



## Dufferin County “Food For Thought” Grant

### Summary:

#### Funding Guidelines

Dufferin County, with its rapidly growing population, has a number of food access programs dedicated to individuals and families who face financial limitations around accessing nutritional food. Many of these programs are maintained by local service agencies, faith-based organizations, and schools that hold a charity or not-for-profit status. Food programs in Dufferin County can be broken down into two main categories, those that target children, and those that target singles, families, and seniors. Food programs range from scheduled meal programs, such as breakfast and lunch programs, emergency food assistance, special occasion programs, gift cards, and food education. Annually, several of these programs seek grants from Dufferin County to operate, enhance, or subsidize existing programs. Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, all requests for food program grants operating in Dufferin County will be directed to the County of Dufferin Community Services Department, who will allocate and distribute funds from the “Food For Thought” grant program annually.

The “Food For Thought” Grant (FFTG) program is funded by the County of Dufferin in support of registered charities or not-for-profit organizations who are providing **Direct Food Services** to individuals and families in Dufferin County. **Direct Food Services** are considered outcomes-based, innovative, food nourishing programs, food access programs, and nutrition education programs that assist in the reduction of poverty and provide services to residents of Dufferin County who are in need. The objective of the FFTG is to provide agencies with financial support (considered a grant) for food related initiatives that will promote food literacy, food access, and food security. Use of grant funds include, but are not limited to, program costs, staffing, operations, and marketing strategies, however, does not include administrative expenses.

#### Eligibility:

The following criteria must be met for “Food For Thought” Grant eligibility:

1. The FFTG must fit at least one of the following three categories:
  - **Food Literacy** - providing people with the information, understanding, and skills to provide healthy food for themselves and their families
  - **School & Other Nutrition Programs** - promoting, educating, and allowing people to access healthy meals
  - **Sustainable Initiatives (including, and beyond, conventional food bank models)** – initiatives that establish a reliable supply of nutritious food and promote self-sufficiency for economically disadvantaged people
2. Programs must be located within the County of Dufferin
3. Programs must not prevent any resident of Dufferin County from accessing services, unless the program is being operated out of a local school, and designed for children attending the school

4. Successful applicants must agree to share service outcome data if eligible for funding. At a minimum, this will include:
  - a. Number of persons served (increase/decrease)
  - b. Demographics (who was served)
  - c. Total hours operated for the year – how hours were impacted due to grant
  - d. Substantiation of how the grant was utilized/how the program benefited
  - e. Feedback from persons served regarding the program (client feedback or comments)
5. Request for funding must align with the Dufferin County Strategic Plan, including its Mission and Vision, and at least one of its four Strategic Priorities, which are as follows:

#### **Vision**

The Corporation of the County of Dufferin will be a leader in providing innovative, high-quality programs and services that contribute to a vibrant and connected community

#### **Mission**

The Corporation of the County of Dufferin delivers relevant, high quality services in collaboration with the community through innovative leadership, inclusive governance, effective resource management, and ongoing evaluation

#### **Strategic Priorities:**

1. ***Economic Vitality*** - *The Corporation of the County of Dufferin will foster a sustainable, vibrant, and inclusive community*
2. ***Communication and Connections*** - *The Corporation of the County of Dufferin will engage in timely, two-way communications that create meaningful connections*
3. ***Good Governance*** - *The Corporation of the County of Dufferin will lead through open, transparent, and responsible decision making*
4. ***Service Excellence*** - *The Corporation of the County of Dufferin will deliver innovative services considerate of community needs*

Grant applications for FFTG will be accepted until December 31<sup>st</sup>, with grants being distributed to successful applicants in February of the grant year. Applications are to be submitted between September 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> for consideration. Grants allocated to successful applicants are not annualized. Eligible applicants can receive up to a maximum of \$3,000 in grant funding. The Community Services Department will attempt to provide funding to all programs that meet the basic criteria, wherever possible. For successful applicants, all funds provided by the County of Dufferin are to be spent within the calendar year the funds are intended.

Applications can be submitted to the County of Dufferin Community Services office:

In person – 30 Centre Street, Orangeville, ON L9W 2X1

By email – [csdirector@dufferincounty.ca](mailto:csdirector@dufferincounty.ca)