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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello my name is Lisa Mosca and Executive Director of Food Moxie in Philadelphia, PA. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Coronavirus Response Grants.

As a nonprofit focused on supporting healthy eating, when the pandemic hit we saw hunger in our community dramatically increase. Since March 2020 we have handed out 150,000 pounds of local produce we purchased at cost to support access for seniors and others in need of fresh produce access in our community.

We need support for non brick and mortar nonprofits to access free healthy produce to distribute. We also need access to support for cooling facilities in the heat of summer and warming facilities in the cold of winter. While the pandemic brought challenges for continuing to run our program, we adapted in order to keep providing food for our neighbors in need. In 2020 we distributed produce to students through home deliveries and to community members through a bi-weekly public free food distribution.

The pandemic also brought with it additional costs: We purchased over \$150,000 in local produce, an activity we do not normally engage in, but supported due to incredible community need. We had to invest in temporary cheaper cooling options like ice, icepacks and small coolers. We have invested in PPE- including masks, gloves, sanitizers, seedlings, seeds, root pouches and transplants to support community distributions so people could grow at home in small spaces. We have also invested in transportation of produce.

We care about providing our clients with fresh, healthy food, and we want to be able to source that food from farmers in our community. However, without adequate refrigeration, transportation and storage, we are not equipped to sustainably handle and distribute fresh, perishable products. Having funding for this infrastructure would enable us to complete this last-mile link in the emergency feeding systems supply chain, and provide the highest quality food to our clients while supporting local farmers.

That's why I'm submitting this comment to show my support for the following recommendations. In particular I would like to emphasize the need for grants to include infrastructure additions or upgrades for non-profits, community partners, food pantries and last-mile hunger relief organizations.

I ask that any new programs be designed so that non-profits, community food providers and food pantries can access necessary, equitable relief. Uses of funding should include:

- Local food purchases when not subsidized in other ways
- Refrigeration, Dry or Cold storage, other equipment and upgrades
- Food delivery costs (fuel and maintenance)
- Transportation services or equipment
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Packaging and labeling materials
- Signage
- Food safety practice upgrades
- Cleaning supplies
- Temperature screening equipment
- Purchasing or leasing temporary space
- Staff time for implementing COVID-19 shifts, protocols, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.