





Hunger Free Communities Initiative Theory of Change

The purpose of the 2024 Zero Hunger Grant is to advance goals related to the Alliance to End Hunger’s Hunger Free Communities (HFC) Initiative. The grant is intended for partners in the Hunger Free Communities Network™ as of 12/31/2023.

The HFC Initiative promotes multisector, collective impact approaches to ending hunger at the local or state level. Requested funds should be used for building organizational or network capacities to engage in systemic change work rooted in equity and community engagement. Ideally, grant funds would be used to support advancement along the Hunger Free Communities Impact Framework or to create/promote a collective impact plan to address hunger. Funds may also be used towards the establishment of new Hunger Free Community coalitions. Conversely, grant funds are not to be used for the provision of direct services.

What is the Hunger Free Communities Impact Framework?

	<h1 style="color: #4F81BD;">Hunger Free Communities Impact Framework</h1>	
	Performing	Community achieves high food security; full community engagement in nutrition programs; robust emergency food system/crisis response
	Maturing	Sustainable network with political and social capital has been created; high cross-sector food system coordination and communication; coordination of hunger relief efforts across sectors; duplication of efforts and programmatic gaps eliminated
	Formalizing	Groups start cooperating and coordinating; individual organizations self-identify as part of HFC network; formalization of multi-sector coordination effort begins (may or may not lead to independent organization)
	Coalescing	Convening of key community stakeholders follows call to action by strategic leader; identification of HFC leaders
	Responding	Disparate hunger relief organizations/efforts established; typically, uncoordinated hunger relief efforts working in silos
	Awakening	Recognition of low food security in a community
		Alliance to End Hunger, 2018

Developed in consultation with Hunger Free Communities Network partners, the impact framework (above) describes movement towards the aspirational goal of creating a hunger free community through multisector collaborations. The goal of ending hunger is achievable but it will require stakeholders from across the food system to work together to accomplish it. A good reference document for this work is [A Toolkit for Developing and Strengthening Hunger Free Community Coalitions](#).

A [collective impact](#) approach is encouraged as it brings people together in a structured way to develop a common agenda. It requires all participants to have a common understanding of the problem and a mutual agreement on how to solve it, including outlining the role of each partner in the solution. Furthermore, collective impact approaches are rooted in equity and engage community members in social change work.

For a deeper dive into the Hunger Free Communities Impact Framework and collective impact, please see [this video](#).