The ReFED COVID-19 Food Waste Solutions Fund

In response to the impacts of COVID-19 on our food system – especially the increase in wasted food and the growing number of people facing food insecurity – ReFED has established The ReFED COVID-19 Food Waste Solutions Fund to provide philanthropic donors a one-stop, rapid response vehicle to get funds to a portfolio of high-impact organizations vetted by ReFED.

FUND FRAMEWORK

- **Fund Size**: Launched with $1,000,000 and growing up to $10,000,000.
- **Impact Goal per $1,000,000**: More than 10 million lbs of food waste prevented or 8.3 million meals delivered in the next 90 days by those organizations receiving grants.
- **Fund Velocity**: Distribute funds within 15-30 days of receipt. Grants already made to several organizations including: Food Rescue US, SeaShare, Forager, and Boston Area Gleaners.
- **No Fees**: 100% of donations will be regranted.
- **Priority Solution Areas**: On-farm rescue of fresh food; logistical constraints such as cold-storage and repacking; and last-mile delivery to the most vulnerable communities.

WHY ReFED?

Since its inception in 2015, ReFED’s mission has been to advance data-driven solutions to food waste, including solutions that rescue food from farms and get it to those who are food insecure (40 million Americans before COVID-19). As a result, funders are turning to ReFED for insights and guidance as they see news stories of acres of crops being tilled under juxtaposed with images of miles-long lines of people seeking food assistance. The main question we get from those who are in a position to help financially is, “In addition to local food pantries and national food banks, where can I direct my support so it makes the most impact right away?” Since ReFED has years of experience connecting funders with food waste solution providers, we feel fortunate to be in a position to provide guidance during this crisis.

DONORS TO DATE

ReFED is grateful to all those who have already donated including the following Major Donors: Ajana Foundation, Atticus Trust, Betsy & Jesse Fink, Caerus Foundation, Inc., Fink Family Foundation; Jackie & Orion Hindawi, June & Paul Rossetti, The JPB Foundation, and The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation.

To donate to The ReFED COVID-19 Food Waste Solutions Fund or learn more, please email Alexandria Coari at alexandria.coari@refed.com or visit our website.

www.ReFED.com
FUND MECHANICS

ReFED is evaluating eligible organizations and making grants that we expect will average $50,000 per organization. Our national open call for applications, combined with organizations ReFED already knows well through our work with the 550+ solution providers in our Innovator Database, cohort members in our 2019 Nonprofit Food Recovery Accelerator, and food rescue heroes we’ve watched respond with impressive results during these initial months of the COVID-19 crisis, is expected to yield a diverse group of grantee organizations.

Target Profile of Grantees & Evaluation Criteria:

- **Target Profile:** Mid-sized, U.S. based organizations (for-profit or nonprofit) with annual revenue or budgets of approximately $500,000 or more.
- **Focus Area:** The solution aligns with at least one of the primary focus areas of the ReFED COVID-19 Food Waste Solution Fund.
- **Food Waste Impact:** The solution can prevent and/or reduce a significant amount of food, especially healthy and nutritious products, from being wasted in the next 90 days.
- **Social Impact:** The solution meets the growing and dire needs of populations most heavily impacted by COVID-19, including, but not limited to particular cities and states, the elderly, and workers in agriculture, hospitality, and healthcare industries.
- **Scalability:** Extraordinary vision to drive reach and scale in a sustainable way.
- **Team:** Well-positioned with relevant experience, expertise, and partners to succeed in meeting desired outcomes during the COVID-19 crisis. Preference for those organizations that prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Grantee Selection & Timing: Applications will be reviewed and grantees chosen by ReFED on an expedited basis, but with thorough vetting of each organization that applies. To date, The ReFED COVID-19 Food Waste Solutions Fund has made grants to the following organizations: SeaShare, Boston Area Gleaners, Forager, and Food Rescue US. Subsequent rounds of grants will be made on an approximately bi-weekly basis until the Fund is fully spent down.

Reporting: ReFED will update donors to the Fund on a monthly basis and include new funds raised, grants made, and impact by the organizations receiving grants.

How to Donate: To contribute to ReFED’s COVID-19 Food Waste Solutions Fund or learn more, please email Alexandria Coari at alexandria.coari@refed.com.