



For Immediate Release:

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Wyoming Hunger Initiative allocates \$118,400 in inaugural “flexible funding” grant to anti-hunger nonprofits

CHEYENNE, WYO - First Lady Jennie Gordon’s Wyoming Hunger Initiative, in partnership with the John P. Ellbogen Foundation, allocated \$118,400 this summer to anti-hunger organizations in the form of “unrestricted” funding defined as expenses to anti-hunger organizations that may not fit the criteria for infrastructure or food.

Wyoming Hunger Initiative prides itself on being uniquely positioned to provide the framework and foundation for successful collaborations and solutions to hunger statewide. After a series of conversations with partners at local Wyoming Hunger Initiative Regional Summits, the John P. Ellbogen Foundation came forward with their plan to support and address the needs that were identified, but lacked sources of funding. Some examples of these needs include salaries, utilities, rent, marketing, assistance with acquiring a nonprofit status, internships, communications, storage, and accounting assistance.

“The Ellbogen Foundation is delighted to work with the First Lady and the Wyoming Hunger Initiative to serve the people of Wyoming. We are so thankful for this partnership and the opportunity to provide flexible support to the many organizations in our great state that help to meet the most basic needs in communities across Wyoming” says Mary Ellbogen Garland, President and Chair of the Ellbogen Foundation.

The Flexible Funding grant dollars were intended to address one-time or extra costs or expenses facing the organizations. Grants should help organizations meet their missions by solving problems, closing gaps, and otherwise accelerating work and impact in the community. It is important that organizations share a program or operations need and coherently align a solution that requires funds.

“It’s important to me that we continue to provide the framework and foundation for successful collaborations and solutions to hunger statewide which is why the opportunity to provide additional dollars in the form of flexible funding grants was truly a Wyoming solution to a Wyoming challenge” says First Lady Jennie Gordon. “I applaud the John P. Ellbogen Foundation for developing innovative and coherent solutions for anti-hunger organizations statewide.”

Several organizations applied for the inaugural Wyoming Hunger Initiative Flexible Funding Grant and the Initiative is proud to announce that 32 applications were funded. These grant applications were reviewed by a committee that consisted of a Wyoming Governor’s Residence (Wyoming Hunger Initiative) board member, a Wyoming Hunger Initiative Regional Director, a representative from the John P. Ellbogen Foundation, and a graduate student from the University of Wyoming.

The following organizations are 2024 recipients:

- Afton Food Pantry, *Lincoln*
- Cent\$ible Nutrition Program, *Natrona*
- City Park Church, *Natrona*
- Cody Council on Aging, *Park*
- Cody Cupboard, *Park*
- Crook County Council of Community Services, *Crook*
- Edible Prairie Project, *Campbell*
- Food Bank of Sweetwater County, *Sweetwater*
- From the Heart Ministries, *Uinta*
- Good Samaritan Emergency Food Pantry, *Fremont*
- Guernsey Community Food Pantry, *Platte*
- Helping Hands at Radius Church, *Natrona*
- Holy Cross Center, Inc. *Natrona*
- Laramie Connections Center, *Albany*
- LCCC Food Pantry, *Laramie*
- Lovell Food Pantry, *Big Horn*
- Meals on Wheels of Cheyenne, *Laramie*
- Moorcroft Interfaith Community, *Crook*
- Pinedale Community Food Basket, *Sublette*
- Pushroot Community Garden, *Fremont*
- Rooted in Wyoming, *Sheridan*

Salvation Army, *Sheridan*
Salvation Army, *Campbell*
Senior Center of Jackson Hole, Inc., *Teton*
Senior Citizens Center, The Hub on Smith, *Sheridan*
South Blg Horn Senior Citizens, Inc., *Big Horn*
Ten Sleep Senior Center, *Washakie*
Thayne Community Food Bank, *Lincoln*
The Lord's Storehouse, *Uinta*
Washakie County School District #1, *Washakie*
Wright Community Assistance, *Campbell*
Wyoming Rescue Mission, *Natrona*

Wyoming Hunger Initiative is the official initiative of First Lady Jennie Gordon and is governed by the Board of Directors of the Wyoming Governor's Residence Foundation, a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All funds distributed through Wyoming Hunger Initiative are raised privately through donations. Thanks to a match from the Pace Family Foundation, Wyoming Hunger Initiative was able to fund an additional \$100,000 in grants statewide.

About Wyoming Hunger Initiative

Wyoming Hunger Initiative seeks to find and support Wyoming solutions to the challenge of food insecurity, which affects approximately 86,000 residents statewide. Launched in October 2019, Wyoming Hunger Initiative is the official initiative of Wyoming's First Lady Jennie Gordon and is governed by the Board of Directors of the Wyoming Governor's Residence Foundation, a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. For more information, visit www.nohungerwyo.org.

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