



## HPNAP Food and Operations Support Grants Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Who is eligible to apply for a HPNAP Food or Operations Support grant?**

A: Any organization designated as a food pantry, soup kitchen, or emergency shelter by the Regional Food Bank is eligible to apply. Membership with the Regional Food Bank is not required. If interested in becoming a Regional Food Bank member organization, visit [www.regionalfoodbank.net](http://www.regionalfoodbank.net) and click on the “Partner Portal.”

**Q: How do I use the HPNAP Food Grant?**

A: The main focus of the HPNAP food grant is to support nutritious food purchases. When you place food orders in the Regional Food Bank online order system, the eligible food items covered by this grant are denoted by “yes” in the State Grant row. The cost of these items is deducted against the grant, as long as you have funds remaining.

**Q: How do I use the Operations Support grants**

A: The Operations Support grants are designed to help pay for non-food expenses of running your food pantry, soup kitchen, or emergency shelter. A check is sent in the fall, proof of expenditures are due May 31, 2027.

**Q: Does my agency or program have to apply for both the HPNAP food and Operations Support grants?**

A: No. You can apply for one or the other or both, based on your food pantry, soup kitchen, or emergency shelter’s needs.

**Q: How much should I apply for?**

A: The HPNAP food grant application is a yes or no application. Once you choose the “yes” option on the application, the Regional Food Bank applies a formula to determine the amount your food pantry, soup kitchen, or emergency shelter is eligible to receive.

The Operations Support grant application will walk you through what expenses are eligible and help you apply for the correct amount. The maximum Operations Support grant you can apply for is \$3,000 in total Operations Support funding. The Operations Support applications are reviewed and scored. Grants are awarded based on this scoring.

**Q: I am not currently a food pantry, soup kitchen, or emergency shelter?**

A: At this time, you are ineligible to apply for a HPNAP or Operations Support grants. To learn how to become a food pantry, soup kitchen, or emergency shelter, please email Member Services at [membersvcs@regionalfoodbank.net](mailto:membersvcs@regionalfoodbank.net).

**Q: This sounds really complicated. How can I get my questions answered?**

A: The best way to get your questions answered is to come to the overview workshop or one of our online Q&A sessions. We're holding several over the course of the next few weeks. You can register for one of them [here](#).

**Q: What if I can't attend the overview workshop or Q&A sessions? Then, how do I get my questions answered?**

A: Just email any questions you have to [HPNAPgrant@regionalfoodbank.net](mailto:HPNAPgrant@regionalfoodbank.net).

**Q: What is the timeline for getting the money? When will I find out if our application was chosen for funding?**

A: The deadline to apply for the 2026-2027 grant window is April 20, 2026. You will find out if your application was approved by the end of June 2026.

Once you have been approved for HPNAP food funding, the full amount will be added to your account at the Regional Food Bank in time for any orders picked up on or after July 1, 2025. It must be spent on orders picked up between July 1, 2026 and June 18, 2027.

If awarded, notification of OS awards are sent out in late June, signed budget forms are due August 17, 2026. Checks for Operating Support grants will be mailed by the end of September 2026. Documentation of proof of expenses and/or refunds are due no later than May 31, 2027.