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To: [McKibben, Nancy](#)
Subject: MSTU Special Projects Funding FY22 Application Form Submission Result #24666149
Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022 11:32:26 AM

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Full Legal Organization Name (Required)	FEAST, Inc.
Street Address (Required)	2255 Nebraska Ave.
City (Required)	Palm Harbor
State (Required)	FL
Zip Code (Required)	34683
Organization Website (URL)	www.feastfoodpantry.com
Organization President / Executive Director (Required)	Tamara Black
Title (Required)	Executive Director
Phone Number (Required)	813-300-4422
Email Address (Required)	tamara@feastfoodpantry.com
501(c)(3)? (Required)	Yes
Registered in Florida? (Required)	Yes
Year Established	1989

(Required)

Total Organization Annual Budget (Required)	\$850,700
Taxpayer / Employer ID # (Required)	59-2981961
Brief Description of Organization and It's Mission (approx. 600 characters) (Required)	The mission of the FEAST Food Pantry is to compassionately provide food and personal care items to families in need in Pinellas County. Clients can visit our pantry twice a month to receive food for their families. We distribute bags of shelf-stable food, based on family size, which typically equates to a 3–4-day supply of food. In addition, we provide clients with perishable food staples such as meat, milk, eggs, and produce to help them create a balanced diet. Our organization takes pride in providing food and personal care items to Pinellas County residents with compassion and respect.
Project Name (Required)	FEAST Walk-In Cooler/Freezer Project
Requested Program Budget (Required)	\$18,364.00
Community Need: Describe the problem or need to be addressed by this project. (Required)	<p>The need for the services of the FEAST Food Pantry is rapidly growing as food insecurity continues to rise in Pinellas County. According to recent data from Healthy St Pete, it is estimated that more than 14% of households in Pinellas County experience food insecurity. These are thousands of hard-working families who are struggling to make ends meet to put food on the table. At FEAST, we were serving approximately 1,000 people per month prior to the pandemic. We are now providing food to over 3,800 people each month and expect that number to continue to increase. To keep up with this demand and provide quality perishable food for our clients, our pantry needs additional refrigerated and frozen storage space. We currently do not have the capacity to store enough refrigerated and frozen food to</p> <p>provide to our clients. The FEAST Walk-In Cooler/Freezer project will address the need for additional cold storage to provide more food options for Pinellas County residents who visit our pantry. With additional cold storage, we can store essential foods such as meat, eggs, milk, and fresh produce to distribute to families in need in our community.</p>
Project Summary: Describe how the	The FEAST Walk-In Cooler/Freezer project will address the need to provide food for Pinellas County residents by obtaining adequate refrigeration. The purchase of a walk-in cooler/freezer will allow our

project will be fully implemented and how it will address the need or gap in the community. Identify and describe other funding sources, if any, for this project/program. (Required)

pantry to store more healthy foods such as meat, eggs, milk, and fresh produce to distribute to families in our community. Currently, there have been occasions that we could not accept donations of refrigerated products because we simply do not have enough cold storage to adequately store these donations. For example, throughout the holiday season, many local stores contact us to offer refrigerated products that need to be picked up and stored immediately. Unfortunately, we have had to decline these donations because of a lack of refrigeration. The FEAST Walk-In Cooler/Freezer project will provide ample storage space to allow our pantry to safely store refrigerated food to distribute to our clients. In addition, the walk-in cooler/freezer will give easy, efficient access to our over 60 volunteers who work tirelessly to provide food to individuals in our community. During high donation periods such as the holidays, the walk-in cooler/freezer will allow for much easier stock rotation to preserve the integrity of our products. We currently do not have any other funding source for this project. Therefore, the MTSU grant would enable our pantry to help provide essential refrigerated food to many more Pinellas County families during these challenging times.

Program Outcomes: Describe the time-line by which the project will be implemented including short-term and long-term results. (Required)

The FEAST Walk-In Cooler/Freezer project will be implemented during the construction of our new building. We are actively working on permitting with Pinellas County and are researching viable options for our new facility. We have confirmed we can obtain a 50-year lease from Grace Community Church so we can remain in our current location. We anticipate that we will be in the final construction phase during the Spring of 2023 and will install the walk-in cooler/freezer at that time. Due to the pandemic, it currently takes approximately 8 months from order to delivery to receive a walk-in cooler/freezer. Therefore, our order must be placed shortly to ensure it is available for installation after completion of our new building. The addition of the walk-in cooler/freezer will result in many short- and long-term positive results and benefits for our organization. The walk-in cooler/freezer will greatly enhance our refrigerated/frozen storage capacity and will increase efficiency in our new location. This will allow us to provide more perishable, healthy foods to a greater number of Pinellas County residents. The walk-in cooler/freezer will also minimize temperature fluctuations to help us to preserve the integrity of our products to meet health and safety guidelines. As the demand for our services continues to grow, the walk-in cooler/freezer will assist us in continuing to provide refrigerated food to families in need in Pinellas County.

Describe how your project aligns with the County's Strategic Plan: (Required)

The FEAST Walk-In Cooler/Freezer project completely aligns with the County's Strategic Plan. One goal of the Board of County Commissioners is to "deliver first class services to the public and our customers" which would be achieved through the granting of a walk-in cooler/freezer to our pantry. Our organization is currently providing food to 3,800 people suffering from food insecurity each month. We provide these families with perishable food staples such as meat, eggs,

milk, and fresh produce to help create a nutritious and balanced diet. We are delivering ‘first class service’ to our clients by providing these essential but expensive food items for their families. Our first-class service to our community would be greatly enhanced by obtaining a walk-in cooler/freezer. In addition, the FEAST Walk-In Cooler/Freezer project aligns with the Commissioners goal to “promote public health and safety”. Unfortunately, research shows that children and adults suffering from food insecurity often have longterm health consequences and negative effects on their mental and physical health. A study published last year in the Journal of the American Heart Association included more than 27,000 adults and examined the effects of food insecurity on health. Researchers found more cardiovascular disease and higher overall death rates among those reporting food insecurity. Locally, the Network to End Hunger finds that as many as 36,000 children in Pinellas County are food insecure. According to multiple studies, childhood food insecurity can result in serious consequences on physical health, academic performance, general development, and mental health. Food insecurity can cause significant psychological stress, depressive disorders, and an increase in the risk of other mental illnesses. We are improving public health by helping to prevent these potential negative consequences for Pinellas County families suffering from food insecurity.

Additional Information	MSTU_Grant_3_estimates.pdf (99 KB)
Authorized Signature (Printed Name / Title) (Required)	Tamara Black/ Executive Director
Authorization Date (Required)	07-07-2022

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