

Subject: New submission from Community Development Combined

Date: Friday, January 19, 2024 at 11:31:59 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: jnytko@govsol.org

To: jnytko@govsol.org

General Information
Date of application:
01/16/2024
Organization name:
Shalom Food Pantry
Organization TIN or EIN:
82-1306418
Organization physical address:
393 Delaware Ave Delmar, NY 12054 United States Map It
Is the mailing address different from the physical address?
No
Contact Information
Primary contact name:
Zalman Simon
Primary contact title:
Director
Primary contact phone:
518-439-3310
Primary contact email:
info@shalomfoodpantry.com
What is the preferred method of contact?
Email
Website (if available):
https://www.shalomfoodpantry.com
Organization Info and Structure:
Is the organization a nonprofit?
Yes
If nonprofit, please attach to this application proof of your organization's Tax-Exempt Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SFP-501c3-confirmation.pdf

Date of establishment:

05/03/2017

Give a brief description of your organization. Please include information on the organization's activities or mission statement (150 words or less):

Shalom Food Pantry is a compassionate lifeline in Albany County, dedicated to alleviating financial struggles for families and individuals in need through providing healthy kosher food packages. Our mission extends beyond provisioning; we strive to uphold the dignity and privacy of those we support. Over 100 families are aided bi-weekly and larger food drives are conducted before significant Jewish holidays to cater to the community's needs. Moreover, we educate the youth about food insecurity through our 'Kids Can Build' program, fostering a communal sense of responsibility. Education remains a focus as we equip local students with necessary school supplies through our 'Operation School Supplies' initiative. Shalom Food Pantry, thus, is not just about giving food; it's about instilling hope, promoting education, and fostering community solidarity.

Provide the total number of full-time employees (if applicable):

0

Provide the total number of part-time employees (if applicable):

3

Provide the total number of volunteers (if applicable):

30

What is the organization's current annual budget?

207,202

Have you or the organization ever received any form of COVID-19 relief funds or loans specific to the negative impacts of the Pandemic?

No

Did your organization lose revenue as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic? If yes, provide the amount of lost revenue (2020-2022)

50,000

Project Proposal

Applicants may choose to apply for up to 2 program areas. Please select the primary program area for which you would like to apply.

Food Access

If applicable, please select the secondary program area for which you would like to apply.

Youth Services

What amount of funding is being requested (Must be at least \$100,000 and should not exceed program area totals)?

150,000

Is this a new project or expansion of an existing initiative, please describe.

Our project primarily seeks to increase Shalom Food Pantry's efficiency and expand our reach in the wider Albany County. This expansion will be achieved through the renovation of our pantry space and the recruitment of additional staff to support the growth and scale of our services.

Please provide an executive summary of the proposed program or project for which you are requesting funds. Include a description of the target population, as well as the goals and objectives of your proposed project (500 words or less).

Our project primarily seeks to increase Shalom Food Pantry's efficiency and expand our reach in the wider Albany County. This expansion will be achieved through the renovation of our pantry space and the recruitment of additional

staff to support the growth and scale of our services.

Our current pantry space requires updating to maximize its effectiveness. By renovating, we will have an efficient setup that would enhance our operational capability, thereby increasing our ability to store, manage, and distribute food resources to the community. This remodeled pantry space, equipped with modern facilities, will allow us to cater to growing community needs and better serve over 100 families bi-weekly.

In tandem with the renovation, we propose to expand our team. Bringing in additional staff members will not only enhance our capacity to provide services but also help in managing our educational outreach programs, ensuring the successful continuation and enlargement of efforts like 'Kids Can Build', our flagship initiative educating local children about food insecurity.

Our diversified team would also play a crucial role in drafting and executing additional aiding programs, all while optimizing the use of the renovated pantry space thereby keeping up with the rapid growth of our operations.

With the requested funding, our primary objectives are to complete the pantry's renovation, expand our team, and enhance our educational programs. This more extensive reach and more efficient setting will allow us to take significant strides in our mission to address food insecurity, provide much-needed supplies, and nurture a generation with a keen understanding of these prevalent issues. We believe this funding would pave the way for a robust, impactful expansion of Shalom Food Pantry's services.

Please explain why this program or project is needed within the County.

In Albany County, food insecurity remains a significant concern, exacerbated by long term effects of COVID-19 and instances of unforeseen financial hardship among families. Despite our best efforts at the Shalom Food Pantry, the demand consistently outpaces our current capacity. This imbalance underscores the pressing need for our proposed expansion project.

Our plan to renovate the pantry space and add additional staff addresses two critical dimensions of this need — capacity and efficiency. The renovation will significantly increase our food storage capabilities and enhance the rate at which we can distribute essential supplies to those most in need. With additional staff, we can process and deliver aid more quickly and efficiently, ensuring that families in acute need are not left waiting.

Beyond immediate food provision, Albany County faces a knowledge gap on issues of food insecurity, particularly among our youth. Our 'Kids Can Build' program — a crucial part of this project — seeks to fill this gap. By educating children about food scarcity and the significance of community support, we aim to foster a generation equipped to confront and alleviate food hardship within their community.

The reality of the situation in Albany County necessitates a response equal parts immediate and long-term, tactical and strategic. This project is designed to deliver on all these fronts, addressing current needs, capacity bottlenecks, and longer-term education and awareness, all of which are essential to breaking the grips of food insecurity in our community.

All funded activities must meet the objective of responding to the public health and negative economic impact of the pandemic. Please describe how your proposal will help address this objective and assist with recovery (250 words or less).

Although the immediate threat of COVID-19 has abated, the lingering effects of the pandemic continue to impact Albany County. Many families are still grappling with the financial fallout of prolonged job insecurity, unemployment, and businesses' slow recovery. As a result, more community members than ever are seeking out food assistance, straining our current capacity and resources at the Shalom Food Pantry.

By upgrading our pantry space and recruiting more staff, we aim to meet these enduring challenges head-on. A larger storage area allows us to keep a more extensive food stock, ensuring that pantry shelves are never bare for those families still feeling the financial pinch of COVID-19. The additional staff will enhance our reach within the community, enabling us to support more individuals and families affected by the lingering aftermath of the pandemic. Furthermore, our 'Kids Can Build' program takes into account that children have experienced considerable disruption to their lives due to the pandemic. Creating a support structure to understand food scarcity and the importance of community can build their resilience and develop their ability to cope with future crises.

In sum, our proposed expansion project serves as a robust response to the lingering economic impact of the pandemic, uplifting and equipping our community to navigate this challenging recovery period successfully.

If an award is made, describe how Albany County stakeholders will benefit. Where possible, please use measurable outcomes to quantify impact.

Our proposed plan to renovate the pantry space, increase our staff, and enhance our programs will directly benefit Albany County's stakeholders.

Increased Food Provision: Our renovated pantry will allow us to cater to more families by increasing our storage capacity. With the proposed expansion, we anticipate a 50% increase in the families served, providing vital nutrition support every two weeks.

Faster Support Services: By expanding our staff, we aim to expedite the distribution process and provide more tailored services. We project a 30% decrease in the waiting time for assistance, ensuring quicker relief for families in need.

Resilient Children: Through our 'Kids Can Build' program, we aim to educate over 500 children annually about food insecurity and the importance of community support. Learning these lessons through hands-on activity will foster a

sense of empathy, making children more aware and resilient in the face of societal struggles.

Raised Awareness: By maintaining our educational programs and services, we increase community awareness about food insecurity issues, fostering a supportive community environment which can be instrumental during periods of financial strain.

Through these measurable outcomes, the proposed projects will have a profound impact on the wellbeing of Albany County, helping combat food insecurity, fostering educated and empathetic youth, and nurturing a resilient, caring community ready to face future challenges.

Please describe your organization's ability to implement the project you propose including organizational structure, staff members involved, a summary of similar initiatives you have undertaken and the date they were completed:

Shalom Food Pantry is well-positioned to implement the proposed project given our deep-rooted experience in food distribution, our well-structured organizational setup, and dedicated team members.

Our organizational structure consists of key staff and board of directors who provide strategic oversight. These members are key players in implementing new initiatives and continue to show unwavering dedication to our mission. Additionally, we are planning to bring on new staff whose roles will focus on managing the increased load resulting from the pantry's expansion and the execution of our programs.

We have a solid history of implementing similar initiatives. Our 'Kids Can Build' program serves as an example of our innovative approach to community education regarding food insecurity. Unique to this program is our collaboration with notable local figures who serve as judges. This list of esteemed individuals includes Local Assemblymember Patricia Fahy, Guilderland Town Supervisor Peter Barber, Albany County Legislator and Chair of the Guilderland Democratic Committee Dustin Reidy, and Capital Region Construction President Jill Shorter. Their involvement not only adds credibility to our initiative but also assists in securing broader community engagement. This program, along with our regular food delivery service to over 100 families every two weeks, exhibits our proficiency in logistical management, community engagement, and our commitment to nurturing awareness about food security. Moreover, we've successfully launched 'Operation School Supplies', an initiative to equip students with necessary school supplies. This drive was completed in time for the new school year, meeting the needs of students in Albany County.

Leveraging this experience and organizational competence, we foresee our proposed project's completion within six months of securing funding. The entire Shalom Food Pantry team is committed to carrying out this project efficiently and effectively, delivering the greatest benefit to our community.

How will you track performance goals and define success? Include at least two key performance indicators and expected annual outcomes/impact?

Indeed, both quantitative and qualitative success markers are essential in evaluating the effectiveness and impact of our expansion project. Including quality metrics in our assessment allows us to ensure that our services meet the highest standards, even as we scale up.

Key Performance Indicators:

Number of Families Served: Our aim is to increase the number of families served bi-weekly by 50%, thereby expanding our reach and offering support to more families in need.

Efficiency of Service: We intend to reduce the waiting time for assistance by at least 30%, facilitated by our expanded workforce and optimally utilized renovated space.

Long-term Impact Goals:

Community Awareness: We aim to increase awareness and understanding of food insecurity through our 'Kids Can Build' program and other community events. A successful outcome would be indicated by the community's increased knowledge and engagement, which we will gauge via surveys and feedback.

Engagement in Educational Programs: We strive to engage at least 500 children annually in our 'Kids Can Build' program. Increased participation indicates a successful reach of our educational efforts and demonstrates our impact in community learning.

Quality Metrics:

Quality of Food Packages: We'll routinely assess the nutritional content, variety, and freshness of our food items. Success will be offering wholesome, nutritious food packages that meet or exceed local food safety and quality standards.

Quality of Educational Program: Success involves gathering positive feedback from participants and parents in our 'Kids Can Build' program and witnessing improvements in the children's understanding of food insecurity and community support.

Beneficiary Satisfaction: We'll gauge the satisfaction of the families receiving our support through regular surveys and feedback sessions. High satisfaction rates and positive feedback from community members will signify successful outcomes.

Through these comprehensive quantitative and qualitative measures, we can ensure that we are not just expanding in numbers but also elevating the quality and impact of our services. This multifaceted approach reinforces our mission of ameliorating food insecurity by delivering top-tier service and ultimately enriching our community.

Project start date:

04/15/2024

Project End date:

04/15/2025

Please provide key project milestones inclusive of the anticipated timelines and descriptions

Milestone	Anticipated Timeline	Task Description
Secure Funding	March 2024	Securing necessary project funds.
Planning	April 2024	Develop plans for renovation and staff expansion.
Renovation	July 2024	Begin pantry renovation
Staff Hiring	July 2024	Advertise positions and finalize recruitment of new team members.
Team Integration	Aug 2024	Orientation/training of Staff /volunteers
Project Launch	September 2024	operation with renovated space and expanded team.
Impact Assessment	March 2025	Monitor performance against benchmarks and conduct annual impact assessment.

At the top of this page is a downloadable project budget. Please download the budget form and upload it here.

- [Shalom-Food-Pantry-.pdf](#)

Explain why ARPA funds are needed to complete the proposed program/project. Would the proposal be possible without ARPA assistance? Describe how your proposal would be impacted if you are awarded a smaller grant than requested?

The proposed program for Shalom Food Pantry primarily requires ARPA funds to support the expansion of our services and increase our efficiency. The need for pantry renovation and increased staffing constitutes significant spending, which can't be adequately catered to by our current budget hence necessitating ARPA assistance. Without ARPA's support, the scope of the project would be drastically limited, hindering our ability to meet the enhanced demands of our community due to the pandemic's lingering effects. The shortage of manpower and unrenovated space would restrict our capacity to relieve families effectively and improve overall community resilience.

Receiving a smaller than requested grant means scaling down our project, affecting the overall impact we originally set out to achieve. The reduced funds might lead to fewer families served and slower execution of outreach programs. However, a smaller grant would still be beneficial, and we would strategize to maximize its utilization in line with our mission.

In brief, ARPA funds are pivotal to our success in the below areas:

Addressing Food Insecurity: We aim to combat food insecurity further in the Albany region with our expansion, increasing our reach .

Promoting Access to Healthy Foods: We distribute nutritious food packages, favoring fresh and wholesome items to encourage healthy eating habits. An upgraded pantry would enhance storage capabilities, ensuring product freshness, and more effective supply to beneficiaries.

In essence, ARPA funds would stoke momentum in our drive to combat food insecurity more effectively, fostering an educated community, and promoting a supportive environment through increased access to healthy foods.

ARPA funds must be expended by December 31, 2026. Please describe how your project will be sustained if it will continue beyond this date.

The sustainability of our improvements beyond the ARPA funding period is critical to Shalom Food Pantry. To ensure the continuity of our operations beyond December 31, 2026, we have several strategies.

Firstly, we anticipate that the improvements made using ARPA funds - specifically, pantry renovation and staff expansion - will lead to increased efficiency in operations. This efficiency may translate into cost savings in the long run, aiding in sustaining the program.

Secondly, a focus on community engagement through our education and outreach programs fosters a culture of contribution and support, promoting local donations and volunteer participation that help maintain the pantry's

operations.

Thirdly, we plan to continue developing partnerships with local businesses and institutes. These partnerships can result in more in-kind donations, financial support, or joint funding of projects.

Moreover, we will persist in our efforts to secure grants and funds from different sources, whether they're government programs, private foundations, or corporate funding. Our track record of successful initiatives like 'Kids Can Build' and the increased capacity from this proposed expansion would strengthen our case for future philanthropic investment.

Finally, we plan to develop a reserve fund as part of our financial strategy. A portion of the donations and funds received from different sources can be allocated for future use, ensuring the continuity of operations even in difficult times.

Through a combination of these strategies, we aim to sustain our efforts, ensuring no interruption in our work addressing food insecurity, even after the ARPA funds have been expended.

Please list any matching funds:

10,000 local govt grant
10,000 private grant
30,000 fundraising

Tax Information or Additional Information

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2019

- [Tax-Exempt-Organization-Search-Details- -Internal-Revenue-Service.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2020

- [Tax-Exempt-Organization-Search-Details- -Internal-Revenue-Service1.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2021

- [Tax-Exempt-Organization-Search-Details- -Internal-Revenue-Service2.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2022

- [Tax-Exempt-Organization-Search-Details- -Internal-Revenue-Service3.pdf](#)

Please upload IRS Form W-9

- [CCF_000175.pdf](#)

Risk Assessment:

Has the organization adopted and/or implemented policies relating to: records retention, conflict of interest, code of ethics, and/or nondiscrimination policies

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify:

record retention and non discrimination policy

Is the organization properly insured?

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify the types of insurance held and the limits:

Great American Insurance Company 1 million liability

Does the organization have a financial management system?

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify:

Quickbooks

Has the organization previously done work for the Federal government (i.e. Is the entity experienced in managing Federal funds)?

No

Certifications

Acknowledgment 1

I Have Read and Understand the U.S. Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (see below link)
U.S. Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds:
<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Compliance-and-Reporting-Guidance.pdf>

Acknowledgment 2

Should the County Allocate ARPA Funds, I am Able to and Pledge to Adhere to ALL Compliance and Reporting Requirements of the U.S. Treasury as it relates to any State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Acknowledgment 3

I Understand the County Will Contact me if/when Additional Information is Needed and that Information will be Promptly Provided to the County to Support Reporting Requirements

Acknowledgment 4

If for Any Reason I am Unable to Comply with the U.S. Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Requirements I will Immediately Notify the County in writing by email or letter

Acknowledgment 5

All Information Submitted in this Application is True & Accurate

Electronic Signature Agreement

I agree
By checking the "I agree" box, you agree and acknowledge that 1) your application will not be signed in the sense of a traditional paper document, 2) by signing in this alternate manner, you authorize your electronic signature to be valid and binding upon you to the same force and effect as a handwritten signature, and 3) you may still be required to provide a traditional signature at a later date.

Type name

Schneur Simon