



City of Apache Junction
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
Request for Financial Assistance



Application Cover Sheet

Name of Agency: **Superstition Community Food Bank**

Mailing Address: **575 N Idaho Road, Ste 701, Apache Junction, AZ 85119**

Street Address: **575 N Idaho Road, Ste 701, Apache Junction, AZ 85119**

Phone: **480-983-2995**

Agency Director: **Erik Arriola**

Email Address: **erik.arriola@superstitionfoodbank.org**

Direct Line: **480-233-6680**

Project Manager: **Erik Arriola**

Email Address: **erik.arriola@superstitionfoodbank.org**

Direct Line: **480-233-6680**

Project:

The Superstition Community Food Bank is requesting funding to purchase food to support our overall programming, including:

- **Emergency Food Program**
- **Holiday Box Program**
- **Student Backpack Food Program**

Total Amount requested: **\$75,000**

Population and number of people to be served:

Total overall served in 2025: 45,790

Total population served (Apache Junction Proper) in 2025: 26,890

Agency Description:

Please provide a brief description of your organization's history, experience, and services provided.

Since 1983, the Superstition Community Food Bank has served thousands of people in East Valley communities.

We are a community food bank that aids individuals and families facing food insecurities in Apache Junction, Gold Canyon, Northwest Pinal County, and East Mesa.

Driven by a small, but passionate staff, supported by an engaged, committed Board and a team of enthusiastic, energetic volunteers, everyone involved with Superstition Community Food Bank works together to provide food to feed the hungry in our community.

Please address the following:

1. Has your agency received funding from Apache Junction in the past? If yes:
 - a. What was the year
 - b. Amount,
 - c. Project/Service
 - d. How your agency met the expectations of the funding agreement.

We are grateful for the continued support we have received from the City of Apache Junction. Most recently, the Superstition Community Food Bank was awarded **\$70,000 for the 2025–2026 fiscal year**. These funds were allocated to purchase food for three core programs:

- **Emergency Food Program & Holiday Food Boxes: \$50,000**
- **Student Backpack Food Program: \$20,000**

Because all awarded funds are used **exclusively** for food purchases, we have consistently met—and often exceeded—the expectations outlined in our funding agreement with the City. This support directly strengthens our ability to provide reliable, nutritious food to individuals and families in need throughout Apache Junction.

Past Funding

2025-2026: \$70,000
2024-2025: \$56,250
2023-2024: \$35,000
2022-2023: \$30,000
2021-2022: \$26,000

2. Purpose of the agency

The purpose of the Superstition Community Food Bank is to ensure that individuals and families facing food insecurity have reliable access to nutritious food. We exist to support those who are struggling to put meals on the table, offering essential assistance during times of financial hardship.

Our Mission

Together with our volunteers and community partners, the Superstition Community Food Bank provides food services to qualified individuals and families in East Valley communities with kindness, respect, and dignity. Our mission reflects our commitment not only to feeding people, but to doing so in a way that honors their humanity and strengthens our community.

3. Type of agency

The Superstition Community Food Bank is a 501c3 nonprofit community food bank, founded in 1981 and incorporated in 1983. We are dedicated to providing reliable food assistance to individuals and families facing food insecurity throughout the East Valley.

4. Services provided

The Superstition Community Food Bank provides a range of programs designed to meet the diverse needs of individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

Our services include:

Emergency Food Assistance

This program provides immediate food support to individuals and families facing hardship. Qualified clients may visit twice per month to receive a variety of groceries, including meat, bread, canned goods, non-perishable items, and fresh fruits and vegetables. When available, clients may also receive milk, cheese, and eggs. This program helps households avoid choosing between essential needs such as rent, utilities, medication, or medical care and putting food on the table. In 2025, it was our largest program, serving **45,790 individuals**.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

CSFP improves the health of low-income adults aged 60 and older by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA foods. Seniors enrolled in this program receive a monthly box filled with high-protein, high-fiber, and nutrient-dense items. Due to high demand, we currently serve **140 seniors** with an additional **40+ individuals on the waiting list**.

Holiday Food Boxes

Holidays can be especially difficult for families experiencing food insecurity. To help lift spirits and reduce financial strain, we provide Holiday Food Boxes for **Easter, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas**. Each box includes a main dish—such as hot dogs, a turkey, or a ham—along with festive sides and fixings. Our goal is to serve **300 families** for each holiday.

Student Backpack Food Program

In partnership with the Apache Junction Unified School District (AJUSD), we provide weekend food “backpacks” to students who may not have reliable access to meals outside of school. Students may self-enroll, be enrolled by a parent, or be referred by school staff. Many participants rely on school meals as their primary source of nutrition, making this program essential for their well-being.

Special Partnerships

Our partnerships help us reach vulnerable individuals who may not be able to visit the Food Bank directly:

- **A New Leaf (CAAFA)**
 - Provides Holiday Meal Boxes (turkey for Thanksgiving, ham for Christmas) to families in crisis.
 - **Apache Junction Parks & Recreation**
 - Distributes Emergency Food (EFB) and CSFP boxes to seniors who ride the shuttle van to the Multigenerational Center.
 - Receives food backpacks for students participating in summer programs.
 - **Apache Junction Police Department**
 - Coordinates with us to provide Holiday Meal Boxes (with ham) to families participating in the “Shop with a Cop” Christmas program.
 - **Apache Junction Unified School District (AJUSD)**
 - Partners with us to sponsor families for the holidays, including distributing Thanksgiving Meal Boxes to elementary school families.
 - Collaborates to support hourly district employees who experience reduced hours during school breaks and may need food assistance.
 - **Boys & Girls Club – Superstition Mountain Branch**
 - Receives food backpacks for students enrolled in summer programs.
5. Provide target population and demographic information on your current clientele to include percentage located within the City of Apache Junction

The Superstition Community Food Bank primarily serves individuals and families living in Apache Junction and surrounding East Valley communities. In 2025, **59% of all clients served were Apache Junction residents**, demonstrating the significant local need for food assistance.

2025 Apache Junction Service Area Statistics (covering ZIP codes 85117, 85118, 85119, 85120, and 85178)

- **26,890 individuals served**
- **11,725 households served**
- **29% were seniors (ages 60+)**
- **28% of those served were children (ages 0–18)**

These demographics reflect the diverse and vulnerable populations who rely on our services, including families with young children, older adults on fixed incomes, and individuals facing financial hardship.

6. Explain how your agency will have adequate capacity to complete the project/service being requested.

The Superstition Community Food Bank has the full capacity to carry out the project as requested.

The funding we are seeking will support programs that are already fully established, staffed, and operating successfully within our organization. Because these services are part of our ongoing, year-round operations, we have the systems, personnel, volunteers, and infrastructure in place to continue delivering them effectively. We are confident in our ability to fulfill all project requirements and ensure that the funding directly benefits the individuals and families we serve.

7. Provide a list of your annual fundraisers and average amount raised.

For many years, the Superstition Community Food Bank hosted an Annual Charity Golf Tournament as our primary fundraising event. However, revenue from this event has steadily declined due to increased competition from other tournaments and the rising cost of participation for players. Net revenue over the past four years reflects this downward trend:

- **2022: \$31,556.81**
- **2023: \$21,586.96**
- **2024: \$18,589.81**
- **2025: \$14,124.40**

Given the significant decrease in proceeds and the economic challenges affecting participant giving, we have made the strategic decision to **pause the golf tournament for 2026**.

In 2025, we partnered with the *Superstition Mountain Rotary Club* to launch a new fundraising initiative—our inaugural **Casino Night**, which successfully netted **\$5,500** for the Food Bank. We are exploring opportunities to continue and expand this event in

partnership with the Rotary Club as a more sustainable and community-engaging fundraiser.

8. Are you listed on the www.211Arizona.org website?

The Superstition Community Food Bank is listed on the **211Arizona** website, and we update our information annually to ensure accuracy for those seeking assistance. We are also listed on the **Arizona Food Bank Network** website, further expanding access to our services for individuals and families in need.

9. Have you participated in the following: a Project Connect event, a Health and Wellness Expo or the Apache Junction Community Resource Center in the past?

The Superstition Community Food Bank is an active participant in the annual **Project Connect** event sponsored by the *Apache Junction Homeless Coalition*. We also take part in various City-hosted events to increase community awareness of our services and ensure residents know how to access food assistance.

In addition, we partner with **American Legion Post 27** and **VFW Post 7968** during their **Veteran Stand Down** events. These partnerships help us reach local veterans—an important population we strive to support by ensuring they know the Food Bank is a resource available to them.

Project/Service Description:

Please describe the proposed project/service to be funded. Please address the following:

The Superstition Community Food Bank is requesting funding to purchase food that directly supports three of our core programs. These programs operate year-round and provide essential nutrition to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity in Apache Junction and surrounding communities.

The funding requested will be used to sustain and strengthen the following programs:

- **Emergency Food Program**
- **Holiday Box Program**
- **Student Backpack Food Program**

These programs form the foundation of our services and ensure that children, families, and seniors have reliable access to nutritious food during times of need.

1. Who will be served?

The Superstition Community Food Bank will continue to serve individuals and families living in **Apache Junction, Gold Canyon, Northwest Pinal County, and East Mesa**. These communities represent our core service area, and the requested funding will

directly support residents who rely on our programs for consistent access to nutritious food.

2. How will this project serve Apache Junction proper residents?

This project will directly benefit Apache Junction residents, who make up the majority of the individuals and families we serve. In 2025, **59% of our total clientele were Apache Junction residents**, demonstrating the significant local need for food assistance.

2025 Apache Junction Service Area Statistics (Covering ZIP codes 85117, 85118, 85119, 85120, and 85178)

- **26,890 individuals served**
- **11,725 households served**

These numbers reflect the substantial impact our programs have within Apache Junction and underscore the importance of continued support to meet the community's growing needs.

3. What services will be provided?

The Superstition Community Food Bank provides a range of programs designed to meet the diverse needs of individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

Our services include:

Emergency Food Assistance

This program provides immediate food support to individuals and families facing hardship. Qualified clients may visit twice per month to receive a variety of groceries, including meat, bread, canned goods, non-perishable items, and fresh fruits and vegetables. When available, clients may also receive milk, cheese, and eggs. This program helps households avoid choosing between essential needs such as rent, utilities, medication, or medical care and putting food on the table. In 2025, it was our largest program, serving **45,790 individuals**.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

CSFP improves the health of low-income adults aged 60 and older by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA foods. Seniors enrolled in this program receive a monthly box filled with high-protein, high-fiber, and nutrient-dense items. Due to high demand, we currently serve **140 seniors** with an additional **40+ individuals on the waiting list**.

Holiday Food Boxes

Holidays can be especially difficult for families experiencing food insecurity. To help lift spirits and reduce financial strain, we provide Holiday Food Boxes for **Easter, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas**. Each box includes a main dish—such as hot

dogs, a turkey, or a ham—along with festive sides and fixings. Our goal is to serve **300 families** for each holiday.

Student Backpack Food Program

In partnership with the Apache Junction Unified School District (AJUSD), we provide weekend food “backpacks” to students who may not have reliable access to meals outside of school. Students may self-enroll, be enrolled by a parent, or be referred by school staff. Many participants rely on school meals as their primary source of nutrition, making this program essential for their well-being.

Special Partnerships

Our partnerships help us reach vulnerable individuals who may not be able to visit the Food Bank directly:

- **A New Leaf (CAAFA)**
 - Provides Holiday Meal Boxes (turkey for Thanksgiving, ham for Christmas) to families in crisis.
- **Apache Junction Parks & Recreation**
 - Distributes Emergency Food (EFB) and CSFP boxes to seniors who ride the shuttle van to the Multigenerational Center.
 - Receives food backpacks for students participating in summer programs.
- **Apache Junction Police Department**
 - Coordinates with us to provide Holiday Meal Boxes (with ham) to families participating in the “Shop with a Cop” Christmas program.
- **Apache Junction Unified School District (AJUSD)**
 - Partners with us to sponsor families for the holidays, including distributing Thanksgiving Meal Boxes to elementary school families.
 - Collaborates to support hourly district employees who experience reduced hours during school breaks and may need food assistance.
- **Boys & Girls Club – Superstition Mountain Branch**
 - Receives food backpacks for students enrolled in summer programs.

4. What are the benefits?

These programs directly support individuals and families experiencing food insecurity by ensuring they have consistent access to nutritious food. The most immediate benefit is simple but essential: people have food to eat.

A secondary and equally important benefit is financial relief. By reducing the amount households must spend on groceries, families can redirect limited resources toward rent, utilities, medical needs, transportation, and other critical expenses that help them remain stable, housed, employed and healthy.

5. Provide a timeline and who is responsible.

Funding for the Student Backpack Food Program is typically utilized at the start of the school year, with the majority of purchases occurring in **August or September**. The remaining funds are spent strategically throughout the fiscal year to support our Emergency Food Program and Holiday Box Program.

Erik Arriola, the **Executive Director**, is responsible for overseeing all Food Bank programming, including food purchasing, program implementation, and ensuring that all services are delivered efficiently and in alignment with grant requirements.

6. Where will the services be provided?

Most services will be provided directly at the Superstition Community Food Bank.

However, several programs include off-site distribution to ensure accessibility for individuals who cannot travel to the Food Bank.

Exceptions include:

- **Apache Junction Parks & Recreation:** Staff pick up food boxes for senior participants who ride the shuttle van to the Multigenerational Center.
- **Student Backpack Food Program:** Food filled backpacks are delivered directly to Apache Junction Unified School District elementary schools on a weekly basis.
- **“Shop with a Cop” Program:** Holiday Food Boxes are delivered to participating families at the Apache Junction Multigenerational Center using our refrigerated box truck.
- **A New Leaf (CAAFA):** Social workers pick up Holiday Food Boxes from the Food Bank and deliver them directly to their clients
- **AJUSD:** The school district picks up food boxes for hourly employees of the school district and distributes them directly to their employees.

These distribution methods ensure that vulnerable residents—especially seniors, students, and families in crisis—receive the food assistance they need, regardless of transportation barriers.

7. How will you provide the services?

The Food Bank will continue to provide our services as normal.

Emergency Food Distribution (daily):

Monday:	2:00pm-4:00pm
Tuesday:	2:00pm-4:00pm
Thursday:	2:00pm-4:00pm
Friday:	2:00pm-4:00pm

Commodity Supplemental Food Program—CSFP (Seniors 60+):
3rd Thursday of the Month

Holiday Box Distribution: (must have voucher to participate):

Easter:	03/28/2026
4 th of July:	06/26, 6/29, 6/30 & 7/2 (normal distribution, no voucher needed)
Thanksgiving:	11/21/2026
Christmas:	12/19/2026

Student Backpack Food Program

*Weekly during the school year. (August—May)

8. Are there any community partners in this project? If so, please list.

The Superstition Community Food Bank will continue to collaborate with key community partners to ensure broad access to food assistance and to reach individuals who may not be able to visit the Food Bank directly. Our partners include:

- **A New Leaf (CAAFA)**
- **Apache Junction Parks & Recreation**
- **Apache Junction Police Department**
- **Apache Junction Unified School District**
- **Boys & Girls Club – Superstition Mountain Branch**

These partnerships strengthen our ability to serve vulnerable populations, expand outreach, and ensure that food reaches those who need it most.

9. What is the project/service and agency goals?

The Superstition Community Food Bank is requesting funding to purchase food that supports three essential programs serving individuals and families experiencing food insecurity:

- **Emergency Food Program**
- **Holiday Box Program**
- **Student Backpack Food Program**

These programs ensure that children, families, and seniors have consistent access to nutritious food throughout the year.

Our overarching agency goal is to assist as many individuals and families as possible within our service area by providing reliable, dignified food assistance.

As part of this commitment, we maintain a specific annual goal of distributing **300 Holiday Food Boxes** to families for **Easter, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, and**

Christmas. These holiday distributions help families celebrate important occasions without the added financial burden of purchasing special meals.

10. How and will you sustain this project after the agreement has ended?

The Superstition Community Food Bank is committed to sustaining these programs long after the funding agreement concludes. We will continue to seek support through additional grants, community organizations, service clubs, and private donors to ensure ongoing food purchases for our core programs. As a long-standing nonprofit serving this community, we have no plans to reduce or discontinue services.

Our mission remains to provide consistent, reliable food assistance to individuals and families in need, and we will continue pursuing diverse funding sources to maintain and strengthen these essential programs.

Project/Service Budget:

Provide a detailed project budget and narrative based on activities indicated above including:

1. Amount being requested

The Superstition Community Food Bank is requesting **\$75,000** to purchase food that supports our core year-round programming, including:

- **Emergency Food Program**
- **Holiday Box Program**
- **Student Backpack Food Program**

These funds will be used exclusively for food purchases to ensure that children, families, and seniors in our service area have consistent access to nutritious food throughout the year.

2. Amount of funding provided by your agency (include source)

The Superstition Community Food Bank operates with an annual budget of **\$2,640,801**.

This total includes funding from a diverse range of sources, including grants, community organizations, churches, schools, and private donors. The budget also reflects significant **in-kind contributions**, including food received through our **Food Rescue Program**, community food drives, and the **in-kind donation of our facility rent** provided by Pinal County. These combined resources help sustain our core programs and ensure continued service to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

3. Amount of funding provided by partners (include source)

The Superstition Community Food Bank does not receive financial support from its partnering agencies, including A New Leaf (CAAFA), Apache Junction Parks &

Recreation, the Apache Junction Police Department, the Apache Junction Unified School District, or the Boys & Girls Club – Superstition Mountain Branch.

These partnerships are collaborative in nature and focus on outreach rather than funding. Each partner helps us reach vulnerable individuals who may be unable to visit the Food Bank on their own. We will continue working with community partners and exploring new collaborations to expand our reach and ensure that more individuals in need can access our services.

4. A detailed narrative of the costs

The cost of food purchases varies throughout the year based on community donations, the success of food drives, and fluctuations in client demand. Because the Food Bank receives a significant amount of donated food, our purchasing needs shift depending on which items are donated and which essential staples must be supplemented through direct purchase.

For example, during the 2025 federal government shutdown, the number of households seeking assistance increased dramatically due to delays in SNAP benefits. In response, we needed to quickly purchase large quantities of basic food items to ensure we could meet the sudden surge in demand. Situations like this highlight the importance of flexible funding that allows us to respond rapidly to community needs.

When purchasing food, we consistently seek the **best possible prices** by comparing vendors, buying in bulk when appropriate, and prioritizing cost-effective options without compromising nutritional value.

A detailed record of how past grant funding has been utilized is included in the attached **AJ City HHS Grant 2025–2026 Usage Report**, which demonstrates our responsible and transparent use of funds.

5. What percentage of your agency's total annual budget is this funding request?

The amount requested—**\$75,000**—represents **2.85%** of the Superstition Community Food Bank's 2025 annual budget.

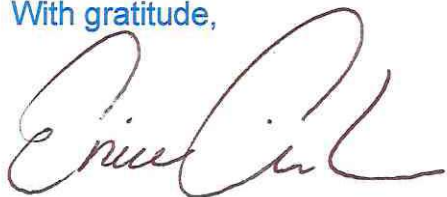
6. Indicate if you would accept partial funding and if so, provide the minimum amount and how your project will change.

The Superstition Community Food Bank is open to accepting partial funding. However, receiving less than the requested amount would limit our ability to expand services and reach additional families in need. Specifically, partial funding may prevent us from adding **The Classical Academy at Superstition Mountain** and **Avalon Elementary School** to the Student Backpack Food Program.

Even so, we remain deeply grateful for any level of support provided by the City of Apache Junction. Your investment directly strengthens our capacity to serve the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Erik Arriola', written in a cursive style.

Erik Arriola
Executive Director

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