

# TRANSFORMING HUNGER

## A PROPOSAL FROM FACING HUNGER FOOD BANK



### Creating a Culture of Solutions In Response to the Challenges of Hunger

*Cynthia Kirkhart, MS, MBA*

The time has arrived for transforming hunger relief efforts in West Virginia and the momentum with the Legislature and funding streams supports the creation of this change.

Facing Hunger Food Bank serves twelve counties in West Virginia out of the total of seventeen counties within our service area.

Over 111,000 souls in need, representing 42% of the total of our food insecure brothers & sisters in our great state, rely on FHFB for not only emergency hunger relief, but children & families need our back packs.

We have an ever growing Medically Indicated Food Box Program that has recently expanded to serve a proposed 1,771 diabetic patients in collaboration with Williamson Health & Wellness in Mingo County. We focus on partnerships and growing the capacity of our partners & impacting those we serve.

#### CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

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#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE

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#### CREATING A NEW CULTURE OF INNOVATION & TRANSFORMATION

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#### CURRENT FUNDING FOR LONGTERM INVESTMENT & OUTCOMES

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#### HUNGER RELIEF & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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# Creating Innovation & Transformation

There are challenges in our state, but our proposal provides the foundation for long term solutions for hunger AND economic development in the communities we serve.



Facing Hunger Food is respectfully submitting a funding proposal and request in response to the available federal funding as provided by the ARPA federal funds. Over the course of the three year funding arc, our total request totals \$10,954,288.32.

The first year request and total is \$4,520,870.00 and includes one time expenditures for infrastructure purchase, as well as sustaining funding for the economic development of the communities we serve.

**Personnel:** Our request includes the expansion of our staff to provide a total of 14 additional staff. Ten of these staff are designated to address the expansion of programming and food distributions, and four staff will be hired from the Mingo county community and be directly assigned to the proposed Mingo County distribution Center. This distribution center will allow for streamlined logistics for deliveries throughout the southern coalfield counties we serve: Boone, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Wayne and Wyoming counties. Additionally, as we have participated in crop planning with producers throughout our twelve county service area, we will also be able to aggregate the produce and fresh product provided by LOCAL producers from the proposed commercial cooler expansion in 25 locations throughout of twelve county service area.

**Food Purchases:** We have provided a proposal for the purchase of fresh, local produce, fruit, dairy and protein (as available) for equitable distribution across our service area. We also included a funding request to support the provision of Medically Indicated Food Boxes (includes shelf stable product, cereal, grains, and protein) to an estimated 8,200 souls within our service area who have a diagnosis of diabetes, hypertension or other chronic disease and have been identified as food insecure and unable to maintain diet compliance to the food products to support effective self management of their medical condition.



## Removing Challenges to Create Opportunities For Economic Outcomes and Localized Community Support

**Transportation:** As we have determined that we will double to mileage we already travel within our service area, we are requesting the additional funds based on a 24,000 mile addition costing an average of \$2.75 a gallon of diesel fuel.

**Equipment:** We are requesting support for the purchase and provision a cooler/freezer combination at the Rock Branch National Guard facility as it stands as the shared emergency food bank facility for the state's two food banks, and although we have a lease of the building for five years, this addition would remain at the time of such lease ending, bringing extended value to the state owned building. In support of our intention to expand economic development in the communities we serve, we are requesting one time funding for the purchase of 25 commercial grade cooler, which will allow the placement of two coolers in each of the counties we serve, allowing these to serve as community hubs for the storage of perishable items for collection and distribution in the communities these are located in. This also will increase the capacity of local growers and producers who have limited resources for cold storage, as well as that of our member agencies. Again, these activities will positively impact the economic development in each county these are located and will serve.

**Supplies:** This includes the items required for the staffing use and operation of the proposed Mingo County Distribution Center. With the addition of four new jobs, and direct distributions to souls in need as well as increasing the logistics of distributions within the southern coalfields, we will have transformational change in emergency food distributions and expanded programming to include the Medically Indicated Food Box program, and collaboration with community producers and partners.

**Facilities:** The main food bank facility, located at 1327 Seventh Avenue has grown in distributions and programming, and the same building that was stretched to distribute 5 million pounds in 2014, distributed 16 million pounds last year. Expanding our facility to include the additional 26,000 sf building next door would allow us to be able to accept all food resources, as well as to provide an onsite pantry, teaching kitchen and education center for those we serve. Additionally, we are proposing to lease a building in Mingo County to provide a distribution center to allow streamlined logistics for our work in the southern coalfields. Our ultimate goals would be to purchase a building or land, and then build the facility to increase economic development in Mingo County as well as to provide workforce development.

