



county of Santa Cruz 0243

HUMAN RESOURCES AGENCY

CECILIA ESPINOLA, ADMINISTRATOR

1000 EMELINE ST., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95050

(408) 454-4120 OR 454-4045 FAX: (405) 454-4542

November 6, 2000

AGENDA: November 21, 2000

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUPPORT OF SECOND HARVEST PROPOSAL FOR FUNDS PROVIDED BY AB2782 TO BENEFIT LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Dear Members of the Board:

The Human Resources Agency supports the Second Harvest Food Bank's (SHFB) proposal for funds provided by AB 2782 to purchase a cargo van for expansion of the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) and Food For Children Program. AB 2782 was authored by Assemblyman Fred Keeley with the express intent that funds be used by local food banks to purchase food, expand refrigeration space or purchase vehicles and other equipment needed to expand capacity.

As you may know, SHFB has aggressively expanded the EFAP program over the past three years. During FY 99/00 SHFB increased EFAP distribution sites by 26%. Five traditional EFAP distribution sites increased distribution by 54,000 pounds; 14 Food For Children EFAP distribution sites were up by 156,000 pounds; and 11 Congregate Feeding Agencies (CFA's) were up by 29,000 pounds.

Second Harvest is in need of a cargo van in order to continue their service expansion. The former cargo van became inoperable over a year ago and the SHFB has had to dispatch a large truck to pick up or deliver smaller quantities of food. This situation is economically and operationally unsound. The large trucks require a specially licensed driver and cost more to operate and maintain than a cargo van. By reducing demand to use only the large trucks the purchase of a van will enable SHFB to reduce costs, increase services capacity and improve their operating reliability. AB 2782 authorizes the use of state funds with no cost to the county.


This proposal is in keeping with the intent of AB 2782 to provide funding to local Food Banks for the purpose of expanding capacity. We are requesting that your Board send a letter of support for this proposal.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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SECOND HARVEST AB2782 PROPOSAL

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IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board direct the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to send a letter of support to the California Department of Social Services recommending the Second Harvest Food Bank funding request for \$23,013,

Very truly yours,



CECILIA ESPINOLA
Administrator

CE\RB\Second Harvest AB2782 FY01 Ltr.doc

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

CC: County Administrative Office
Second Harvest Food Bank

0245

October 27, 2000



Cecilia Espinola, Agency Administrator
 Human Resources Agency
 County of Santa Cruz
 1000 Emeline
 Santa Cruz CA 95060
 Fax #454-5062

RE: State Food Bank Infrastructure Funding Proposal

Dear Cecilia,

Second Harvest Food Bank is requesting recommendation by the County of Santa Cruz for our \$23,013 request due 11/17/00 for State Food Bank Infrastructure funds to purchase a critically needed Cargo Van.

The Food Bank is proud of our evolving partnership with the Human Resources Agency and the County of Santa Cruz to alleviate malnutrition and reduce hunger for working poor families, children, seniors and disabled individuals in need.

As you know, earlier this month the California Department of Social Services requested that the Board of Supervisors make a formal recommendation regarding local priorities. Your support would greatly enhance the success of our proposal to purchase a Cargo Van to expand emergency food assistance services.

Please feel free to contact me if have any further questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Willy Elliott-McCrea
 Executive Director

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0246

FY2000/2001 Budget Act Funding Proposal Cover Sheet

To: Food Assistance Program
Department of Social Services
744 P Street, M.S. 19-5 1
Sacramento, CA 95 8 14
Fax (916) 229-3342

From: Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties
P. O. Box 990, Watsonville, CA 95077-0990

Grant Request: \$23,013

Contact: Willy Elliott-McCrea, Executive Director

Phone: (831) 722-7110 **Fax:** (831) 722-0435 **E-Mail:** willy@thefoodbank.org

Date: October 27, 2000

Summary: The Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties is requesting a grant of \$23,013 from FY2000/2001 Budget Act funds to meet the cost of purchasing a cargo van pick up and deliver less than large-truck-load quantities of food.

Please give serious consideration to fully funding our request so that we can better meet the food assistance needs of the communities we serve. Thank you for the opportunity to have our needs considered.

For the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties



Willy Elliott-McCrea
Executive Director

0247

Question 1

Describe how the funds will be used to help expand or improve food distribution, storage and handling capacity'. (20 points)

The Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties is requesting a grant of \$23,013 from FY2000/2001 Budget Act funds to meet the cost of purchasing a cargo van pick up and deliver less than large-truck-load quantities of food.

Our former cargo van became inoperable over a year ago due to being at the end of its service life and no longer worth the increasing service and maintenance costs. Since then we have not been able to afford to purchase a replacement vehicle. The result is that we have to dispatch one of our large trucks to pick up or deliver smaller quantities of food that could be handled by a cargo van if we had one available. Additionally, the larger trucks require drivers with large vehicle driver's licenses, while a cargo van can be operated by any of our employees with a standard driver's license.

This is particularly a problem for smaller EFAP sites in outlying areas such as Boulder Creek, as well as for other EFAP Food for Children sites. Without a cargo van we often have to dispatch a large truck and commercial licensed driver to pick up and deliver smaller loads, frequently to the remotest parts of our service area. This ties up the large truck and driver for an hour or two, when these vehicles are needed to support our normal operations. The same type of condition frequently occurs when small quantities of food need to be picked up from food industry donors. Additionally, the large trucks cost more to maintain and operate than a cargo van. Over a period of a year this amounts to a significant amount of expenditures over what a cargo van would cost to operate for small load pickup and delivery.

Future operating costs for the new vehicle will be provided from our operating funds, as are our current vehicles. By reducing demand to use our large trucks to pick up and deliver small loads it will reduce our upkeep costs, increase our service capacity and improve our operating reliability.

As we are located in a mostly rural economically depressed area with few corporate or foundation sources of capital funding, there is little probability of funding this purchase from local grant sources.

0248

Question 2

Demonstrate how the proposed purchase(s) would impact food distribution service to recipients in your service area. (30 points)

We have been aggressively expanding our EFAP distribution for the past three years and intend to continue this expansion in calendar year 2001. During FY 99/00 we increased our EFAP distribution sites by 26 percent. Five traditional EFAP distribution sites increased distribution by \$4,000 pounds; 14 Food for Children EFAP distribution sites were up by 156,000 pounds; and 11 Congregate Feeding Agencies (CFA's) were up by 29,000 pounds. New EFAP Food for Children sites serve over 1,000 families, representing over 4,000 adults and children and distribute in excess of 120,000 pounds of additional food - if we are able to service them. To continue this service expansion and to maintain the current level of service we need an appropriate sized vehicle to service small distribution sites.

Much of our increased EFAP distribution is in support of our Food For Children program, which distributes food boxes containing 30 to 40 pounds of government commodities and supplemental food to families at neighborhood schools and low-income housing areas in our service area. The Food For Children program was initiated after our Hunger Study of our service area, released in 1998, indicated that 48 percent of our clients are children. This is approximately 25 percent higher than the national average for food banks and probably due to **high** endemic unemployment rates in much of our rural service area. Unemployment rates in the Pajaro Valley run from 14 to 22 percent, depending on the season, compared to the current national average of 3.9 percent.

Food For Children is a unique program that works closely with school and Social Services staff to reach families in need that are otherwise **hard to reach**. **This is** of special significance because 63 percent of children in poverty in our area have one or both parents working. Food For Children distributes USDA and supplemental foods on evenings and weekends to increase accessibility to working poor families. As our area has some of the highest housing costs and lowest wages in the state we have a higher proportion of working poor families to support than most food banks. Current average rental rates in Santa Cruz County for one-bedroom apartments exceed \$1,000 a month, and gasoline prices have increased 50 cents a gallon if the last year. A working single parent with only one child, no childcare costs, and making \$2 to \$3 an hour over the minimum wage cannot make ends meet here. Given more than one child, a need for childcare, and near-minimum-wage incomes it is impossible. We feel this is the primary reason the number of people seeking food assistance from our agency network has increased by 19 percent in the past three years – despite a booming national economy. Many local residents are confronted by an increasingly large cost/income divide that they can no longer hope to cross with the resources available to them and they need our help.

Whether we are able to maintain our current level of service is questionable given **our** transportation flexibility, let alone absorb increases in service. If we are able to obtain a cargo van of the type we are seeking in this request this will allow us to increase the amount of food donations we can accept, store and distribute.

0249

Question 3

Quantify the impact upon services for a) adding agencies and recipients, b) improving service to recipients and agencies, and c) acquiring and distributing more food to recipients. (20 points)

The 3 new EFAP sites will serve approximately 300 additional families, representing more than 1,200 adults and children and distribute: 50,000 pounds of additional food.

In addition to the 670,700 pounds of EFW food we distributed in FY- 1999-2000, we provided EFAP clients with 476,900 pounds of locally donated food to **supplement** the EFAP distribution.

0250

Question 4

Establish measurable outcomes to be achieved following disbursement based on answers to Question 3. (20 points)

1. Establish 3 new EFAP distribution sites in the next year.
2. Serve 300 additional families at these sites, representing 1,200 adults and children.
3. Distribute 50,000 pounds of additional food.

0251

Question 5

Explain how any added equipment or other proposed addition to the food bank will be supported after the initial money has been expended. The 2000/2001 Budget Act is a one-time appropriation. Food distribution organizations must demonstrate that ongoing maintenance and operation of the increased capacity is provided for (10 points)

Future operating costs for the new vehicle will be provided from our operating funds, as are our current vehicles. By reducing demand to use our large trucks to pick up and deliver small loads it will reduce our upkeep costs, increase our service capacity and improve our operating reliability.

The Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties enjoys a reputation for hard work, competence, and innovation in our service area. We have created an awareness of the scope of hunger within our constituency of local media, government, civic and religious organizations, the business community and the public. This has been demonstrated by an increase in community donations of over 150% in the past three years alone, as have the food donations to our annual Holiday Food Drive.

In 1999 the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce selected us as the Organization of the Year from among a wide field of worthy nonprofit organizations. Our Food For Children program was selected from among innovative programs nationwide to receive a \$20,000 Kraft Foods supporting grant in 1999 and a \$22,000 Cisco Systems Foundation grant during 2000.

Given this demonstrated level of growth and positive public perception we are confident that we will be able absorb the increased level of activity the new vehicle provided by this grant will afford us.