

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Application

[Print](#)**Submitted by:****Status:** Open**Priority:** Normal**Assigned To:** Jonathan Storage**Due Date:** Open**Attachments**

- [ARPA Documents Food.pdf](#) - 2021-12-14 08:16:02 pm

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)****Funding Application****Non-Profit, Community Groups, Neighborhood Associations, and Businesses****APPLICATION DEADLINE: December 15th 2021**

Application must be completed in full to be considered. Applications may be submitted online using this fillable form. But forms and attachments may also be submitted by email to ARPA@cityofcharleston.org or by U.S. Mail to City Manager's Office, 501 Virginia Street East Charleston, WV 25301.

All requests for funding **must be directly related to COVID-19 mitigation or recovery efforts** and must fall within the parameters of at least one of the goals set by the treasury department along with other requirements listed within this application.

GENERAL INFORMATION*** Name of Project/Program:**

So the hungry can eat

*** Organization Name:**

Manna Meal, Inc.

*** Address:**

1105 Quarrier St., Charleston, WV 25301

*** Primary Contact Person:**

Amy Wolfe

Title:

Executive Director

* Phone:

* Email:

3043457121

amy@mannameal.org

Federal Tax ID:

31-0977670

If applicable: DUNS Number:

949124168

To obtain a DUNS number please visit <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform> After obtaining, please register your organization with the System for Award Management at <https://sam.gov/SAM/>

List the organization’s owner(s), Board of Directors, senior staff members, and other key members:

Zach Drennen, President Ann Garcelon, Vice- President Lynne Gianola, Acting Treasurer Judy Margolin, Secretary Laura Wehrle Mike Burgess Ibastem Barazi Tim Bradford Marc Slotnick Kelsey Abad Cathy Townsend-Estep Shawn Taylor Patricia Paul Senior Staff: Amy Wolfe, Executive Director Dave Harrison, Operations Manager/Head Chef

Describe any partner organizations, their roles, and your relationship with them:

Manna Meal has a long standing relationship with collaborating with community partners to improve results and outcomes. Manna Meal has engaged with the following groups or entities to enhance the proposed project by leveraging space, resources, and volunteer capacity. WV Health Right Kanawha Valley Collective United Way of Central WV Religious Coalition for Community Development City of Charleston CARES Office Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority Trinity Evangelical Church Kanawha Valley Senior Services Cabin Creek Health Systems Covenant House Charleston Police Department Mountaineer Food Bank Facing Hunger

BUDGETARY OVERVIEW - Must match Budget Worksheet

* Funds Requested	* Total Program/Project Cost	Annual Organization Budget
\$700,000	\$1,200,000	\$857,650

Request Summary

1. Provide a narrative overview/summary of the request.
- Topics that may be included but not limited to:
- a. Purpose and anticipated outcomes

b. Individuals, entities, or communities served

c. How the pandemic has necessitated this request

d. Amount of any estimates and bids received to date

e. Timeline for project completion

Food insecurity is not a new issue in Charleston. For years, West Virginia has had one of the highest rates of food insecurity in the nation. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, as the cost of groceries has skyrocketed alongside a massive spike in unemployment, food insecurity in our area has developed into a full-fledged community crisis. Parents who have lost their jobs because of COVID-19 are now struggling to put food on the table for their families, and our neighbors who have been evicted no longer have access to stoves on which to cook. The most vulnerable members of our community remain on the streets, uncertain where—or whether—they’ll find their next meal. Manna Meal’s mission, “so the hungry can eat,” has never been more critical. For 45 years, Manna Meal has been serving nutritious meals to those in need. We serve two meals daily, 365 days a year, no questions asked, and we have never missed a meal. In addition to providing meals on-site, Manna Meal operates a food pantry from our main location, open seven days a week, and we recently initiated a mobile food pantry in order to deliver food directly to the most underserved parts of the city. When other organizations suspended or scaled back their services at the height of the pandemic, we took all of the measures and safety precautions necessary to expand so that we could help meet the visible increase in need. But the need is vast, and it continues to grow—therefore so must we. Our mission is ongoing. Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, we have witnessed a staggering increase in both food costs and need: food and supply costs have risen 108%, and the number of meals we are serving has risen 49%. While COVID-19 has perhaps most severely impacted those who were already experiencing poverty and hunger, thousands of individuals and families in Charleston are currently facing food insecurity for the first time. “No questions asked” is a central tenet of Manna Meal’s philosophy, and there are no eligibility requirements with respect to age, gender, income, or residence to eat at Manna Meal. All are welcome and no questions are asked, because we believe that no barrier

should ever stand between a person and a nutritious meal. For a growing number of people, Manna Meal is a lifeline. The bolstered capacity that would result from being awarded this grant would enable us to provide more meals and extend our reach to more underserved populations in our city. By combating food insecurity and preventing malnutrition among those in need, we will also help to stymie the numerous other health-related issues that so often go hand-in-hand with hunger and place additional burdens on our healthcare system. An expansion of Manna Meal’s services would be a crucial step toward our entire community’s recovery from the persisting public health crisis. Estimates and Bids Received to Date Manna Meal spent \$276,961.75 on food purchases from January through November of 2021, compared to our annual pre-COVID budget of \$125,000. Currently, we are spending approximately \$25,000/month, resulting in an annual budget exceeding \$175,000.

Attach any additional information such as bids, concepts, designs, letters of support, etc. If submitting electronically the documents must be in PDF, Excel, or Word format and total file size must not exceed 10 megabytes.

Program/Project Details

* 1. The funding will be used to:

- ☐ Start a new program/project
- ☐ Maintain an existing program/project
- ☒ Expand an existing program/project

* 2. If funded, will the program/project be completed within FY 2022?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

If no, when is expected completion year?

Ongoing

3. Which eligible ARPA Expenditure Category does this program/project represent (See <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Compliance-and-Reporting-Guidance.pdf> for further details)? Please check all that apply:

*

- ☒ Public Health
- ☒ Negative Economic Impacts
- ☒ Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities
- ☐ Premium Pay
- ☐ Infrastructure
- ☐ Other

4. Briefly describe the program/project funds are being requested for:

Manna Meal, a 365-day a year feeding facility, serves as a safety net for the food insecure population in Charleston and the surrounding areas. As our community continues to navigate this unprecedented global health crisis, our role—ensuring that none of our neighbors go hungry—has become more important than ever. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the need for our services has skyrocketed, evidenced by the dramatic increase in meal recipients and requests for emergency pantry bags, alongside a significant decrease in the number and amount of donations we typically receive We have had to purchase an extraordinary amount of food to keep up with the increased number of meals/recipients, as well as additional supplies, all while costs continue to rise due to unresolved supply chain issues.

5. Describe the need for this program/project:

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment has drastically increased, and food insecurity is on the rise. More than 50 million people are experiencing food insecurity as a result of the coronavirus. Data from America’s Health Rankings by United Health Foundation identifies food insecurity in West Virginia at 15.7%—fourth highest in the nation. Food insecurity describes a household’s inability to provide enough food for every person to live an active, healthy life due to insufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. It is a complex problem that may be influenced by several factors including income, employment, race/ethnicity, and disability. Currently, unemployment rates are at the highest since the Great Depression, and, since the pandemic, food costs have also skyrocketed.According to Seth DiStefano, Policy Outreach Director at the WV Center on Budget and Policy, “The increased demand on household food budgets combined with lower earnings for families due to massive unemployment spike and significantly higher costs of groceries has led to a predictable outcome: West Virginia families do not have enough to make it through the month.” People are going hungry. Data collected through the Census Household Pulse Survey revealed that a staggering 82,000 West Virginia adults living with children reported that the children in their care were not eating enough because they simply could not afford the necessary food. Poverty rates have the most direct and constant effect on food insecurity, and the US Census’ five-year estimate (2015-2019) identifies 20.7% of Charleston’s population as living at or below the poverty level. Compounding the problem is the existence of a food desert in downtown Charleston. Food insecurity does not affect an individual or family as an isolated problem. It also leads to health-related issues such as malnutrition, which causes reduced muscle mass,

decreased mobility and stamina, and difficulty staying warm. Deficiencies in vitamins and minerals lessens the body’s ability to combat illness. Malnutrition causes heart disease, diabetes, and eye problems. Additionally, food insecurity increases behavioral health issues such as anxiety and depression. These conditions lessen our coping skills, impair judgement, increase anger, and decrease our ability to perform appropriately in a working or personal environment. If an individual is experiencing food insecurity, it is logical that they cannot afford medical treatment, so health problems become chronic, and contagious diseases are spread more readily and place additional burdens on our healthcare system.

6. List other Charleston organizations in Charleston that address this need:

Religious Coalition for Community Development - Dinner 3 nights weekly *Meal are provided by Manna MEal Kanawha Valley Senior Services Salvation Army (Food Pantry) A More Excellent Way Church (Food Pantry) Covenant House (Food Pantry) Sojourner’s (Residents Only) Cross Roads

7. Describe the level of collaboration with other organizations on this program/project:

Collaboration has always been key to our success. Manna Meal works daily to provide food to people in need while building solutions to fight hunger in our community. As the demand for food continues to rise, we remain steadfast in our mission. We are in ongoing communication with our social service partners throughout the city to maintain safe practices ensuring that healthy food continues to be served and distributed to our neighbors in need. The information shared has allowed us not only to stay informed, but also, importantly, to be proactive in our planning. Knowing that the demographics and needs of our clients were rapidly changing allowed us to plan for the increased demand by purchasing food for our pantry, as well as recognize and respond to the need for hygiene products among our clients. Through our partnership with WV Health Right, we continue to monitor the health of our staff and clients. WV Health Right staff are onsite at Manna Meal every Monday to offer temperature checks, Flu A/B tests, and strep screenings.. WV Health Right and the CAMC Ryan White Program also offer HIV testing weekly. Additionally, Manna Meal collaborates with the Religious Coalition for Community Renewal (RCCR) on their HOME Outreach Services initiative, which provides evening and weekend outreach coverage in our community. Manna Meal provides approximately 40 dinners per day on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday evenings for the HOME team to pass out to our most vulnerable residents. Earlier this year, Manna Meal established a mobile food pantry to help further address growing food insecurity in our community. These events, which have primarily taken place on Charleston’s West Side, are also possible thanks to various partnerships. . Few of our clients are just experiencing food insecurity—many also face issues with shelter, utilities, medical/psychological care, and substance abuse. Collaboration with other assistance organizations gives us the opportunity to focus on our mission while simultaneously addressing clients’ multifaceted needs Our wide-ranging community partners include Covenant House, United Way of Central West Virginia, Kanawha Valley Collective, Kanawha Charleston Health Department, Sojourners, Prestera, Trinity’s Table, WV Health Right, City of Charleston CARES office, Charleston Police Department, Union Mission, Roark Sullivan, Mountaineer Food Bank, Facing Hunger, Garnet Career Center, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, along with other soup kitchens and food pantries across Kanawha County. We know that collaborating with a variety of organizations across sectors and services areas is essential to making Charleston healthier and stronger.

8. How will duplication of services be prevented?

Manna Meal is the only agency solely dedicated to serving as a feeding facility in Charleston. For over four decades, we have provided breakfast and lunch daily, 365 days a year.At the onset of the pandemic in March of 2020, when other organizations altered or suspended their services, we expanded ours to include dinner for the first time in our history (on Wednesday and Saturday evenings). Our policy of “no questions asked” also sets us apart, as the only qualifying factors to receive Manna Meal’s services are the need to satisfy hunger and willingness to help uphold a safe, hassle-free, and non-threatening environment.

Program Requirements and Objectives

1. Identify the target recipients of proposed services. Specify the number of City residents the program will serve during the fiscal year and explain the basis upon which this number is calculated.

Manna Meal estimates that at least 65% of our recipients are low-income individuals and families who are experiencing additional stress and lack of access to resources due to the pandemic, and the remaining 35% of our recipients are homeless. This segment of the “working poor” is often minimum wage workers such as servers, dishwashers, retail clerks, etc. compensated on an hourly basis. In many cases, they are individuals who have gone from surviving on limited income to reduced or no income as a result of the pandemic and are living “paycheck to paycheck.”.Former clients are frequently bringing friends, family, and neighbors who previously did not need our services, but now, left without other options, have come to depend upon us for their next meal. We provide meals to anyone in need.

2. List any eligibility requirements the program has with respect to age, gender, income, or residence.

There are NO eligibility requirements with respect to age, gender, income or residence. All are welcome to eat at Manna Meal.

3. If this is a continuing activity, describe a measurable outcome of the previous year's work regardless of funding source.

Our primary measurement has always been the number of meals that we serve. We also calculate the cost of those meals based on the cost of food we purchase. For example, in 2021 our purchased food expense was \$218,321 and total meals served was \$136,141. Using this data, we can determine our per meal cost was \$1.61 for food only, as this does not include the cost for all of the to-go containers, disposable cups, bowls, and flatware that we must now use due to COVID-19. Feeding America is the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization, and their 2019 meal cost estimate was \$2.92 per meal. Our average meal cost was 47% of that.. Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, we have seen a drastic uptick in numbers, and unfortunately, there does not appear to be an end in sight. Meals Served Pantry Bags Food Expense 2019 92,115 1,077 \$124,928.28 2020 138,141 2,196 \$218,320.78 2021 151,603 5,969 \$276,961.78 Other areas of measurement include pounds of donated food, monetary donations, and number of volunteer hours. Manna Meal has also been exploring ways to stay true to our mission, “so the hungry can eat; no questions asked,” while collecting more accurate data on the number of clients we serve. These conversations have included the Executive Director and Board of Directors as well as community partners. Refining this process will not only offer a more expanded depiction of the clients we serve, but also make us a stronger collaborative partner.

4. If this is a new program describe two anticipated measurable outcomes for the proposed program.

NA

Budget

- * 1. Has the organization received funding from the City of Charleston in the past for a similar program/project?
☒ Yes ☐ No
- * 2. Has the organization requested funding from other Federal, State, or Local government entities for any program/project support related to COVID-19?
☒ Yes ☐ No
3. If yes, explain from which entities and the amounts requested for each program/project.

CDBG CV 2020 Requested \$218,310.00 Received \$100,000.00 CDBG CV 2021 Requested \$149,720.00 Received \$127,000.00 EFSP CARES 2020 Requested \$25,000.00 Received \$20, 453.00

4. List any other Federal, State, Local, or private funding or grant awards received in the last three years and the amount and status of each award.

Anthem/Unicare - CV-19 Response 2020 \$20,000 Food Purchase - Closed City of Charleston CDBG 2020 \$33,000.00 Food Purchase - Closed 2020 \$17,000.00 Salary - Balance Remaining \$ Daywood Foundation 2019 \$14,500.00 Food Purchase - Closed 2020 \$15,500.00 Food Purchase - Closed 2021 Award notification pending Encova CV-19 Response 2020 \$5,000.00 FEMA EFSP 2019 \$15,000.00 Food Purchase - Closed 2020 \$11,725.00 Food Purchase- Closed 2021 \$11,500.00 Food Purchase - Closed First Presbyterian Church of Charleston, WV - Local Grant Mission 2019 \$8,000.00 Food Purchase -Closed 2020 No Grants Due to COVID 2021 \$6,000.00 Food Purchase -Closed Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation (GKVF) Basic Needs Grant *This is a 3 year collaborative grant with the Covenant House being the lead, 2019 \$29,700.00 Food Purchase - Closed 2020 \$29,700.00 Food Purchase - Closed 2021 Awaiting Award GKVF CV-19 Response 2020 \$7,000.00 Food Purchase - Closed GKVF Emergency Aid 2021 \$30,000.00 Food Purchase- Mobile Pantry - Closed 2019 \$33,250.00 Kitchen Equipment - Closed Pallottine Foundation CV Response 2020 \$15,000.00 - Food Purchase - Closed Pallottine Foundation 2019 \$7,640.00 2020 \$15,000.00 Food Purchase- Closed 2021 \$15,000.00 Food Purchase - Closed 2021 \$25,000.00 General Operating Expenses - Closed 2021 \$30,000.00 Food Purchase TC Energy CV-19 Response 2020 \$10,000.00 Food Purchase - Closed United Way of Central WV CV-19 Response 2020 \$5,000.00 Food Purchase- Closed 2020 \$5,000.00 Food Purchase - Closed United Way of Central WV 2021 \$20,000.00 Additional Freezers - Delayed due to supply chain issues WesBanco CV-19 Response 2020 \$5,000.00 Food Purchase - Closed

5. Briefly summarize project revenues and expenses related to this request. This should coincide with the budget worksheet.

For the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), we are requesting \$700,000.00 for food purchases over a four year period. The \$700,000 for the purchase of food will allow us to keep up with the increase in demand, reflected in the numbers we have shared. We have seen a 49% increase in participation since the beginning of COVID-19. Additional meals (dinner service) have been added. Restaurant and grocery store donations have decreased, while, at the same time, the cost of food has increased. Based on the trends we have observed in the past two years, we predict that our food costs will remain at \$25,000 monthly, or \$900,000 over the next 48 months. This will result in our food costs being \$700,00 over budget. Manna Meal anticipates \$500,000 in grants for food purchase over a 48-month period based on previous years’ grant revenue history.

6. If this request is not fully funded, what adjustments to the program/project is the organization prepared to make?

If this request is not fully funded, Manna Meal will continue to do everything in our power to fulfill our mission of feeding the hungry and meet our community’s increased need. We will aggressively seek other funding through grants, private foundations, and individual

donations. As food costs and the number of meals served continue to rise, it is imperative that Manna Meal have the resources to continue to serve nutritious meals to anyone who walks through our doors.

7. Describe the plan for sustainability of the program/project or initiative after the requested award has been exhausted.

Manna Meal has been a lifeline for many of Charleston’s most vulnerable residents for over four decades, even throughout the pandemic, we have never missed a meal. We will continue to search and apply for grant funding, and,with our numerous volunteers, donations, and community involvement, continue to fulfill our mission “so the hungry can eat, no questions asked.” Our fundraising efforts are ongoing and critical to our sustainability. Manna Meal also receives monetary support from individual donations, churches, civic groups, businesses, trusts, appeal campaigns, charitable foundations, and fundraising events. Food donations come from many different sources, including the United States Department of Agriculture, FEMA, local farmers, food recovery programs, food drives, and community donated items. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we had to cancel our two fundraising events scheduled for 2020, resulting in an estimated loss of income of \$75,000, as well as our largest fundraising event for 2021, resulting in an estimated loss of \$45,000. We were able to host one small event in the fall of 2021 and are planning to host at least one event in 2022, if possible.

8. Briefly describe the organization’s fiscal oversight / internal controls to minimize opportunities for fraud, waste, and mismanagement.

Manna Meal is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors consisting of community leaders who meet every other month. The Executive Committee receives and reviews financial statements monthly, prepared by a CPA. The full Board of Directors receives and reviews financial statements at each Board meeting. The Finance Committee works closely with the Executive Director and CPA throughout the year. The Outreach Coordinator picks up the mail and logs all checks received before giving the checks to the Executive Director to process and deposit. The CPA reconciles all deposits with the bank statements. All invoices are reviewed by the Executive Director and presented for review along with the affiliated check to be signed by one of three authorized members of the Executive Committee.

9. How does your agency plan to separate ARPA funds from other agency funds for purposes of identification, tracking, reporting and auditing?

If funded, the food purchases will be closely monitored and will have a detailed budget to capture all revenue and expenses associated with the program. All expenditures associated with ARPA funds will be tracked for reporting and auditing purposes.

REQUESTED BUDGET WORKSHEET

Revenue Source Projections

List all Estimated Funding for this Program/Project

* Proposed City ARPA Funding	Internal/Self-Funding
\$700,000	
Donations/Other Fundraising	Government Grants/Other
0	\$500,000
* TOTAL REVENUE	
\$1,200,000	

Expenses Projections

List all Estimated Expenses for this Program/Project

Salaries/Wages

Amount Requested from City	Amount from Other Sources	Total Estimated Expenses
0	0	0

Benefits & Matchings

Amount Requested from City	Amount from Other Sources	Total Estimated Expenses
0	0	0

Contracted Services

Amount Requested from City	Amount from Other Sources	Total Estimated Expenses
0	0	0

Program Materials

Amount Requested from City	Amount from Other Sources	Total Estimated Expenses
0	0	0

Marketing

Amount Requested from City	Amount from Other Sources	Total Estimated Expenses
0	0	0

Supplies

Amount Requested from City	Amount from Other Sources	Total Estimated Expenses
0	0	0

Other

Amount Requested from City	Amount from Other Sources	Total Estimated Expenses
\$700,000	\$500,000	\$1,200,000

Total Expenses

* Amount Requested from City	* Amount from Other Sources	* Total Estimated Expenses
\$700,000	\$500,000	\$1,200,000

NOTE: Revenues and Expenses must balance, and the use of requested funds must be directly related to COVID-19 recovery efforts.

Organizational Details

1. Describe the history of the organization and its current programs and activities.

Manna Meal is a nonprofit organization established in 1976, with the sole purpose of providing free, nutritious meals to food insecure populations. Sometimes referred to as a soup kitchen, and during the Great Depression as a bread line, Manna Meal is that and more to those we serve in Charleston. Manna Meal has been serving two meals daily, 365 days a year, for 45 years. Neither holidays, nor weather-related events, nor even a pandemic has been reason for closing. When other organizations suspended or scaled back their services in response to COVID-19, Manna Meal took all of the measures and safety precautions necessary to expand—we began also serving dinner twice weekly—so that we could help meet the visible increase in need. Housed in St. John’s Episcopal Church in the center of downtown Charleston since our inception, Manna Meal is within walking distance of the shelters, aged and disabled housing and other assistance service organizations, making us ideally positioned to serve the city’s most vulnerable populations. We maintain a “no questions asked” policy in support of our mission, “So the hungry can eat,” because we believe that no barrier should ever stand between a person and a nutritious meal. The only qualifying factors to receive Manna Meal’s services are the need to satisfy hunger and willingness to help uphold a safe, hassle-free, and non-threatening environment. In addition to providing on-site meals, Manna Meal distributes food boxes as requested, usually on behalf of clients’ non-ambulatory family/friends. We also operate a small food pantry that offers “24-hour” bags of food. As other local pantries are open only for limited hours during the weekdays, Manna Meal fills a critical void when they are closed. Recently, Manna Meal began operating a mobile pantry that delivers food directly to areas based on the level of food assistance needed in parts of our community as well. Manna Meal’s pantry, mobile food pantry, and regular meal preparations all utilize food from our community garden, which produces thousands of pounds of vegetables and is run solely by volunteers. Food insecurity never occurs as a singular issue, so we are prepared for participants to ask for assistance with other needs. Guests have ready access to a social worker who is able to link them to other service organizations. Our consistency, availability, and safe environment allows us to develop trusting relationships and act as a front-line connection to a vast array of critical resources. At Manna Meal, we know that feeding people isn’t the same as nourishing them. Compassion needs a place at the table. This philosophy is the driving force behind our mission, and it is the reason that we have been able to serve as an effective safety net for our entire community for over four decades.

2. Provide the organization’s mission statement/purpose.

So the hungry can eat; no questions asked.

3. List any third-party references that can verify the organizations qualification or prior grant experience.

Laura Boone, Senior Program Officer, Pallottine Foundation of Huntington lkboone@pallottinehuntington.org Amy Clark, CDBG Program Manager, City of Charleston MOECD amy.clark@cityofcharleston.org Margaret O’Neal moneal@unitedwaycwg.org Derek Vance, Program Manager, Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation dvance@tgkvf.org

COVID-19 Impact

1. Explain the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it relates to your request. For example, reduction in services, closures, increased costs, community impact, etc.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in March of 2020, planning and building strategies to address the impact of the crisis on the community we serve has been one of Manna Meal’s top priorities. As the pandemic has continued to unfold, businesses close, services become restricted, and individuals fall into unemployment or transition to working from home, Manna Meal has not missed a single meal. COVID-19 has not stopped hunger, and it has not stopped Manna Meal, either. Manna Meal has reimagined nearly all of our daily processes and procedures in order to meet the increasing need. We served meals outside for nearly four months in our parking lot under a tent to adhere to CDC recommendations. At the same time, in the wake of the pandemic, we have served approximately 49% more meals. We quickly adapted both to the necessity of a new approach to service and the drastically increased number of meals served. Adjustments to our standard operating procedures have included dining room occupancy limited to 50%, utilization of all disposable items, masks being handed out to anyone entering the building, and the halting of our robust volunteer program. Coronavirus is the perfect storm for our neighbors struggling to make ends meet. For 45 years, Manna Meal has been a reliable and constant source of relief to those suffering from food insecurity and hunger by serving two meals daily, 365 days a year. In response to other organizations suspending or altering services, we expanded our services in March 2020 by providing dinner for the first time in our history on Wednesdays and Saturdays to meet the need. What we thought would be a temporary service continues today due to other feeding programs remaining closed. For over four decades, we have attributed a large portion of our success to the volunteers that have consistently supported Manna Meal. During the pandemic, however, out of an abundance of caution, we had to suspend our volunteer program for the first time. We have relied upon our small staff and added temporary help to absorb the functions of the volunteers, thus increasing our staffing costs. We continue to implement additional safety precautions and go above and beyond when it comes to cleaning all areas of Manna Meal, especially in the high

traffic areas of the kitchen, dining room, and restrooms, in order to protect the health and well-being of our staff and guests alike. Staff sanitizes each seat and table between use, and restrooms are disinfected every 30 minutes during mealtimes. Traditionally, meals have been served cafeteria-style from buffet tables, but to adhere to the strictest safety recommendations, we have prepared and placed all meals in disposable containers to reduce contact and help prevent the possible spread of any contaminant. Furthermore, COVID-19 has caused a major disruption within the supply chain, hence increasing costs of groceries and supplies. The United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization’s Food Price Index, which tracks global prices of commodities used in making food, is up 30% in October 2021 relative to pre-pandemic levels in January 2020. With unemployment at its highest since the Great Depression, many people are facing food insecurity, perhaps for the first time. Our small food pantry is a lifeline for many individuals and families, as the request for pantry bags steadily climbs. Unlike other food pantries in our community, our pantry is open seven days a week and doesn’t have any frequency restrictions or referrals required.

Food Purchase Costs 2019 \$124,908.28 2020 \$218,320.97 2021 (January-December 14th) \$\$276,961.78

The COVID-19 crisis may differ in many ways from a weather-based natural disaster, but, as is the case for various storms we have faced in the past, the impact has been devastating and long-lasting, and the need for hunger-relief support will continue for months, if not years. COVID-19 has most-impacted communities and populations that are already vulnerable to hunger, as well as those who were just barely surviving. Unfortunately, and unsurprisingly, a new study from Feeding America projects that the number of food-insecure individuals will grow by 38%, including a 49% growth for children and teens. That means approximately 1 in 5 people may face hunger, including 1 in 3 children. In the face of the record-breaking levels of unemployment and food insecurity resulting from the pandemic, the mission of Manna Meal matters now more than ever. As a life sustaining organization, Manna Meal takes its commitment to serving every member of our community very seriously. With safe and efficient protocols, we are increasing our distribution of food to everyone who needs it, either through a hot meal or pantry bag, because no person should ever have to worry about having enough to eat.

2. If funds are being requested to replace revenue lost due to COVID-19, provide details, and attach supportive documentation.

NA

3. If awarded, how will ARPA funding aid in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic?

Awarded ARPA funding, Manna Meal will continue to serve and expand our feeding program by providing nutritious meals at no cost to individuals families. Thereby helping mitigate food insecurity locally, along with numerous other health issues and homelessness that so often go hand in hand with hunger. This project is critical to our community and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

THE APPLICANT UNDERSTANDS:

- *
☒ 1. This application and other materials submitted to the City may constitute public records which may be subject to disclosure under the West Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Documents containing sensitive information may be marked as “confidential.”
- *
☒ 2. Submitting false or misleading information in connection with an application may result in the applicant being found ineligible for financial assistance under the funding program, and the applicant or its representative may be subject to civil and/or criminal prosecution.

THE APPLICANT CERTIFIES THAT:

- *
☒ 1. I have reviewed the US Treasury guidelines regarding the eligible uses of American Rescue Plan State and Local recovery funds. <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-fund/request-funding>
- *
☒ 2. By submitting this request, I represent that I am an authorized officer, or member of the organization for which I am submitting, and the information contained in my submittal is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- *
☒ 3. The information submitted to the City of Charleston (“City”) in this application, and substantially in connection with this application, is true and correct.
- *
☒ 4. The applicant is in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, ordinances and orders applicable to it that could have an adverse material impact on the project. Adverse material impact includes lawsuits, criminal or civil actions, bankruptcy proceedings, regulatory action by a governmental entity or inadequate capital to complete the project.

*

☒ 5. The applicant is not in default under the terms and conditions of any grant or loan agreements, leases or financing arrangements with its other creditors that could have an adverse material impact on the project.

*

☒ 6. I understand and agree that I must disclose, and will continue to disclose, any occurrence or event that could have an adverse material impact on the project.

*

☒ 7. I certify that the requested funding is needed to ensure this program/project will occur within the City limits of Charleston West Virginia.

*

☒ 8. The Board of Directors or governing body of the organization has approved submission of this application. Please attach a copy of the authorizing resolution or meeting minutes using the file upload.

*** Signature**

*** Date**

Amy Wolfe

Authorized representative of Applicant/Organization

12/14/2021

Format: MM/DD/YYYY

*** PRINTED NAME:**

Amy Wolfe

*** TITLE OF APPLICANT:**

Executive Director

*** ORGANIZATION NAME:**

Manna Meal

Upload a File

Choose File

No file chosen




Board Resolution

The Board of Directors of Manna Meal, Inc. met on November 16, 2021 with a quorum present and passed the following resolution.

Be it RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Manna Meal authorizes Amy Wolfe, Executive Director, to apply for the 2021 City of Charleston American Rescue Funding Grant.

Be it also RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Manna Meal understands that the information provided in the grant application may be shared with other funding organizations. If grant is received, Manna Meal will use the funds as specifically granted and spend the money within the timeframe allocated by the funder. Manna Meal allows the funder to use the information provided in the application for public relations and will mention the funders' support in any publicity Manna Meal generates regarding the activity.

By: 
Zach Drennen, President

Date: 12/13/2021



December 10, 2021

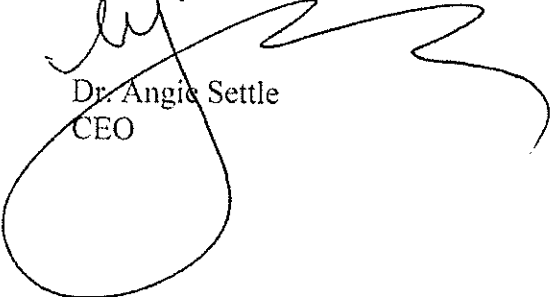
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you on behalf of WV Health Right, Inc. in support of Manna Meal's proposal to the City of Charleston for funding to bolster programming addressing issues of food insecurity in our community which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As an organization that provides free and charitable health care, we have witnessed a severe increase in food insecurity among Charleston residents as a result of the pandemic and the widespread unemployment that has followed. Manna Meal's work greatly benefits the health and well-being of our entire community, and the continuation and expansion of their services is essential to preventing hunger and aiding in the city's recovery from the pandemic.

In support of this program, our hope is to continue to function as a strong community partner by offering a connection to services that could ultimately end homelessness throughout our community. We strongly support Manna Meal's application for assistance to fund this critical effort.

Sincerely,


Dr. Angie Settle
CEO

1520 Washington Street, East • Charleston, WV 25311

Phone: 304.414.5930 Fax: 304.343.7009



KANAWHA VALLEY
COLLECTIVE
1 UNITED WAY SQUARE

December 13, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you on behalf of Kanawha Valley Collective in support of Manna Meal's proposal to the City of Charleston for a grant to fund additional food and programming to battle the issue of food insecurity in our community which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As an organization that works to end homelessness we have witnessed a severe increase in food insecurity among Charleston residents as a result of the pandemic and the unemployment and underemployment that has followed. We have seen an increase in food insecurity as well as risks of homelessness since the beginning of 2020. We have also seen an increase in individuals seeking assistance, either food or financial, for the first time in their lives.

Manna Meal has long been at the forefront of addressing the issue of hunger in Charleston. Serving breakfast and lunch 365 days a year no questions asked. They never closed during the pandemic and did all they could to meet the growing needs of the community as well as keep everyone safe.

We strongly support Manna Meal's application for assistance to fund this critical project.

Sincerely,

Traci Strickland
Executive Director
Kanawha Valley Collective



Mailing Address: P. O. Box 3911, Charleston, WV 25339
Physical Address: 1117 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25301
Phone: 304-346-6398

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you on behalf of The Religious Coalition for Community in support of Manna Meal's proposal to the City of Charleston for funding to bolster programming addressing issues of food insecurity in our community which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

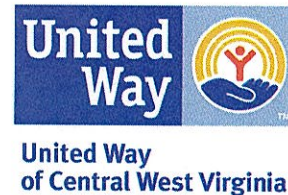
As an organization that develops projects and programs which help renew our community by identifying, addressing, and overcoming obstacles which keep people from decent, affordable housing, we have witnessed a severe increase in food insecurity among Charleston residents as a result of the pandemic and the widespread unemployment that has followed. Manna Meal's work greatly benefits the health and well-being of our entire community, and the continuation and expansion of their services is essential to preventing hunger and aiding in the city's recovery from the pandemic.

We strongly support Manna Meal's application for assistance to fund this critical effort.

Sincerely,

Kevin Jones
Executive Director
Religious Coalition for Community Renewal
PO Box 3911
Charleston, WV 25339
304-205-0234

One United Way Square
Charleston WV 25301
tel 304.340.3500
fax 304.340.3508
www.unitedwaycww.org



December 13, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you on behalf of United Way of Central WV in support of Manna Meal's proposal to the City of Charleston for funding to bolster programming addressing issues of food insecurity in our community which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As an organization that is known for its ability to identify needs, develop and mobilize resources, we have witnessed a severe increase in food insecurity among Charleston residents as a result of the pandemic and the widespread unemployment that has followed. Manna Meal's work greatly benefits the health and well-being of our entire community, and the continuation and expansion of their services is essential to preventing hunger and aiding in the city's recovery from the pandemic.

We strongly support Manna Meal's application for assistance to fund this critical effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Ann O'Neal".

Margaret Ann O'Neal
President