

THE ALASKA FOOD COALITION



FISCAL YEAR 2007 MINI-GRANT APPLICATION

Part 1

Please complete the following information.

- i. Date of application: September 26, 2006
- ii. Name of individual writing this request: Linda Swarner
- iii. Name of person to contact regarding this request: Linda Swarner
- iv. Organization: Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
- v. Address: 33955 Community College Drive, Soldotna, AK 99669
- vi. Phone and Fax numbers: 907-262-3111 and fax number is 907-262-6428
- vii. E-mail: kpfoodbanked@acsalaska.net
- viii. Total cost of project: \$ 6,431
- ix. Amount requested from The Alaska Food Coalition: \$ 2,000

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

Part 2 – Abstract and Essential Criteria

- a. ***Please give an overview of your proposed project. Please mention what the funding would be used for and explain how this funding will help your agency fight hunger. Please be sure to identify the equipment needed for the project and a project timeline.***

The proposed project consists of two different focus areas—one part for partial funding of an electrical service upgrade and the other for an improved work area. The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank's electrical service requires upgrading due to the amount of electricity required for all of our equipment including freezers and

coolers. Oftentimes electrical breakers require “flipping” due to our required usage. The current electrical service is a single phase 200A. Future equipment needs require a three phase service. Reliable electrical service will assure safe handling of perishable and frozen food products. Now perishables are sometimes stored outdoors for a short before clients take them home to hungry Kenai Peninsula residents. The Homer Electric service upgrade projected cost will be honored until June 15, 2007. This project can be completed this fall as long as non-frozen ground conditions exist.

The funding will be used to purchase three stainless steel worktables which will be used to sort perishable food products. These worktables will be 36” high and they will be replacing kitchen/banquet tables which are 27” and 29” high respectively. The new tables will provide an area which can be sanitized and cleaned easier. The current tables often require stabilization. The height is uncomfortable after employees and/or volunteers stand for long periods of time sorting the perishable food products. In 2005, local stores donated 554,400 pounds of food products most of which must be hand sorted on these tables. New tables would be ordered as soon as funds are available and delivery would be expected in two weeks from Peterkin Distributors.

b. Please respond to the following four questions or statements. Answer yes or no and add a sentence or two explaining your answer if necessary. Please remember that The Alaska Food Coalition will only fund projects which satisfy the following criteria. If you are not sure whether your agency or project will qualify, please contact the Alaska Food Coalition Coordinator for assistance.

i. Is the agency involved in anti-hunger work? Yes X No

The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank is a member of the Alaska Food Coalition and the Executive Director participates in WRAC (Western Regional Anti-hunger Coalition). The agency sponsors National Hunger Awareness Day each year in June and this event includes inviting elected officials to serve soup in the Soup Kitchen. The Board of Directors and the Executive Director correspond regularly with local, state and national elected officials. The agency promotes self-sufficiency through nutrition educational classes.

ii. Is the funding requested for a capital project that will have long-term impact on the agency’s ability to feed hungry people? Yes X No

The electrical upgrade will provide reliable and efficient electrical service for the refrigerators and coolers which hold perishables to be distributed to emergency food program clients. Electricity will be used more efficiently and therefore impacting our monthly electricity bill. A three phase service is needed for a larger cooler which will be installed on a cement slab located next to the existing building either this winter or in 2007. The cement slab project is part of the United Way Day of Caring projects for two companies.

The new tables will have long term impact on the agency’s ability to provide high quality clean perishable food products. The larger work area will provide

additional space for volunteers and employees to sort the produce and other perishables.

- iii. Will the agency provide 20% of the total project costs, either in the form of funding or an in-kind donation? Yes No

The agency will provide over 20% of the funding of the project costs using dedicated funds for building maintenance and improvements.

- iv. The agency was not awarded an Alaska Food Coalition mini-grant in fiscal year 2006 (July 2005 - June 2006). Yes No

Part 3 – Project Review Criteria

a. *Please answer the following questions regarding your proposed project.*

- i. For what purpose are you requesting grant support?

The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, a United Way agency, requests grant support because our funds are limited as we provide food products to 58 member agencies through our warehouse program. The electrical upgrade funds requested will pay for a portion of the Homer Electric Association's service upgrade. HEA's cost to upgrade the electrical service up to 400 amps is \$5,458. Other funds are being solicited to cover the cost of the new metering equipment and necessary re-wiring of the building.

According to Peterkin Distributors the cost of each of the tables is \$324.22; therefore three tables would be \$972.66. The tables would improve and greatly enhance the working environment of employees and volunteers.

- ii. Explain to what extent the proposed project will allow your agency to distribute more or different foods, or in the case of repair work, maintain your current level of operation.

This project will allow the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank to sort perishable food products in an improved sanitized environment. Additional salvaged food will then be available to warehouse shoppers or to clients. The second part of the project, electrical upgrade, will allow our agency to store perishable and frozen food safely. Reliable electrical power is necessary for our operation. So far this fall the telephone system breaker had to be reset as well. Proper storage will allow the Food Bank to distribute improved quality food to 58 member agencies, emergency food clients or for Soup Kitchen foods.

- iii. Describe the need which caused you to write this request. Please refer to a demonstrated, specific need (example: a dramatic increase in food pantry's client load over a short period of time).

The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank personnel are seeing a dramatic increase in the number of new clients seeking services from our organization. So far in 2006 an average of 28 new households each month sought USDA Commodities or

Emergency Food from the Food Bank. This year an average of 554 households received emergency food products or USDA Commodities each month. The KPFB is receiving an average of over 1,000 pounds of food products each month and most of these items are perishables which require sorting.

- iv. Explain how the proposed project is central to your agency’s work of feeding hungry Alaskans.

The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank’s work of feeding hungry Alaskans relies on good, reliable working refrigeration and freezer storage units, which depends on reliable electrical service provided by Homer Electric Association. Perishable food products must be sorted in a clean, healthy environment in a manner decreasing the spread of food causing viruses.

- v. Identify and discuss the budget for the proposed project. Please be as specific as possible and be sure to discuss how you plan to supply 20% of the project costs. You may reference enclosed documentation that supports your budget.

Electrical Service Upgrade	\$5,458	
3 Worktables @ 324.22	<u>973</u>	
Total		\$6,431
Grant request	<u>2,000</u>	
Fund reserve and/or grant		\$4,431

Please see attached Balance Sheet as of August 1, 2006 which shows a positive cash flow. Previous grant funds of approximately \$1,000 remain in the savings account which can be used for this project. Some of these funds came from Paul Newman and the National Gardening Association grants. The 2006 Budget is also included.

Part 4 – Agency Review Criteria

Please answer the following questions regarding your agency

- i. Describe your agency and its anti-hunger work. How long has the agency been in existence? How long has the agency been fighting hunger? Discuss your agency’s financial stability.

The Food Bank is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization founded in 1988, which provides food to over 58 non-profit agencies for their feeding programs throughout the Kenai Peninsula. According to past audits by Lambe, Tuter & Wagner, the KPFB is in very good financial stability. Five days a week the KPFB provides food through the Direct Service, TEFAP and CSFP Commodity programs directly to clients. The Soup Kitchen provides a hot nutritious meal five days a week between 11:30 and 2:30 PM.

- ii. Explain the demonstrated community need that is met by your agency.

Traditionally the Kenai Peninsula’s unemployment rate has been higher than the urban areas of the state. In 2004, member agencies distributed 288,591 pounds of food products which is an increase of 8% since 2003. In 2005, the average monthly poundage is 30,390 compared to 24,049 pounds in 2004. Now in 2006,

the average monthly poundage has increased to 30,917 pounds. Each week new client's walk through our doors seeking services, some have never been in a Food Bank! The individuals seeking help has increased more than six percent so far this year.

- iii. Discuss what community support exists for your agency. For example, does your agency utilize volunteers from its community? Is your agency supported financially by its community?

Community volunteers and court ordered individuals support our organization by giving their time. The community supports 40% of the KPFB budget through United Way funding and direct cash donations. Drivers' pickup up surplus and distressed food products seven days a week from three major Central Peninsula grocers. The local media including the press and radio stations generously publicize events.

- iv. Does your agency collaborate with others in anti-hunger work? Please explain.

The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank collaborates locally with other agencies in the Interagency meetings and statewide with the Alaska Food Coalition in addition to being an agency of the Food Bank of Alaska. Locally the organization works with Post Office personnel during the "Stamp Out Hunger" promotion each year in May. Community agencies which fight hunger in our community acquire food products from our organization. These include the senior centers, day care facilities, and churches. The Executive Director has lobbied the Congressional delegation as well as state and local officials. Local elected officials participate in Hunger Awareness Day on a regular basis.

- v. How does your agency fit into the anti-hunger effort in your community? Are there other agencies that do similar work in your area?

Agency representatives educate area residents through participation in local grass root organizations such as Interagency meetings, Homeless and Health issue Consortiums and other service organizations. The KPFB is the only Food Bank on the Kenai Peninsula and we provide services to the entire Kenai Peninsula as agencies exist in Homer to Moose Pass. Representatives give presentations to local area residents at service club organizations or to religious groups.

Part 5 – Supplemental Material

Please answer the following questions regarding the supplemental material you have enclosed with your proposal.

Have you enclosed?

- i. Budget documentation? **(Required)** Yes X No

What type? (Examples: Copy of advertisement for proposed piece of equipment, bid from contractor, etc)
Letter from Brad Hibberd, Homer Electric Association
Worktable Advertisement
2006 Kenai Peninsula Food Bank budget

ii Letters of support? **(Required)** Yes X No

How many and from whom? 4

Letters of support are included from Frontier Community Services, Soldotna Senior Center, Sterling Senior Center and Soldotna High School.

iii. Any other materials? Yes X No

What materials?

A printed copy of the summer newsletter distributed to donors and others in addition to brochures describing services our agency provides
Fact Sheet