



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



Application Cover Sheet

Name of Agency: [Superstition Community Food Bank \(Apache Junction Reach Out, Inc.\)](#)

Mailing Address: [575 N Idaho Road, #701, Apache Junction, AZ 85119](#)

Street Address: [575 N Idaho Road, #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@superstitionfood.org

Direct Line: [480-233-6680](#)

Project:

[The Superstition Community Food Bank is requesting funds 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 2024: 44,301

Total population served (Apache Junction ONLY) in 2024: 26,331

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 support we have received in the past from the City of Apache Junction. Most recently, we were awarded \$56,250 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The monies awarded have been used to purchase food for the following programs:

- Emergency Food
- Holiday Food
- Student Backpack.

Because we only use the monies awarded to purchase food, we have been successful in meeting the expectations of the funding agreement between the Food Bank and the City of Apache Junction.

2. Purpose of the agency

The purpose of the Superstition Community Food Bank is to provide Food Assistance to those struggling to place food on the table for themselves or their families.

Our Mission

Together with our volunteers and partners, Superstition Community Food Bank provides food services to qualified individuals and families in East Valley communities with kindness, respect, and dignity.

3. Type of agency

We are a Community Food Bank, started in 1981 and incorporated in 1983.

4. Services provided

The Superstition Community Food Bank Provides:

- ❖ **Emergency Food Assistance-** This program is just what it sounds like. We give individuals and families food to help them get by. Qualified clients can visit twice a month to receive a variety of groceries including meat, bread, canned goods, other non-perishable food items and fresh fruits & vegetables. When available, they can also receive milk, cheese, and eggs. This program helps those having to make the difficult choices of paying rent, utilities, medicine, or medical care vs. putting food on the table. We have heard time and again how this program is the reason folks are able to have any food in their house. **This is our largest program having served 44,313 individuals in 2023.**
- ❖ **The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)** works to improve the health of low-income persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. Once a month, those that are on our senior program can come for an additional food box filled with high protein, fiber, and nutrient dense food. Because of the overwhelming need and popularity of this program we currently have a waiting list. We currently have 140 seniors on our Active List and 40+ seniors on a waiting list.
- ❖ **Holiday Boxes-** Holidays can be a depressing time of year for those facing food insecurities. We try to lift the spirits of our clients by offering holiday boxes for Easter, 4th of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We include the main dish like hot dogs, a turkey or a ham...and then throw in the rest of the festive fix'ns. Our goal is to bless 300 families for each holiday listed.
- ❖ **Student Backpack Food Program-** We have partnered with Apache Junction Unified School District (AJUSD) to provide "backpacks" of food to students enrolled in this program. A student can self-enroll, be parent enrolled or have a teacher or school staff enroll them if they realize a need for weekend food assistance is needed. Many rely on daily breakfast and lunch provided by their schools, sometimes their only source of food.

❖ **Special Partnerships:**

- **Apache Junction Parks & Recreation-** to serve seniors that ride the shuttle van to the multigeneration center. We provide Emergency Food (TEFAP) and Senior Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).
- **Apache Junction Police Department-** provided "Shop with a Cop" families a Holiday Meal Box (with Ham) for Christmas.
- **AJUSD-** partnering once again with the Apache Junction Unified School District to sponsor families for the holidays. We provided Thanksgiving Meal Boxes (with turkeys) to over 100 elementary school families.
- **AJUSD-** this time our partnership focuses on hourly employees of the school district. During vacation breaks, hours are reduced for hourly employees. Due to the loss of hours, some employees need the assistance of the Food Bank to make ends meet and place food on the table.

5. Provide target population and demographic information on your current clientele to include percentage located within the City of Apache Junction

2024 Statistics (Apache Junction ONLY) (85117, 85118, 85119, 85120, & 85178)

- Individuals 26,331
- Households 10,805
- 60% of our overall clientele are from Apache Junction
- 31% served are children (0-18)
- 26% served are seniors (60+)

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

We are asking for monies to assist us with purchasing food for the programming we already provide to the community. Because we already provide these programs, we are confident that we can fulfill and complete the projects/services.

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

We hold an Annual Charity Golf Tournament to benefit the Superstition Community Food Bank. Unfortunately, we have seen the amount fundraised slowly decline.

2022: \$31,556.81 total Net Revenue
2023: \$21,586.96 total Net Revenue
2024: \$18,589.81 total Net Revenue

We are unsure if we will continue to hold this fundraising event. Are there too many other organizations doing golf tournaments? Is the economy and inflation becoming too much to splurge on a nice golf outing? It has becoming increasingly difficult to sell out

our tournament and those that play have spent or donated less. As you can see our profits from this event continue to decrease.

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. In addition, we are also listed on the Arizona Food Bank Network website.

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 participate in other City events to make the community aware of our existence and programs offered here at the Food Bank. We also partner with American Legion 27 and VFW 7968 at their Veteran Stand Down events. It's important that Veterans know we are also a resource for them as well.

Project/Service Description:

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

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

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

1. Who will be served?

We will continue to serve Apache Junction, Gold Canyon, Northwest Pinal County, and East Mesa.

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

60% of our overall clientele are from Apache Junction proper.

2024 Statistics (Apache Junction ONLY) (85117, 85118, 85119, 85120, & 85178)

- Individuals 26,331
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3. What services will be provided?

The Superstition Community Food Bank Provides:

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- ❖ **Special Partnerships:**
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the assistance of the Food Bank to make ends meet and place food on the table.

4. What are the benefits?

Apache Junction residents struggling with food insecurity will benefit from these programs.

A direct benefit is that people have food to eat. A secondary benefit is that people can put the money they normally would have used to purchase food towards other expenses such as rent, utilities, medical or transportation. We hope that this extra assistance will aid in keeping them in their homes, jobs and healthy.

5. Provide a timeline and who is responsible.

Because of when the school year begins, we normally spend monies for the backpack program in August or September. We try to spend the rest of the monies throughout the fiscal year with many funds being spent during the holiday season.

The Executive Director is directly responsible for all programming at the Food Bank and food purchases.

6. Where will the services be provided?

Our services are provided directly at the Food Bank.

The exceptions are:

- Student Backpack Food Program, where we deliver filled backpacks directly to Four Peaks Elementary and Desert Vista Elementary Schools weekly.
- "Shop with a Cop" program where we brought the participants their Holiday Boxes to the Apache Junction Multigenerational Center in our refrigerated box truck.
- Holiday Boxes to families at Four Peaks Elementary and Desert Vista Elementary Schools where we brought and distributed from our refrigerated box truck.

7. How will you provide the services?

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

Emergency Food Distribution (weekly):

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:	4/12/2025
4 th of July:	6/27, 6/30, 7/1 & 7/3 (normal distribution, no voucher needed)
Thanksgiving:	11/22/2025
Christmas:	12/20/2025

Student Backpack Food Program
*Weekly during the school year.

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

The Food Bank will continue to partner with Apache Junction Parks & Recreation, Apache Junction Unified School District, Apache Junction Police Department.

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

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

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

Our Agency goal is to assist as many individuals and families as possible. We will continue to build community partnerships to help spread our programming in hopes of reaching everyone facing food insecurity and hunger.

We will continue to have a goal of distributing 300 Holiday Boxes to families for Easter, 4th of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We have a goal to add an additional two (2) Apache Junction elementary schools to the Student Backpack Food Program. Currently, Peralta Trails Elementary School (AJUSD) and Avalon Elementary School (Excalibur Schools) have students in need and are waiting to be added to this program.

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

We will continue to seek funding from other grants, organizations and private donors to sustain the programs here at the Food Bank. We do not plan to stop offering our services and programming to the community if or when our agreement with the City of Apache Junction has ended.

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 to support our overall programming, including:

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

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

The Superstition Community Food Bank has an Annual Budget of \$2,801,750. This includes funding from: grants, organizations, churches, businesses, schools and private donors. This total also includes in-kind donations from the "Food Rescue" program and all food drives. This total also includes the in-kind donation of "Rent" for our building from Pinal County.

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

We ask for and receive no funding from partnering agencies, i.e., Apache Junction Parks & Recreation, Apache Junction Unified School District, Apache Junction Police Department. These partnerships are to help us reach those vulnerable individuals that CANNOT make it to the Food Bank on their own. We will continue to work with the community to identify more partnerships to help us with our goal of reaching more individuals in need.

***We DO NOT receive any funding or financial contributions from our partnering agencies: Feeding America, Arizona Food Bank Network or United Food Bank.**

4. A detailed narrative of the costs

This question is difficult to answer.

Because we receive food donations and hold food drives throughout the year, our need for certain items is always changing depending on donations or how well the food drive was received. We always shop for the best pricing available when purchasing food.

Please see attached supporting documentation to view how we have used past grant funds:

AJ City HHS Grant 2023-204 Usage Report

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

The amount we are requesting equals to 2.7% of the 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.

We are open to accepting partial funding.

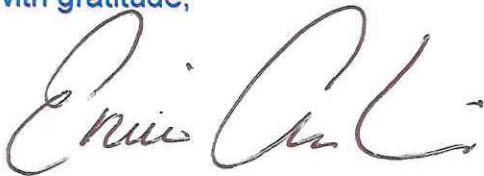
However, this would probably prevent the Food Bank from expanding our reach and services. This would include the ability to add Peralta Trails & Avalon Elementary schools to the Student Backpack Food Program.

With that said, we are grateful to receive any amount of assistance from the City of Apache Junction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

With gratitude,



Erik Arriola
Executive Director,
Superstition Community Food Bank

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