What A Waste Service Grants
Request for Applications

Thanks to a generous grant from the Walmart Foundation, the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger (NFESH) is pleased to announce a Request for Applications (RFA) for What A Waste Service Grants. The purpose of this RFA is to encourage organizations to work with NFESH to implement the What A Waste program in multiple sites throughout the United States. In order to do so, NFESH will provide grants of services and materials valued at approximately $35,000 to each of a select number of organizations.

What A Waste Program Description:
What A Waste is an innovative solution developed by NFESH and designed especially for senior nutrition programs to help them save money, improve operations, expand services and engage seniors in food waste separation, measurement and gardening.

What A Waste is composed of 6 parts:
1. Food waste separation at the kitchen and dining site
2. Weighing and tracking the food waste
3. Analyzing the data and making recommendations
4. Composting the food waste
5. Using the composted soil to create gardens
6. Educating senior center participants on nutrition, gardening and composting

NFESH will deliver a turnkey program to each grant recipient, including standardized containers for sorting and weighing food waste; a scale for weighing food waste; a hand held (tablet) computer to enter data and communicate with NFESH; signage for kitchen and dining areas; gardening equipment and supplies; education and training materials for staff, volunteers and participants. NFESH experts will provide expert guidance at each step of its execution using video conferences, teleconferences, one-on-one phone calls, email support, and a limited number of on-site visits. In addition, NFESH will facilitate working relationships with local organizations, such as composting services and cooperative extensions, to maximize the impact of the What A Waste program. In turn, NFESH will ask for a commitment to implement the entire What A Waste program. The program takes approximately 12 months to complete.

What A Waste introduces cutting-edge technology into the grant recipient’s kitchen and dining room, along with hands-on instruction for the organization’s staff in how to use it to help reduce unnecessary food waste. As part of the process, staff will measure the exact amount of food that goes uneaten each day, whether it is generated in the kitchen during preparation, results from cooking too many meals, or is left on seniors’ plates. The staff then enters the data into the hand held device so that it can be analyzed by NFESH experts. This food is then categorized, and
technology catalogues it and determines the value or cost of the food headed toward the garbage or landfill. In addition to quantifying losses in terms of dollar and cents, NFESH produces custom reports that calculate nutrient loss.

With actual data in hand, What A Waste experts from NFESH work with the grant recipient’s staff to create customized waste reduction plans. A portion of the plan includes recommendations on menu changes, based on seniors’ eating habits. Organizations can see significant cost reductions after implementing the plans. These saving accrue 100% to the grant recipient indefinitely.

What A Waste is intended to teach grant recipients how to separate food waste that can be captured and used from the refuse. This food waste is gathered and transformed through composting into nutrient-rich soil. The nutrient-rich composted soil is then returned to the grant recipient where it will be used to create gardens in which to grow fruits and vegetables. What A Waste encourages the seniors at the grant recipient’s facility to use this opportunity to work in those gardens and produce healthy foods while engaging in moderate physical activity. A significant amount of education and training opportunities are available for this part of the project. This step also introduces the element of sustainability into program operations.

**Eligible organizations:**

- Organizations that provide meals primarily to seniors (age 60+) in any type of congregate setting. Meal preparation can be self-operated or catered, on-site or remote.
- Organizations must be a tax-exempt public charity described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Priority will be given to organizations that deliver services to diverse communities. For the purposes of this RFA, diverse is defined as African-American, Hispanic, Native American Indian /Alaskan Native, Asian-Pacific Islander, LGBT and Disability populations.

**Application Process:**
The application process will begin with the organization submitting a Letter of Application (LOA). The LOA is due by 5:00 pm EDT on August 31, 2015. NFESH may contact applicants to gather further information or to clarify information in the LOA. Awardees will be notified by email of their acceptance by September 30, 2015. At that time, they will be given specific instructions and due dates for submitting their final acceptance. All selected grantees must sign the NFESH Agreement for Non-Profit Services as part of the final acceptance.

**Letter of Application:**
The Letter of Interest (LOA) should be no longer than 500 words (approximately one page, 12-point font) and should contain the following information:

- Organization information, including  
  - Legal Name  
  - Address  
  - Taxpayer ID Number  
  - Website address
- Contact information for the organization’s Executive Director/CEO or equivalent
- Contact information for the grant manager (if different)
- Summary of the organization’s clientele, including
  - Average number of people served per day
  - Description of any diverse population(s) served
- Summary of the organization’s meal services, including
  - Type of food production (self-operated or contracted, on-site or remote, etc.)
  - Number of sites operated
  - Description of the client dining site(s)
- Why the organization would like to receive the What A Waste Service Grant

The completed LOA should be emailed to nfesh@nfesh.org by 5:00 pm EDT on August 31, 2015.

**Statement of Non-Commitment:**
Issuance of this RFA does not commit NFESH to award a grant or to pay any costs incurred in preparation of the LOA’s to respond to the RFA. Those responding to this RFA must follow its procedures and requirements. Failure to comply with or complete any part of this RFA may result in rejection of the application. NFESH reserves the right to reject any or all applications, or to negotiate separately with competing applicants for services described in this RFA.