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**Subject:** [External] Food Bank FAQ  
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Hello everyone,

There have been numerous questions regarding eligibility of food banks and food bank related projects. We have revisited the questions and revised the guidance. Please see the FAQ below for updated guidance.

### **Are food banks eligible to apply for RFSI funding?**

Food banks are included in the definition of 'Institution' in the RFSI Scope and Requirements, thus eligible to apply for RFSI funding, contingent on the types of activities they are doing. The definition of 'institution' includes that they must be "bringing producers together to establish cooperative or shared infrastructure or invest in equipment that will benefit multiple producers middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural product." Food banks may also qualify as a 'nonprofit organization' or another entity type, again with the requirement that they meet the second part of each eligible entity description. For instance, in 'nonprofit organization' that includes only those that are "operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural products."

It is up to the State to determine if applicants and projects are eligible for funding. See below and the [Program Scope and Requirements](#) for additional information.

Eligible Entities Types are:

- Agricultural producers or processors, or groups of agricultural producers and processors.
- Nonprofit organizations operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural products.
- For-profit entities operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, or distribution of targeted agricultural products, whose activities are primarily focused for the benefit of local and regional producers, and that meet the eligibility requirements of the SBA small business size standards are eligible.
- Local government entities operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural products.
- Tribal governments operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural products.
- Institutions such as schools, universities, or hospitals bringing producers together to establish cooperative or shared infrastructure or invest in equipment that will benefit multiple producers middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural product. These include organizations such schools (K-12; colleges/universities), hospitals, **food banks**, gleaners, food rescue, workplace cafeterias, prisons, and care centers (senior, preschools).

For a **project** to be eligible for funding, it must:

- Expand capacity and infrastructure for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, or distribution of locally and regionally produced food products.
- Offer more and better market opportunities and new streams of revenue to small and mid-sized agricultural producers, including those who may not have access to value-added opportunities or processing to meet market demand for premium or value-added products, such as underserved producers.

Thank you,

**RFSI Team**

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