensure that children in our area have easy access to nutritious food outside of their school day.

The initiatives under this project include growing and maintaining food pantries within eight Sun Prairie Community Schools, providing neighborhood based outreach and ready to eat food each Friday afternoon during the school year, providing extra food for kids to take home ahead of holiday breaks from school, and distributing free lunches to kids in low income neighborhoods during the summer.

While Sun Prairie Community schools have committed funding to support our full-time Food for Kids Operations Coordinator through October of 2024. Additional funding is needed to ensure the program's success for the entire year, including needed support for transportation and the purchase of food.

More specifically, funds are needed to help support:

- The purchase of food to stock the school food pantries for eight identified community schools in Sun Prairie, providing consistent accessibility to food for families and children.
- The purchase of food to distribute snacks and Spring/Winter Break food bags to low income neighborhoods each Wednesday night during the school year as part of neighborhood-based outreach events in collaboration with Community Schools and other community organizations.
- The purchase of food to make and distribute more than 2,500 lunches to children in low income neighborhoods over the summer.
- The cost of transportation and fuel to deliver food to the neighborhoods and schools in our refrigerated van throughout the year.
- We are also exploring ways to provide additional meals that children can consume later or over the weekend, such as distributing microwavable and warm ready-to-eat meals.

Grant funding will ensure we have the food and resources necessary to provide enough food for all kids facing food insecurity in our community in 2024.

3. Where (geographic area/neighborhood) and/or with who (community/group) you will you focus your effort?

Our project is currently focused on providing food to children in underserved communities in the Sun Prairie area with a potential expansion into the Village of Marshall in 2024. To provide a more targeted approach to getting food to the kids who need it most, we deliver food to low income neighborhoods in Sun Prairie and distribute additional food through in-school pantries through a partnership with Sun Prairie Community Schools where the highest number of at risk students are concentrated. Expansion into Marshall would emphasize food distribution through in-school pantries with a partnership with their School District as well.

4. Do you have an existing relationship with the community, group, or area?

Yes

5. If yes, please describe this relationship in a sentence or two. If you need to build this connection, please describe how you plan to do so.

Sunshine Place and the Sun Prairie Food Pantry have long partnered with Sun Prairie Community Schools with a common objective of getting help to kids who need it in our community. This includes ongoing referrals from the schools to all of our child focused programs and sharing of resources to support families, as many of those that utilize services at Sunshine Place are also students at Community Schools. This project will leverage our relationship to the fullest with Sun Prairie Community Schools, setting up a solid and effective partnership to address food insecurity for the most vulnerable students in our community. We are also currently in discussions with the Marshall School District on ways in which we might expand these resources to their schools.

6. Public Health Madison and Dane County (PHMDC) is seeking to support local people and programs that are working to address health and racial inequity in our community. Which root cause of health inequity does your proposal most closely align with?

Reducing inequities in specific groups:

Responses Selected:

Race and/or ethnicity

Reducing inequities related to:

Responses Selected:

Housing

Wealth Accumulation/Income

Food systems or hunger

If selected, provides details on other inequities addressed through this program:

Typically, food pantries operate to address an emergency food need. However, a bag of groceries, no matter how abundant and wholesome, doesn't fix systemic food insecurity and poverty. Those turning to the pantry for help need wraparound services, and those seeking housing support and other programs at Sunshine Place often need help with food.

Sunshine Place is the primary hub for services that support essential needs in Sun Prairie and eastern Dane County, providing services that address food insecurity, housing insecurity, and other barriers to household and family stability. Through all of our programs, we focus on providing additional resources and referrals to connect clients to other services that may benefit them. This coordinated approach aims to address interesting needs, ultimately increasing stability, eliminating disparities, and improving outcomes for those in need.

7. Looking at the root causes of health inequity that you identified above, please describe how your project will have an impact?

**We know that you won't change systems this funding—the impact you describe can be small. E.g.: transportation access is inequitable; you might plan to hold programming in accessible spaces or provide funding for transportation. This doesn't solve the systemic inequity but aims to be aware in your program design.*

Sunshine Place is the primary resource center providing one location where community members with limited means can access co-located programs, supports, and social services in Sun Prairie and eastern Dane County. Sun Prairie is one of the fastest growing communities in Wisconsin, making affordable housing and other opportunities more difficult to access for our increasingly diverse population. More than 37% of renters in our community are cost burdened, and the school district reports 167 students experience homelessness.

Sunshine Place aims to increase equity for those most vulnerable in our community, providing easy access to services that help families, children, and individuals not only survive, but thrive. We house nine of our own programs and five partner agencies to help those struggling with food insecurity, housing insecurity, and other barriers to stability. Over two-thirds of those who utilize Sunshine Place services qualify as extremely low income and a majority are from minority households. And over the last year, the number of exclusively Spanish speaking households seeking support has doubled.

The largest of our programs is the Sun Prairie Food Pantry. Open 6 days a week, it is one of the most accessible and robust pantries in southern Wisconsin and serves Dane County and surrounding areas. We offer a full choice pantry, with a grocery-store like shopping experience in a welcoming, dignified, and respectful environment. The number of families and individuals accessing the pantry has skyrocketed over the last year due to inflation's impact on food and housing prices, as well as the ending of pandemic-era food benefits for families in need. Between January and June of this year, usage of the food pantry increased between 8-10% each month, and we are now serving an average of 59 households per day compared to just 24 per day this time last year.

While our food pantry is very successful in serving households in need, some families cannot access the pantry for a variety of reasons. Additionally, we know gaps exist in children's access to nutritious food outside of school. Schools are raising the bar for how they can care for students in need in the classroom, but teachers and social workers tell us that the need is when the child leaves school. Are they getting enough to eat for dinner? Do they come to school ravenous? Were they unable to complete homework because of the fatigue from an empty stomach? When at school are they spending time thinking about lessons or if they'll be able to snag an extra granola bar to bring home for later?

The project outlined in this application will have a significant impact on children's ability to access healthy food outside of their school day, regardless of their race, income, or household situation. We are already seeing a positive impact when visiting the neighborhoods with snacks on Friday afternoons. Kids come by and don't just grab snacks for themselves, they grab some for their siblings at home too. With many parents working long or evening hours, we see many older kids responsible for making dinner. It's been heartwarming to see the children picking up food for their family members and friends and supporting one another, and can see this leading to them becoming giving and supportive neighbors as they grow up. We are confident in this community-based food distribution model and are eager to continue to expand its reach with additional financial support.

Provide any additional attachments (Example: letters of support, budget outline, etc.)

[Sunshine Place Food for Kids Budget and Organizational Info Page.pdf](#)

Filename: Sunshine Place Food for Kids Budget and Organizational Info Page.pdf **Size:** 277.1 kB

Healthy Funds Review Stage for: Lourdes Shanjani

Incomplete
Score:

Review Task Form

Does the application provide a clear description of how funds will be used and how they will effectively support a new or existing initiative/program/activity?

10 points: Application provides a detailed description of the project including elements of its implementation that demonstrate a specific scope of activities that will be completed and a thorough understanding of key elements of project.

(No response)

Is there a clear target audience/population the project is seeking to focus on and does the applicant have a capacity to meet the needs of this population from an informed perspective?

15 points: Application includes a specific population or target audience for their project and explains a clear link for how their activities are tailored for this community. The implementing agency further demonstrates some capacity for working with the identified community, either through lived experienced, some form of cultural awareness or a clear avenue for integrating the voice of the community attempting to be reached.

(No response)

Does the proposed initiative/program/activity clearly identify a systemic issue linked to health inequity that it is seeking to impact?

10 points: Application identifies a root cause/systemic issue that is a clear driver or contributor to communities experiencing health inequity. The project design links specifically to addressing this issue and illustrates feasibility in its ability to address the issue with an awareness for potential limitations.

(No response)

Total: 0

Comments

(No response)

Healthy Funds Review Stage for: Allison Dungan

**Incomplete
Score:**

Review Task Form

Does the application provide a clear description of how funds will be used and how they will effectively support a new or existing initiative/program/activity?

10 points: Application provides a detailed description of the project including elements of its implementation that demonstrate a specific scope of activities that will be completed and a thorough understanding of key elements of project.

(No response)

Is there a clear target audience/population the project is seeking to focus on and does the applicant have a capacity to meet the needs of this population from an informed perspective?

15 points: Application includes a specific population or target audience for their project and explains a clear link for how their activities are tailored for this community. The implementing agency further demonstrates some capacity for working with the identified community, either through lived experienced, some form of cultural awareness or a clear avenue for integrating the voice of the community attempting to be reached.

(No response)

Does the proposed initiative/program/activity clearly identify a systemic issue linked to health inequity that it is seeking to impact?

10 points: Application identifies a root cause/systemic issue that is a clear driver or contributor to communities experiencing health inequity. The project design links specifically to addressing this issue and illustrates feasibility in its ability to address the issue with an awareness for potential limitations.

(No response)

Total: 0

Comments

(No response)

Healthy Funds Review Stage for: Jordan-Lindsay Morris

Incomplete
Score:

Review Task Form

Does the application provide a clear description of how funds will be used and how they will effectively support a new or existing initiative/program/activity?

10 points: Application provides a detailed description of the project including elements of its implementation that demonstrate a specific scope of activities that will be completed and a thorough understanding of key elements of project.

(No response)

Is there a clear target audience/population the project is seeking to focus on and does the applicant have a capacity to meet the needs of this population from an informed perspective?

15 points: Application includes a specific population or target audience for their project and explains a clear link for how their activities are tailored for this community. The implementing agency further demonstrates some capacity for working with the identified community, either through lived experienced, some form of cultural awareness or a clear avenue for integrating the voice of the community attempting to be reached.

(No response)

Does the proposed initiative/program/activity clearly identify a systemic issue linked to health inequity that it is seeking to impact?

10 points: Application identifies a root cause/systemic issue that is a clear driver or contributor to communities experiencing health inequity. The project design links specifically to addressing this issue and illustrates feasibility in its ability to address the issue with an awareness for potential limitations.

(No response)

Total: 0

Comments

(No response)

Healthy Funds Review Stage for: Robin Lankton

Completed - Nov 14 2023

Score: 97% (34/35)

Review Task Form

Does the application provide a clear description of how funds will be used and how they will effectively support a new or existing initiative/program/activity?

10 points: Application provides a detailed description of the project including elements of its implementation that demonstrate a specific scope of activities that will be completed and a thorough understanding of key elements of project.

10

Is there a clear target audience/population the project is seeking to focus on and does the applicant have a capacity to meet the needs of this population from an informed perspective?

15 points: Application includes a specific population or target audience for their project and explains a clear link for how their activities are tailored for this community. The implementing agency further demonstrates some capacity for working with the identified community, either through lived experienced, some form of cultural awareness or a clear avenue for integrating the voice of the community attempting to be reached.

15

Does the proposed initiative/program/activity clearly identify a systemic issue linked to health inequity that it is seeking to impact?

10 points: Application identifies a root cause/systemic issue that is a clear driver or contributor to communities experiencing health inequity. The project design links specifically to addressing this issue and illustrates feasibility in its ability to address the issue with an awareness for potential limitations.

9

Total: 34.0

Comments

Very compelling application, consider funding at lower level given total Healthy Community Fund budget

Healthy Funds Review Stage for: Gene Musser

Completed - Nov 11 2023
Score: 100% (35/35)

Review Task Form

Does the application provide a clear description of how funds will be used and how they will effectively support a new or existing initiative/program/activity?

10 points: Application provides a detailed description of the project including elements of its implementation that demonstrate a specific scope of activities that will be completed and a thorough understanding of key elements of project.

10

Is there a clear target audience/population the project is seeking to focus on and does the applicant have a capacity to meet the needs of this population from an informed perspective?

15 points: Application includes a specific population or target audience for their project and explains a clear link for how their activities are tailored for this community. The implementing agency further demonstrates some capacity for working with the identified community, either through lived experienced, some form of cultural awareness or a clear avenue for integrating the voice of the community attempting to be reached.

15

Does the proposed initiative/program/activity clearly identify a systemic issue linked to health inequity that it is seeking to impact?

10 points: Application identifies a root cause/systemic issue that is a clear driver or contributor to communities experiencing health inequity. The project design links specifically to addressing this issue and illustrates feasibility in its ability to address the issue with an awareness for potential limitations.

10

Total: 35.0

Comments

(No response)

Sunshine Place Food For Kids Budget 2024

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Food for Kids Coordinator Salary/Benefits | \$ 60,636.00 |
| Food to Stock Food Pantries at Eight (8) Schools | \$ 16,000.00 |
| Food to Provide Snacks and Meals for Friday After School Distribution | \$ 9,200.00 |
| Food to Provide Summer Lunches | \$ 9,000.00 |
| Fuel for Cooler Van Transportation to Serve Lunches and Snacks | \$ 1,000.00 |
| TOTAL through December 2024 | \$ 95,836.00 |



Sunshine Place is the primary resource hub for eastern Dane County, providing one location where those facing hardship can access co-located social services.



Sunshine Place aims to provide one location where those facing hardship can access resources that help them not only survive, but thrive. We offer our own programs, as well as subsidized space for other agencies to co-locate services, providing an array of help to families and individuals in Sun Prairie, Marshall, eastern Dane County, and beyond. This centralized approach helps clients more easily access resources, and staff and partners can more easily collaborate to address intersecting needs.

Sunshine Place programs provide over 60,000 acts of kindness each year. These touchpoints of services include use of housing navigation services, free legal assistance, households accessing the food pantry, free hot meals, instances of rent and utility assistance, free beds for kids, and so much more.

Sunshine Place Programs:

- Sun Prairie Food Pantry - Choice pantry offering free food and personal care items
- Sunshine Supper - Free weekly community meal
- C.A.R.D.S. Closet - Free clothing for kids
- Housing Navigation - Help securing and maintaining affordable housing
- Rays of Hope Assistance - Assistance to prevent eviction/utility disconnection
- Feeding Kids Program - Free lunches and snacks delivered to neighborhoods
- Sunshine Legal Clinic - Free legal consultation
- The Bed Lady - Free beds and bedding for kids who otherwise wouldn't have one
- Lobby Resource Center - Walk-in access to free food, computers, internet, fax, and service info.
- Stuff the Bus - Free school supplies and backpacks for kids
- Spirit of Giving - Free holiday gifts for kids
- ESL Classes - Offering free English lessons to Spanish speaking individuals
- Job Connectors - Connects individuals seeking resources to search for and secure employment

Partner Agencies Located at Sunshine Place:

- RISE Early Childcare - Holistic family case management for families in the Early Childhood Zone
- Joining Forces for Families - Community social worker
- Centro Hispano - Hispanic social worker
- Dane County Public Health - Community health nurse focusing on systemic issues
- First Care Clinic - Mobile clinic offering free women's health care and maternal support