



Food Recovery Equipment Grant

Hamilton County ReSource

Key Dates:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity- Monday, April 6, 2026
- Information Session- Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 12:00 PM: Register [Here](#)
- Deadline for Submission of Questions- Friday, May 29, at 5:00 PM
- Application Deadline- Friday, June 26, 2026, at 5:00 PM
- Committee Review of Proposals- July, 2026
- Review by Hamilton County Solid Waste Policy Committee- Wednesday, August 19, 2026
- Anticipated Notification of Funding Selection- Late August 2026
- Anticipated Contract Start Date- October 2026

Overview:

This competitive grant funds food rescue equipment for agencies in Hamilton County, Ohio, to increase the amount of surplus food diverted from the landfill for human consumption. Communities, schools, non-profit organizations, and for-profit businesses engaging in the rescue of surplus food are eligible to apply. Projects must be ready to implement and capable of increasing food rescue capacity within two years. Hamilton County ReSource (ReSource) will consider grant proposals that are received on time and complete. Applicants are strongly encouraged to request only the funding they need for ready-to-implement projects, with a maximum request of \$200,000. Applicants must explain how this funding will divert an additional 250 tons of surplus food from the landfill within two years.

Questions:

Questions regarding the Food Recovery Equipment Grant must be submitted by May 29, 2026. All answers will be available on hamiltoncountyresource.org/communities/grants by June 5, 2026. Questions should be directed to:

- Tony Staubach

Food Waste Diversion Specialist
Hamilton County ReSource
Email: Tony.Staubach@hamiltoncountyohio.gov
Phone: 513-835-8201

[Apply Here](#)

Background:

ReSource has identified organics, including surplus food, as a priority waste stream due to the significant volume currently being landfilled. Approximately 138,000 tons of wasted food are landfilled in Hamilton County annually. At the same time, data indicate that 17,600 tons of surplus food are recovered annually by organizations in Hamilton County, demonstrating both the progress being made and the opportunity to further expand food recovery efforts.

ReSource follows the [US EPA Wasted Food Scale](#) when prioritizing strategies to reduce wasted food. Rescuing food to feed hungry people has a higher priority than composting or animal feed. The goal of this funding is to increase the amount of surplus food rescued in Hamilton County, Ohio, to feed people and ensure that food is distributed to individuals or communities facing barriers to accessing food.

This funding is available for the following activities that divert surplus food from the landfill through the following activities:

- 1.) Rescuing surplus food for human consumption.
- 2.) Distributing surplus, donated food for human consumption.
- 3.) Transforming or upcycling rescued food into consumer-ready food products for human consumption.

Examples of Equipment include, but are not limited to:

- Commercial Kitchen Infrastructure and installation:
 - Refrigerators
 - Freezers
 - Ovens, stoves, and ranges
 - Tilt Skillet
 - Blast chiller
 - Vent hoods
 - Shelving

- Transportation Infrastructure and installation or setup costs:
 - Refrigerated trucks
 - Vans or trucks designated for food collection and redistribution
 - Forklift
 - Pallet Jack
 - Dock Ramps
 - iPad/computer or similar equipment (for inventory management)

Scope of Work:

Available Funding:

Up to \$200,000 per request. A minimum of 25% match is required. “In-kind” services may be considered toward the match.

Total Number of Awards:

ReSource will award grant requests up to \$200,000. The submitted grant applications are scheduled for review starting in July 2026. Applications received by 5 p.m. on June 26, 2026, will be evaluated for funding.

Grant recipients can expect to receive funding decisions in August 2026. Fifty percent of the awarded funds will be provided upon full execution of the grant contract. The remaining 50% will be reimbursed after documentation confirms that all grant and matching funds have been fully expended in accordance with the approved project budget.

Will Applications Be Partially Funded?

ReSource does not intend to fund partial grant projects. Applicants should request only the funding necessary to implement a ready-to-implement project.

What is the Project Period?

This grant will be administered through a five-year contract. The project implementation period is two years, during which all grant and matching funds must be expended. A five-year payback requirement applies to equipment purchased with grant funds.

Are Pre-Award Costs Allowable?

No.

How Do I Estimate the Amount of Food Diverted?

Acceptable methods include, but are not limited to:

- Historical data from similar programs
- Donor volume commitments
- Industry averages (e.g., pounds per meal)
- Pilot program results

Eligible Applicants:

- Communities, schools, non-profit organizations, and for-profit businesses engaging in the rescue of surplus food are eligible to apply.
- All grant activity must reduce waste in ReSource's boundaries. ReSource's boundaries consist of Hamilton County, Ohio, including portions of the City of Sharonville in Butler County; portions of the City of Loveland located in Butler, Warren, and Clermont Counties; and exclude the City of Milford.
- Two contact people must be provided per proposal. Both must be over the age of 18.

Grant Requests and Matching Funds:

- A minimum of 25% match is required. "In-kind" services may be considered toward the match. Examples of in-kind services include promotional advertisement space in newsletters, websites, etc.; employee and/or volunteer labor to get the project up and running. For unskilled volunteer labor, a maximum of \$34.79/hour is allowed; for skilled labor, use the volunteer's hourly rate in their current position. The value of the diverted material cannot be used as an in-kind match.
- Grant administration, such as completing grant reports and managing documentation, is allowed toward match expenses. These expenses must be described in the budget narrative, including who will be doing this work, the number of hours the work is expected to take, and the hourly salary or hourly value if in-kind.
- All matching funds must be available and must not need additional fundraising, so the project is "shovel-ready" should you receive grant funding.
- All grant and matching funds must be utilized, and the grant project must be fully operational within two years of the grant contract being signed by all parties.
- Grant funds cannot replace existing program funding.

Application Criteria

- Project must increase rescued surplus food within ReSource's geographic boundaries.
- Applicants must provide a letter of support signed by the governing body of the community, organization, or business applying for grant funds.
- Applicants must provide a description and letters of cooperation from key partners and their roles, including collaboration with food donors, rescue organizations, and/or distribution sites which will strengthen food rescue and distribution infrastructure in Hamilton County.
- If awarded a grant, the grantee must recognize ReSource in any publications, social media promotion, with signage on equipment, and incorporate logo on any giveaways related to grant project.

Ineligible Costs or Activities and Other Considerations

- Entertainment expenses (including food and drink expenses).
- Personnel costs (including salaries or stipends).
- Collection services (e.g. waste hauling, compost collection service).
- Garbage receptacles.
- Disposable packaging.

Measurement and Reporting Requirements

- Grantees must submit three reports:
 - The First Year Report is due one year from the date that the grant contract is signed by all parties. The report includes the amount of waste diverted, the number of people reached, a summary of project activity and grant and match-funded expenses. You will need to include proof of payment (e.g., receipts, canceled checks, bank statements, payroll statements, and/or credit card statements) for all grant and match-funded purchases.
 - Second year report is due two years from the date that the grant contract is signed by all parties. The report includes the amount of waste diverted, the number of people reached, a summary of project activity and grant and match-funded expenses. You will need to include proof of payment (e.g., receipts, canceled checks, bank statements, payroll statements, and/or credit card statements) for all grant and match-funded purchases.

- The Final Report is due three years from the date that the grant contract is signed by all parties. For this report, you will submit the amount of waste diverted, the number of people reached, a summary of project activity, findings, and recommendations.
- Grantees will be asked to participate in quarterly check-in meetings. These meetings could be virtual or in-person.
- Equipment purchased with grant funds may be subject to the following five-year payback scale should grantee stop using equipment for the project:
 - 100% within one year of purchase
 - 80% within two years of purchase
 - 60% within three years of purchase
 - 50% within four years of purchase
 - 40% within five years of purchase
- Hamilton County ReSource reserves the right to visit a project site at any reasonable time and audit expenditures of grant funds.

Food Rescue Grant Evaluation Rubric

Evaluation Criteria and Description		100
Requirements		No = Disqualification
Is the application complete?	Yes / No	
Does the application demonstrate the ability to provide a 25% match?	Yes / No	
Are all required components submitted, including tax documents?	Yes / No	
Project Summary and Approach		15
The application demonstrates how this funding will increase the organization's capacity to divert edible surplus food from the landfill.	5	

The application clearly identifies project goals, activities, and intended outcomes.	5
The application demonstrates a plan to ensure that rescued food is distributed to individuals or model for expanding access in communities that are facing barriers to accessing food.	5
Alignment with Grant Purpose & Infrastructure Focus	35
The application requests equipment and/or physical infrastructure that supports food rescue, distribution, transformation or upcycling.	5
The application demonstrates the ability to divert at least 250 additional tons of surplus food from the landfill within two years.	25
The application includes methods used to determine waste diversion tonnage.	5
Feasibility, Readiness & Organizational Capacity	15
The application includes a well-reasoned timeline that can be completed within two years.	5
The application demonstrates the organization has a strong, proven track record for success, as evidenced through Audited Financial Statements from the past three years or three years of financially stable 990 tax records.	5
If the applicant previously received funds from Hamilton County ReSource (formerly known as Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District), grant administration was positive (e.g., reports were submitted on time, project was completed, etc.).	5
Budget, Match, & Fiscal Accountability	20
The application includes a grant budget that is clear, logical, and cost-effective.	5
The application provides detailed information on all items/services listed on the budget page (if the project involves the purchase of equipment, provide photos, brand names, and price quotes; for personnel costs (match only), include job description, employee requirements, expected hours, salary, and evaluation criteria).	5

The application conveys an approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner as described in the application.	5
The application outlines a plan for project/program viability beyond the grant period.	5
Community Reach and Partnerships	10
The application provides evidence of how the funding will enhance the food rescue infrastructure in Hamilton County	5
The application demonstrates an intentional approach to partnering with other food rescue agencies and food donors in Hamilton County.	5
Clarity, Completeness, and Responsiveness	5
The application clearly identifies a need and is easy to understand.	5

Proposal Submission

Applicants are required to submit proposals through an online platform. Should an agency need assistance or accommodation, please reach out to:

Tony Staubach

Food Waste Diversion Specialist

Hamilton County ReSource

Tony.Staubach@hamiltoncountyohio.gov

513-835-8201

[Apply Here](#)

Application Overview:

The following fields and questions are included in the application to help guide your responses. This information is provided to assist with drafting your application; however, all applications must be completed and submitted through the official online form available [here](#).

Contact Information & Project Overview

- Applicant Organization or Business Name (Please use legal name registered with the Secretary of State)
- Address
- Type of Organization
- Primary Project Contact (including First Name, Last Name, Title, Phone Number, and Email).
- Secondary Project Contact (including First Name, Last Name, Title, Phone Number, and Email).
- Proposed Project Title
- Executive Summary (Provide a short overview of the proposed project, more information can be provided in the project description. Please include the project purpose, scope, and projected diversion of surplus food.)
- Grant Funds Requested
- Matching Funds by Organization/Business
- Projected Tons of Surplus Food Diverted / Year
- Projected People Reached/ Year (in a way that encourages behaviors that reduce landfill waste)
- Has your organization received a grant from Hamilton County ReSource in the past? Yes/No
- Authorizing Official Name and Title (this is your authorized person to sign the grant agreement and contract should the project be awarded)

Project Narrative – Describe goals, impact, and food rescue outcomes.

- Project Description (Overview of the project, including how funding will expand food rescue capacity, key equipment/infrastructure, and overall approach. Identify credentials of key project managers.)
- Project Diversion (Explanation of how the project will divert edible surplus food, including ability to reach an additional 250 tons within two years and methods for measuring and tracking tonnage.)

- Project Readiness: Schedule / Timeline (Describe schedule of events, tasks, and major milestones. When describing the schedule, keep in mind it will likely take three to five months from the date the grant proposal is submitted to receive funding. Describe procedures and controls to ensure that the awarded grant funds will be expended in a 12-month period.)
- Project Sustainability & Longevity (Description of how the project will be maintained beyond the grant period, including long-term funding strategy, operational continuity, and lasting impact of investments.)
- Project Goals, Activities, and Intended Outcomes (Define goals, activities, measurable outcomes, and communities served.)
- Cooperating Organizations (Description of partners and their roles, including collaboration with food donors and rescue organizations to strengthen food rescue and distribution infrastructure in Hamilton County. Include each partner organization's address, telephone, and contact person. Upload a letter of support signed by the governing body of cooperating organizations.)
- Letters of Support from Cooperating Organizations (Upload)

Itemized Budget Sheet – Outline costs and funding requests.

Please note that there is a 25% grant match requirement. This match can be in-kind.

- Project Budget Narrative (Include a “Budget Narrative” that provides detailed information on all items/services listed on the budget, including brand names (if applicable). Attach quotes and photos in the box below. Projects with vague line-item requests or personal costs will not be considered/funded.)
- Itemized Budget for all grant and match expenses for this project.
- Total Grant Funds Requested
- Total Match Funding
- Minimum 25% match required
- Total Project Cost
- Upload quotes for all line item purchases

File Uploads and Project Checklist

- Before submitting, review your grant application using this checklist. Hamilton County ReSource will not consider applications lacking any of these items.
- File Upload - W9 and IRS Certification (if applicable)
- Include a copy of your organization's W-9 and if you are a non-profit organization, also upload a copy of your IRS certificate indicating non-profit status.

- Which of the following financial documentation will you provide?
 - Audited Financial Statement from the last three years (non-profit/government)
 - Three years of Form 990's (non-profit)
 - 3-5 years of profit and loss or income statement reports and a bank letter indicating sufficient funds (for-profit)
- I certify that all required financial documents will be submitted via email to resource@hamiltoncountyohio.gov no later than July 10, 2026. I understand that failure to submit the required documentation by this deadline may result in denial of the grant request. If any submitted information is considered confidential, I will clearly mark "Confidential" in the subject line of the email and on any pages of attached documents containing sensitive information.