

GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date: 9/18/2026

Contact Information

Organization Name: Fiorenza's Food For Friends (F4)
 Address: PO Box 89 Downingtown, PA 19335
 Phone: 610-955-7090
 Website: www.f4service.org
 Year Incorporated: 2011
 FEIN: 45-2253155

ED/CEO Name: Brenda Russell
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 Board Chair Name: Ted Zobian
 Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒
 Primary Contact Name: Brenda Russell
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Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

	Arts, Culture, Heritage		Education, Library		Environment, Animals
X	Health	X	Human Services		Social Justice, Civic Engagement
	Religion		If other, please describe:		

Mission: The mission of Fiorenza's Food for Friends (F4) is to connect sources of food to recipients in need, with a long-term vision of creating a world without hunger.

Geographic Area Served: F4 has its roots in Chester County where it conducts most of its work, however, it serves the entire Greater Philadelphia Region, all of PA, and has worked with partners across the US and on occasion, in Canada.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served. F4 serves approximately 5,000 food-insecure individuals every year through F4's partnership program. The top 5 service area zip codes with the number of partner agencies in each are: 19013(6), 19320(18), 19380(8), 19401(11), 19460(11). F4 works to connect organizations/entities with excess food to food banks and pantries that need it.

Annual Budget \$ 216,000 3 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
91 % of budget for program expenses 15 # of Board Volunteers
5.5 % of budget for administrative expenses 70 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
3.5 % of budget for fundraising expenses 2067 # of Volunteer Hours
100% = total

Top 3-5 funding sources: West Chester Chili Cook-Off; Foxwynd Foundation; Indiv. Donation, Family Foundation

This grant proposal is for: X Direct Service Programs & General Operating &/or Capacity Building

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 5,000

Proposal Summary: Grant funding from the Chester County Community Foundation would enable F4 to expand educational outreach to prospective food donors, raising awareness about the legal framework and process for safely donating surplus food. This initiative directly supports our Food Rescue program.

FIORENZA'S FOOD FOR FRIENDS

CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION - GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Nonprofit's overall aims, key initiatives, key achievements & distinctiveness

Fiorenza's Food For Friends (F4) executes a unique Food Rescue Program that streamlines the process of getting donated food to those who need it most. The organization operates as a connector; establishing sustainable partnerships between entities that have excess food to donate, and organizations that can provide that food to individuals in the community who are food insecure.

F4's main purpose is to eradicate hunger starting right here in Chester County. Food insecurity is a persistent and ongoing problem for many households, yet at the same time it is reported that Americans waste about 60 million tons of food each year. The National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) reports that up to 40 percent of all food in the US goes unsold or uneaten each year - enough to feed 1 in 8 Americans who are food insecure four times over. Some of this food in our community is good, can be safely consumed, and can be re-directed to those in need. This is F4's area of highest impact.

The ultimate beneficiaries of F4's work are food-insecure individuals and families in the region, but the direct target groups we work with are food donors and organizations that distribute food. This is unique in that F4 is acting as a free conduit – facilitating food donations and streamlining the ongoing process of food rescue. F4's goal is to support the supply chain and ease the burden on local food pantries - relying on them as the experts in distribution. F4's work is completely free of charge for all participants.

Donor organizations include for-profit businesses, school districts, restaurants, event venues, and schools/universities. Donor organizations may have an ongoing relationship with F4 as a partner or may organize a single food drive. A few of our partner food donors include Vanguard, Flik, Mom's Organic Market, Whole Foods Market, Wawa, Villanova University, Wegmans, Grocery Outlet, and many more.

Recipient organizations include nonprofit organizations that distribute food regularly to food-insecure individuals and households. We rely on them as experts in distribution. F4's goal is to support the supply chain and to ease the burden of local food banks as the main source of providing food for hunger relief. A few of our recipient organizations include AIDS Care Group, CYWA, PACS, St. John's Hospice, St. Joseph's House, and the West Chester Food Cupboard.

In addition to the Food Rescue Program, F4 coordinates Food Drives and Hunger Awareness Education programs that expand the community's knowledge about food security and sustainability. Partner organizations not only find a way to mitigate food waste and promote environmental sustainability, but they can also use this as a way to give back to their community. Employee engagement and corporate citizenship are top of mind for corporations and F4 creates pathways in which they can achieve their internal goals while engaging constituents with local hunger relief initiatives.

F4 was founded by Derek Fiorenza while studying at Villanova University. He identified a gap in service while volunteering and created a solution. Within the first 3 years, F4 grew from 25 meals donated to 1,000. Then, in 2011, F4 registered as a 501c3 and as of today, has provided access to over 12 million pounds of food. Derek continues to serve on the Board of Directors and champion the mission of the organization through hundreds of hours of service every year.

F4 as an organization is committed to doing everything it can to eradicate hunger and improve food systems. We know that there is adequate food for everyone – it just has to become accessible and

available to them when they need it. As an organization, we work smart and hard to be the best at what we do. We focus our efforts on building sustainable systems in a replicable format and doing it within a balanced budget. F4 works with a small staff to maximize the use of donated revenue and direct as much funding as possible to direct services. The organization does not request or receive government funding.

Funding request

According to Feeding America's latest available data, Chester County continues to be home to almost 50,000 food-insecure individuals, 63% of whom do not qualify for SNAP benefits. These individuals rely on the community's safety net of food banks/pantries, along with other nonprofit organizations that provide food, basic needs, and household supplies. The county's organizations rely heavily on individual donations and philanthropic support to maintain enough food for those in need. F4 assists these agencies by providing additional food and supplies, free of charge, and often on an ongoing basis.

F4's area of greatest impact, and what makes it unique in the food security space, is facilitating the rescue of small to mid-sized quantities of food and redirecting that food to local neighbors who need it. There are a few organizations in the Greater Philadelphia Region that rescue food, but they are working on a larger scale, for instance when entire shipments and/or tractor trailers of food are available for rescue. These larger organizations do not have the bandwidth to do what F4 does – work on the local level. F4's niche is built on developing relationships within the community and developing the ongoing partnerships that build an interconnected food rescue system. To further its work, F4 is developing a new corporate partner program that will harness the energy, volunteer support, and efforts of area businesses in the ongoing fight against hunger.

Grant funding will specifically be used to develop new and enhance existing corporate partnerships with the goal of increasing the amount of food donated directly, increasing the pounds of food rescued from landfills and re-directed to the community, and increasing engagement in educational and volunteer programs. F4 provides partners with curricula on hunger awareness and works with organizations to develop mechanisms for them to reduce food waste, increase food recovery, conduct regular food drives, and promote volunteerism. This program positions F4 as a CSR partner and educator, not just a charity.

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of this program and the organization as a whole, F4 tracks a number of outcomes including pounds of food rescued and donated, as well as ongoing weekly partnerships. F4 provides logistical support for partners and makes sure that all program goals are met. With enhanced corporate partners, F4 aims to increase the number of individuals it serves and strengthen organizational capacity.

F4's 2026 Goals include:

- GOAL 1: To eliminate hunger by improving access to available food sources for those in need.
 - F4 will provide at least 1,000,000 pounds of food to over 100 nonprofit organizations.
 - F4 will maintain at least 150 weekly partnerships between food service donors and agency recipients.
 - F4 will host at least 15 food drives to collect additional food for nonprofit partners.
- GOAL 2: To eliminate food waste by re-directing surplus food to those who need it.
 - F4 will work with over 230 organizations to rescue food, eliminating waste.

- GOAL 3: To educate and involve community members in the fight against hunger.
 - F4 will host the West Chester Chili Cook-Off as a community event for 10,000+ individuals to broaden awareness and support for food security and hunger-related issues in our community.
 - F4 will invite community nonprofit organizations free of charge to the Chili Cook-Off to share information about their important services with the goal of mobilizing the community toward the eradication of hunger.

So far this year, several new donor relationships have contributed to significant support across the county. Colonial Village in West Chester is under new ownership and began supporting the West Chester Food Cupboard, while West Pharmaceuticals in Malvern is providing weekly support to Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS). In addition, CAVA in Downingtown trained new employees for 5 days and donated over 1,100 prepared meals to multiple agencies, including the Coatesville Salvation Army, City Gate, Gaudenzia House, Bridgeway House, Kennett Area Community Services (KACS), and PACS.

These partnerships have helped expand access to nutritious food for vulnerable residents while strengthening the local hunger-relief network. Within the first half of the year, F4's distribution efforts in Chester County alone have resulted in almost 200,000 pounds of donated food reaching community organizations and the individuals they serve. With additional funding, and more partnerships, F4 can do more. Investments leverage community resources, creating a multiplying effect that benefits thousands of residents, our neighbors, and helps continue to battle food insecurity right here in our own community.