

Edible Food Recovery Grant FY 25/26

Funding Description

Summary of Funding

This grant program, funded by **Salinas Valley Recycles (SVR)** and **ReGen Monterey (ReGen)**, is intended to expand edible food recovery programs at food recovery organizations and services operating within the Monterey County region to better accommodate state mandates and broaden community operations. This grant is designed to:

1. Help increase the capacity of food recovery organizations and services operating within the County of Monterey.
2. Assist food recovery organizations and services by funding the purchase of equipment, materials, and supplies that will increase the total pounds of edible food an organization or service is able to recover and distribute to those in need.
3. Improve our region's ability to comply with SB 1383 mandates by increasing capacity, thereby allowing businesses to donate the maximum amount of edible food that would otherwise be disposed of.
4. Ensure food safety as edible food recovery capacity and donations increase.

CA Senate Bill 1383 aims to reduce the amount of food ending up in the landfill by requiring certain edible food generators (grocery stores, large restaurants, hotels, etc.) to donate surplus edible food to food recovery organizations and services. The SB 1383 Edible Food Recovery Grant FY 25/26 intends to award a total of up to \$100,000 to non-profit organizations or public entities that collect and distribute food to charities and those in need within the County of Monterey. The award will strengthen current food recovery programs in order to better comply with California edible food recovery laws.

Organizations may request up to \$25,000. We anticipate the average award to be between \$5,000 and \$10,000. This grant does not require matching funds or cost-share, but it is highly recommended. Funds may be used by awarded recipients for qualified expenditures listed in the awardee's approved budget and in line with grant requirements. By contract, all purchases made using the grant must be reported to ensure proper use of funds and must include valid documentation with time-stamped receipts.

Grant Timeline

This grant will be a 12 month term. If not all funding is expended within the priority application window as listed below, the application may be reopened in December for non-priority applicants.

August, 2025	Grant Application Releases
October 15, 2025	Grant Application Closes
November 2024	Notice of Proposed Awards
December, 2025–January 2026	Agreements Executed and Funds Issued
January 2026	Grant Term Begins
March 15, 2026	First Quarterly Update Due
June 15, 2026	Second Quarterly Update Due
September 15, 2026	Third Quarterly Update Due
December 31, 2026	Grant Term Ends Final Reports Due

Applicant Eligibility Requirements

Any non-profit organization, business, or public entity operating within the selected area that collects and/or distributes recovered edible food for public need. Priority will be given to applicants who have not received funding from the agencies for previous Edible Food Recovery Capacity Building Grant cycles; however, previous grant recipients are still strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants must operate within the service areas of Salinas Valley Recycles (SVR)* or Monterey Regional Waste Management District (ReGen Monterey)**:

***Salinas Valley Recycles:** City of Gonzales, City of Greenfield, King City, City of Salinas, City of Soledad, or Eastern Unincorporated Monterey County.

****ReGen Monterey:** City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, City of Del Rey Oaks, City of Marina, City of Monterey, City of Pacific Grove, City of Seaside, Sand City, Pebble Beach Community Services District, or Unincorporated Monterey County.

Organizations selected for funding from previous Edible Food Recovery Grant cycles who have not completed their grant projects and submitted their Final Reports, are **not eligible** for funding from this grant (Edible Food Recovery Grant Program, FY 25/26).

Eligible Expenses

Prioritized Eligible Expenses:

Equipment, materials, or supplies to increase safe food recovery, preparation, preservation (canning, vacuum sealing, jamming, etc.), handling, storage, and/or transportation of food donations to/from donating parties, audiences served, and related activities. Examples of prioritized expenses include:

- Cans and jars for food preservation
- Thermal bags for transportation of food
- Crates and carts for handling/storing food
- Gloves, bags, etc for food recovery
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Also Eligible:

- Staff time and activities to support project coordination, training, outreach, education, tracking, or reporting associated with the proposed project.
- Vehicles and refrigerated vehicles.
- Equipment and/or installation/upgrading of safe food storage or refrigeration infrastructure and systems (e.g. walk-in refrigerators).
- Volunteer stipends.
- Gas for transportation of food.

***Daily operational expenses, including gas, will be capped at 10% of the total requested funds.**

Ineligible Expenses:

- The purchase or leasing of buildings or properties.
- Food (perishable or nonperishable).
- Any expenses incurred before the start of the grant term.

Grant Recipient Expectations

If awarded, recipients must create and utilize a free account for their organization on the Careit web/mobile application (technical assistance can be provided; please contact katy@bluestrikeenvironmental.com).

If awarded, recipients must track and report project results. Results and progress will be summarized in three quarterly reports. Results will also be summarized in a Final Report due by December 31, 2026. Project progress and results include but are not limited to:

- Accounting and documentation for actual expenditures made in line with approved grant funding.
- Quantification of increased capacity in the form of increased numbers of pounds of food collected, pounds of food distributed, individuals served, meals served, square feet of storage, etc.
- Utilization of the Careit application.
- Changes in disposal: reduced disposal of spoiled food, increased/ added organics diversion.
- Changes and/ or unforeseen circumstances impacting the grant project timeline and/ or scope.
- Other results and outcomes related to the approved project scope.

Application Requirements

- Applicants must fill out and submit a W9 in order to receive any awarded funds.
- Applicants must submit a minimum of **2 quotes** for requested expenditures along with their application.
- Applicants must maintain current Food Safety handlers certification and appropriate required permits.
- Applicants must be in good standing with SVR and ReGen Monterey.

Application Submission

Priority proposal applications must be submitted by 5:00PM on **October 15, 2025**. Applications must be submitted via email. A confirmation message following submission will be sent. Applications received after 5:00PM on **October 15, 2025**, will not be considered for funding.

Please submit application via email in the following format:

Email: katy@bluestrikeenvironmental.com

Subject Line: [Applicant Title] Edible Food Recovery Grant Application, FY 25-26

Technical assistance and support can be provided to interested applicants.
Please contact: katy@bluestrikeenvironmental.com