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2023 RES-298

**AWARDING FOOD PANTRY AID ARP GRANT
DCDHS – EAWS DIVISION**

Dane County Department of Human Services (DCDHS) Economic Assistance and Work Services (EAWS) Division is seeking authority to award a major agreement to a non-profit agency, providing support to communities impacted by COVID-19. This one time grant is the result of a grant-making process using American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, and has already passed as part of the 2024 County Budget:

This resolution follows the format outlined in 2021 RES-013

Justification: EAWS has been granted funding authority to offer and allocate a one-time grant to Extended Hands Pantry, Inc. to bolster their efforts to meet client and community needs for those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March of 2020, Dane County has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has caused financial stress to many individuals and households, and caused economic dislocation due to losses of employment. More recently, inflationary pressures in the general economic and supply chain changes have caused increased food insecurities in Dane County. Increases in the price of gasoline, food, and rent have caused economic stress in many households in Dane County. This stress dramatically increased demand at local food pantries. These economic forces have also increased the cost for local food pantries to secure food to meet the demand.

Eligibility: Extended Hands Pantry, Inc. is eligible for this grant due to their non-profit status with 501(c)3 certification, focused on alleviating food insecurity with a fixed location in Dane County. They currently receive TEFAP commodities and have the need to expand cooler and dry good storage for bulk delivery and large scale food distribution capabilities. They are a newer DCDHS purchase of service (POS) provider; and the intent of this initiative is to support an emerging organization doing community based work during the pandemic. The grant period runs through December 31, 2024.

Pandemic Response: Grant activities include the following: 1) Purchase of culturally relevant food 2) Expansion of, or needed adaptation to, any current operating expenses to increase food security for Dane County residents; or 3) Improve food distribution infrastructure.

Leverage: The County's contribution will be \$425,000. As this is a direct aid initiative, there are no other funds available to leverage the county's contribution.

Duplication: The project is not duplicative of known services.

Guidance: Treasure guidance provides the county has board authority for expenditures that address the pandemic and its economic impacts.

Outcomes: The expected outcome is a reduction in food insecurity.

Reporting: Grantee shall report implementation progress quarterly. Grantee will submit a final report by January 31, 2025 that shall summarize numbers served, program activities and service impact, dollars expended, outcomes or the impact their activities had on the community served by the grant activities including the equity challenge addressed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following agreement be awarded and that the County Executive and the County Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign the agreements on behalf of Dane County, and that the Controller is authorized to issue checks for grant issuance to this qualified agency, identified by the Department to receive funding under this initiative.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Extended Hands Pantry, Inc.	\$425,000.00