Fighting Hunger Grant Applicant FAQ

Is my organization eligible to apply?

To be eligible, your organization must meet all of the following criteria: (a) Be a U.S. 501(c)(3) public charity or Canadian registered charity (charitable organization or public foundation, not a private foundation); (b) Have been tax-exempt for at least three (3) years; (c) Have annual revenue of $10 million (USD) or less; (d) Have a mission related to fighting hunger, food rescue or nutrition education related to food assistance; (e) Conduct your program/project in the United States (excluding U.S. Territories) or Canada only; (f) Not apply for individuals, scholarships, research, endowments, or lobbying activities. If you're unsure about your eligibility, please contact us before beginning your application: foundation@alphagammadeltafoundation.org or 317.663.4242.

I'm a Canadian organization. Am I eligible?

You are eligible if your organization is a registered charity designated by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) as either a charitable organization or a public foundation. You must file Form T3010. Organizations designated as private foundations, or Canadian nonprofits without CRA charitable registration, are not eligible. Not sure which designation you hold? Check your most recent T3010 return (your designation appears at the top) or search your organization on the CRA Charities Directorate website. You are eligible if your organization is a registered charity designated by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) as either a charitable organization or a public foundation. You must file Form T3010. Organizations designated as private foundations, or Canadian nonprofits without CRA charitable registration, are not eligible. Not sure which designation you hold? Check your most recent T3010 return (your designation appears at the top) or search your organization on the CRA Charities Directorate website.

We're a faith-based organization. Can we apply?

Yes, if your program does not limit services to members of one religious group or propagate religious faith or creed. We fund organizations whose primary purpose is addressing hunger, not religious outreach. Your organization's religious affiliation does not disqualify you, but the program you're applying for must serve all comers regardless of faith.

Can we apply for general operating support?

Fighting Hunger Grants fund specific programs or projects, not unrestricted operating expenses. However, general operating costs (such as utilities, rent, staff salaries) may be included in your program/project budget as long as they represent a reasonable portion of total costs and are clearly tied to delivering the program you're applying for.

What about scholarships or individual assistance programs?

Fighting Hunger Grants cannot be used for individuals, including scholarships, loans, or sponsorships. Programs must serve the broader community.

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When does the application open/close?

- Opens: January 1
- Due: January 31 at 11:59 PM ET (Midnight Eastern Time)
- Late submissions are not accepted for any reason, including technical difficulties. We strongly recommend completing your application well before the deadline. The SmarterSelect system experiences heavy traffic in the weeks leading up to January 31.

How long does the application take to complete?

Most organizations report spending 2-4 hours gathering documents, completing the form, and attaching required materials. Allow extra time if you need to coordinate with your accountant or board for financial data.

What documents do I need to prepare before starting?

Have the following ready: (a) Most recent Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Canadian T3010 (including all schedules); (b) Program/project budget with line-item detail; (c) Assessment plan outlining how you measure success; (d) Volunteer contact information if you've worked with AGD chapters; (e) Any correspondence about other funding sources for the program.

Can I save my application and return later?

Yes. SmarterSelect allows you to log in and out. We recommend logging in once per week to ensure you're saving progress, as the system auto-times out after periods of inactivity.

What happens if I submit an incomplete application?

Applications missing required fields or attachments (especially tax forms and program budgets) will be marked Not Eligible without further review. We do not accept late materials to complete missing items. Best practice: Use the Pre-Qualification Checklist before beginning to confirm you can meet all requirements.

Will I know if my organization is eligible before applying?

You must answer Yes to pre-qualification questions before accessing the full application. These screen for: (a) Qualifying tax-exempt status; (b) Hunger-related mission; (c) Revenue threshold; (d) Three-year establishment requirement; (e) Program scope and geographic eligibility. If you answer "No" to any question, you won't be able to access the full application.

What tax filings are accepted?

We accept:

- U.S.: Form 990 or Form 990-EZ (including all schedules)
- Canada: Form T3010 filed by registered charities (charitable organizations or public foundations)

Not accepted:

- Canadian private foundation designations filings
- Form 990-N (Postcard)
- Form 990-PF
- Form 990-T
- IRS Determination Letters (without the actual Form 990)
- Articles of Incorporation
- Substitute documents

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Can I submit my tax form after the deadline?	No. The tax form must be uploaded with your application by January 31 at 11:59 PM ET.
My organization files Form 990-N or 990-PF. Can we still apply?	Unfortunately, no. These forms indicate you're either too small for Form 990 filing (990-N) or are a private foundation (990-PF). Neither meets our eligibility requirements.
I'm a Canadian nonprofit but not a registered charity. Can I apply?	No. Only Canadian registered charities (those with CRA charitable registration) are eligible. Incorporated nonprofits without CRA registration are not equivalent to U.S. 501(c)(3) public charities.
What should my program budget include?	Your program/project budget should be detailed with line items. Acceptable submissions include: • Personnel costs (salaries, benefits, volunteer coordination) • Food/goods purchased • Equipment and supplies • Transportation and delivery • Facilities (rent/utilities allocated to program) • Outreach and education costs • Other program-specific expenses Best practice: At least 5–10 distinct line items for programs requesting $5,000+. Lump-sum entries like "$10,000 for food" may result in lower scores.
Do I need to use the Foundation's budget template?	No. The optional template is provided for convenience only. You may submit budgets in your organization's preferred format. However, using the template can make it easier for evaluators to understand your financial plan quickly. Download it from the application portal.
How much can we request?	Maximum $10,000 per program/project
What percentage of our budget should come from the AGD grant?	There is no set percentage requirement. However, we recommend requesting an amount that meaningfully supports your program.
Can we request funding for indirect/administrative costs?	Yes. Be transparent about how these costs support program delivery.
Do we get a score or feedback on our application?	If selected, you'll receive a grant notification with next steps. If not selected, you'll receive a regret email. Specific scores or detailed feedback are not provided to protect the confidentiality of the evaluation process.

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When will I know if I've been selected?

Awardees are notified on or around May 1. Notification occurs via email first, followed by an email from our grant payments vendor within approximately six weeks. If you haven't heard by June 1, check your spam folder and then contact the Foundation.

How likely is my organization to receive a grant?

We receive approximately 400 eligible applications per cycle. Based on the annual budget, we typically award 35-40 grants, with an average award of approximately $7,000. This means roughly 1 in 10 eligible applications receives funding. We encourage unsuccessful applicants to reapply in future cycles. The applicant pool varies each year.

Do Canadian organizations need to submit in U.S. dollars?

Yes. All financial figures must be in USD. Convert your figures appropriately before entering them into the application. An easy-to-use conversion tool is available within the application.

Can Canadian organizations apply in French? ***Les organisations canadiennes peuvent-elles postuler en français?***

The application is currently available in English only. If you need accommodations or assistance with the application in French, please contact us: foundation@alphagammadeltafoundation.org.
La candidature est actuellement disponible uniquement en anglais. Si vous avez besoin d'aménagements ou d'aide pour la candidature en français, veuillez nous contacter: foundation@alphagammadeltafoundation.org.

What is the Diabetes Prevention, Care, and Education Special Funding Opportunity?

Through a restricted gift to the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation, up to two grants of $25,000 each are available for programs exclusively related to: (a) Prevention, care, and treatment of diabetes; (b) Diabetes education, outreach, or awareness. This is a time-limited opportunity.

Who can apply for special funding?

Any eligible Fighting Hunger Grant applicant whose program addresses diabetes within a hunger-relief context may apply. Indicate interest during the application process.

If I qualify for special funding, can I receive both the special grant and a standard grant?

No. Organizations may receive only one grant per cycle, whether special funding or standard. However, special funding applicants are automatically considered for the larger $25,000 award.

What happens if I'm selected to receive a grant?

You will:

- Receive a notification email
- Receive an email from our grant payments vendor in approximately six weeks
- Be asked to complete a Final Grant Report within 30 days of program conclusion or by October 31 (whichever comes first)
- Be invited to share your story and photos for stewardship purposes (story sharing is voluntary)

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What is the Final Grant Report?

The Final Grant Report documents your program's actual outcomes, expenditures, and impact. It includes: (a) Actual vs. anticipated individuals served, meals distributed, food rescued; (b) Expenditure documentation (receipts); (c) Goals vs. Actuals comparison; (d) Stories and photos of program impact (optional but encouraged). Failure to submit a Final Grant Report may result in ineligibility for future grants. Organizations failing to submit final reports for two consecutive years are ineligible for the following year.

Can we apply again next year if we're not selected this year?

Absolutely. We encourage unsuccessful applicants to reapply. The applicant pool changes each cycle and priorities may shift.

Can we apply again if we received a grant this year?

Yes. However, you must successfully complete and submit your Final Grant Report before becoming eligible for the next cycle.

Who can I contact with questions?

- Program questions (eligibility, requirements, deadlines): foundation@alphagammadeltafoundation.org or 317.663.4242
- Technical questions (SmarterSelect access, upload errors): Contact SmarterSelect support at support@smarterselect.com (information provided in the application portal)

What if we have a disability accommodation need?

If you require accommodations to complete the application, please contact us at least 10 days before the deadline: foundation@alphagammadeltafoundation.org or 317.663.4242.

How do we acknowledge the Foundation if we're selected?

If you receive a grant, we ask that you recognize the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation in program communications. Examples include:

- Website acknowledgment
- Social media posts
- Annual report listing
- Signage at program site (if applicable)
- Press releases

This information is for stewardship purposes and does not affect your application score.

Where can I learn more about Alpha Gamma Delta and how members fight hunger?

Visit:

- Alpha Gamma Delta: alphagammadelta.org
- Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation: alphagammadeltafoundation.org