

Cayuga Syracuse Presbytery : Food Supplemental Grant

In order to address the November 1, 2026 SNAP reductions that will affect millions of people across the country, including here in our Presbytery and communities, the Cayuga-Syracuse Social Justice Committee has set up the Cayuga-Syracuse Food Supplemental Grant.

This grant is designed to provide emergency funding of between \$500 and \$1000 to a Presbyterian church which is engaging or planning to launch a food assistance ministry for families, children and the impoverished in their community. Funding sources for the grant are the Vanderkamp Funds.

To qualify for this funding, a church must be seeking to meet an emergent or recently developed need for those who are impacted by SNAP reductions beginning November 1, 2026. This food assistance ministry must be directly provided by your church.

The Cayuga-Syracuse Social Justice Committee will review all applications submitted by September 1, 2026. Grant money will be distributed November 1, 2026.

Cayuga-Syracuse Food Supplemental Grant Structure

- Year One: Between \$500-\$1000
Awarded based on a church's launch or strengthening of ongoing food assistance ministries in their community
- Year Two: Between \$500-\$1000 (by reapplication)
Awarded based on a church's demonstrated progress, meaningful impact, and evidence that their ministry is making a difference

The Cayuga- Syracuse Presbytery Social Justice Committee is committed to nurturing and fulfilling Jesus's call found in Matthew 25– "Come, you are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom of the world; for I was hungry

and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.... As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

Motion:

The Social Justice Committee moves that the Presbytery use \$20,000 of the Vanderkamp proceeds during 2026 to provide grants to organizations whose food programs offset the losses in SNAP benefits happening at this time. The application form will be developed jointly with Finance and Property, and the Social Justice Committee will manage the application process and awards in consultation with the Treasurer and the Finance Chair. Funds will be released through the bill payment process.

Background:

In March, 2021, the Presbytery approved a proposal to use the Vanderkamp proceeds for recreationally-focused programs for youth in the Presbytery. No action was taken after March, 2021, to implement what was approved.

The approved proposal was for use of \$300,000. On May 21, the value of the fund was \$447,915.18. Most days, the fund gains approximately \$1000. Some days, there are losses. Schwab funds managed by Rockbridge gain a reliable 10% in value in average each year.

The Social Justice Committee would like to use \$20,000 of the Vanderkamp proceeds fund for grants to organizations with food programs aimed at offsetting the losses in SNAP benefits that people are experiencing this year. (We have to make grants to organizations, not individuals, for tax reasons and to ensure the funds are used as we, the donors, intend.)

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