



RFP FAQs: Coordinating SNAP and Nutrition Supports (CSNS) Cohort 3

- 1. What is the Coordinating SNAP and Nutrition Supports project?** CSNS is a cohort program funded by Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign and co-administered with the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA). CSNS sites' projects will improve access to SNAP and connected nutrition supports through customer-centered process innovation, cross-sector partnerships, and meaningful engagement with people with lived expertise. For more information about the first and second cohorts of CSNS sites, please refer to the [CSNS landing page](#).
- 2. Where can I find the RFP and submission template?** The RFP, submission template, and other information can be found at APHSA's [Coordinating SNAP and Nutrition Supports landing page](#). Applications are due September 30, 2026.
- 3. Are community-based organizations eligible to apply?** Community-based organizations must be partnered with a state or local SNAP agency and submit a joint application to be eligible. Grants will be awarded to a partnership between a public SNAP agency and a community-based organization.
- 4. Who qualifies as a community partner?** Any organization that directly serves community and family needs is eligible to be a community partner. Community partners can be NGOs but do not need to be. If you are unclear whether your organization qualifies as a community partner, please reach out to Blake Turpin at bturpin@aphsa.org or Miranda Lauzon at mlauzon@strenght.org.
- 5. Are U.S. territories eligible for the CSNS grant?** All agencies that administer SNAP are eligible to apply, including those operating in U.S. territories. Agencies exploring transitions from NAP to SNAP administration are also welcomed to apply. SNAP agencies must partner with a community-based organization and submit a joint application to be awarded a CSNS grant.
- 6. Does my proposal need to address HRI policy changes?** Ideally, yes. Applicants are strongly encouraged to demonstrate an understanding of the current SNAP policy landscape and explain how their proposed project will respond to the current environment and evolving implementation needs. This may include describing how the project will strengthen SNAP access, participation in the program, and maintaining benefits. Reviewers will consider applicants' responsiveness to the current SNAP landscape as part of scoring criteria.

- 7. Is there a preference for state-level v. county-level proposals? What about state level v. local-level community partners?** No. We are evaluating projects based on the proposed impact and the partnership's demonstrated ability to engage in community-led work. The first and second CSNS cohorts were a mix of state and county-level projects which lent unique insights and collaboration across levels of government. Community partners that work at state or local levels both offer crucial expertise. Either level of work is eligible for funding and partnership decisions should be made based on the proposed project's goals and target population.
- 8. What populations should proposed projects target?** Projects that target populations who face the largest barriers to accessing SNAP and nutrition supports and those who disproportionately experience hunger are highly encouraged. Applicants will be asked to name the populations that will be impacted by their project. We recommend that agencies partner with community-based organizations that have specified expertise working with the target population(s).
- 9. What deliverables are desired by project closure?** We are not being prescriptive about deliverables and work products. What we are looking for are tangible impacts to the ways that communities interact with benefits that result in systemic change. Engaging the community early would be a great way to identify appropriate deliverables for your project.
- 10. How will applications be evaluated?** Applications will be evaluated based on the non-comprehensive list of selection criteria on pages 4 & 5 (scoring rubric). APHSA and Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign will convene a team of consultants who have lived expertise with hunger to guide the selection process. Please note selection criteria may be adapted to further reflect the recommendations of the consultant team.
- 11. How can I request a 1:1 project consultation to discuss my application?** APHSA and Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign encourage interested project teams to reach out ahead of a proposal submission. Please reach out to Blake Turpin at bturpin@aphsa.org for state/local agency consultations, please reach out to Miranda Lauzon at mlauzon@strength.org for community partner consultations. Project consultations will be held August 5, 2026 - September 15, 2026.
- 12. Will projects that focus on childhood hunger be prioritized?** Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign is focused on ending child hunger; however, childhood hunger does not happen in a vacuum. We are interested in all work that improves systems to support children and families and that strengthen the family unit.
- 13. How many grants will be awarded for the third round of CSNS funding?** Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign anticipates awarding up to

four (4) implementation grants, each with an initial award of up to \$750,000 over a 24-month grant period. Initial awards will be distributed in two installments. Grantees may also be eligible for up to an additional \$250,000 in Year 2 through a funding enhancement process designed to address emerging implementation needs identified during the first year of the project.

14. How will grant funding be disbursed? Share Our Strength prefers to issue grant funds through two grant agreements per project site—one to the lead state or local agency and one to the lead community partner. Alternative funding structures may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

15. I have a project idea but don't have a clear community partner to work with or an existing relationship with my state or local SNAP agency. What should I do? To discuss your specific project ideas and initiating partnerships, please request a consultation with APhSA and/or Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign by reaching out to Blake Turpin at brutpin@aphsa.org for state/local agency consultations, please reach out to Miranda Lauzon at mlauzon@strength.org for community partner consultations.

16. Do applicants have to be part of the first or second cohort to apply for this round of CSNS funding? No. While participants from the first and second cohorts are welcome to apply for the third round of CSNS funding, new sites are encouraged to apply.

17. How will the project closure be structured and what will be expected beyond the grant period? The grant period formally closes in March 2029. We do not currently have plans beyond 2029 but will work closely with awarded grantees to develop plans to transition out of the grant and self-sustain project efforts.

18. Can grant funds go toward third-party consultants to support the overall project design and implementation process? Yes, but projects should ultimately build agency capacity and be sustainable beyond the third-party's contributions.

Scoring Rubric:

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	IMPORTANCE
MISSION & VISION	Proposal clearly aligns with goals and priorities of the CSNS initiative.	Critical
PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION	Proposal demonstrates a strong, balanced partnership between the SNAP agency and community-based organization.	Critical
MISSION & VISION	Proposal demonstrates a clear understanding of customer experiences, community priorities, and the barriers or opportunities the project seeks to address.	High
MISSION & VISION	Proposal demonstrates how the proposed approach will generate practical implementation lessons, tools, or practices that can inform future efforts across agencies and communities.	Medium
PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION	Proposal demonstrates how partners are well-positioned to reach intended populations, including the strength of their partnerships, community relationships, and reach.	Medium
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CUSTOMER-CENTERED DESIGN	Proposal includes meaningful engagement of customers, people with lived expertise (PWLE), and communities throughout project design, implementation, and evaluation. Proposal demonstrates how the project will be co-designed with PWLE, build trust, and improve the customer experience.	Medium
APPLICANT CAPACITY	Partners demonstrate the staffing, organizational, technical, and financial capacity to implement the project successfully, including a realistic implementation timeline, the ability to spend down grant funds, and meaningful representation of PWLE on project teams.	High
IMPACT, EVALUATION, & SUSTAINABILITY	Proposal outlines meaningful short-, medium-, and long-term outcomes and identifies clear, relevant metrics for measuring progress.	Medium

IMPACT, EVALUATION, & SUSTAINABILITY	Proposal demonstrates how project activities, partnerships, or systems improvements will continue beyond the grant period.	Medium
IMPACT, EVALUATION, & SUSTAINABILITY	Proposal identifies potential risks and barriers and includes a realistic and proactive plan to mitigate them.	Medium
COHORT PARTICIPATION	Applicants demonstrate commitment to participating in peer learning, sharing lessons learned, and contributing to the broader CSNS community.	Medium
MISSION & VISION	Proposal demonstrates that the proposed project activities address current challenges and policy changes surrounding SNAP and will improve program access, efficiency, and/or client experience in this current environment.	Medium-High