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| 2024–25 Community food relief program local grants |
| Grant recipients |
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The organisations who received grants are listed in the table below.

| Organisation | Project summary | LGAs project will reach |
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| Alphington Community Centre | Introduce community dinners and lunches to strengthen existing food relief programs, supported through the community garden and urban orchard. | Darebin |
| Ararat Neighbourhood House Inc. | Purchase and install a cool room for increased capacity and improved management and distribution of perishable food supplies, reduce waste and improve efficiency. | Ararat |
| Aspendale Gardens Community Service Inc. | Provide weekly fruit and vegetable food relief to targeted participants of existing programs, including older people and children. Deliver community education and volunteer training. | Kingston (Vic.) |
| Australia Hindu Maha Sabha Inc | Source nutritious and culturally-appropriate food from local suppliers, and package for distribution to vulnerable individuals and families through community partners and food hubs. Includes reimbursement of volunteer expenses. | Hobsons Bay; Maribyrnong; Wyndham |
| Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House Inc. | Create a food distribution hub. Enhance relationships with local suppliers and farmers to access fresh produce, and with nearby community organisations to distribute supplies. Includes increased storage capacity and additional shelving for food pantry, and food purchasing. | East Gippsland |
| Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council | In partnership with Food is Free and Ballarat Community Garden, deliver immediate culturally-appropriate food relief and expand community gardening programs to include culturally-specific crops and training to foster longer-term resilience and food access. | Ballarat |
| Banksia Gardens Community Centre | Purchase a new fridge and freezer, and additional food, to increase food pantry operations and distribute healthy and nutritious food parcels to more families. Includes transport costs to support clients with reduced mobility. | Hume |
| Banyule Support and Information Centre Inc | Provide healthy snacks at existing homework club and playgroup programs, and culturally-specific emergency food relief packs for families. Deliver culturally-appropriate cooking demonstrations led by members of the Somali community. | Banyule |
| Bayside Community Care Inc | Purchase a commercial fridge and additional food to help meet increased demand. | Bayside; Kingston |
| Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House | Deliver a range of food relief activities for public housing communities in Richmond and Collingwood, including school holiday meals; culturally-appropriate food parcels; seniors support; and meals programs. Partnership with Cultivating Community to deliver community education and fresh food supply. | Yarra |
| Bellarine Living and Learning Centre (Whittington Neighbourhood House) | Purchase new freezers for enhanced food storage and additional food supplies. Deliver community cooking and kitchen skills programs. | Greater Geelong |
| Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative | Continue employment of a coordinator to maintain and expand the foodshare program, including community engagement, food sourcing and pantry management, and client deliveries. Includes some food purchasing for quality nutritious items. | Greater Bendigo; Mount Alexander |
| Birallee Park Neighborhood House | Develop a co-op model of food relief across five Wodonga neighbourhood houses. Improved collaboration and sharing of facilities and resources across community programs, including volunteer skills. Capacity building at each site, such as freezers, garden beds, storage, and equipment. | Wodonga |
| Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service | Provide food vouchers for people with emergency food access needs and distribute school holiday hampers to support extended care needs and kinship networks. Includes a 'cooking on the move' skills program for meal preparation in insecure and temporary housing. | Knox; Manningham; Maroondah; Monash; Whitehorse; Yarra Ranges |
| CareNet Ltd | Restore food distribution services across Banyule, whilst maintaining current support to Manningham and Nillumbik. Includes food purchasing, enhanced logistics, community engagement and new partnerships, and related support for local community organisations. | Banyule; Manningham; Nillumbik |
| CareWorks SunRanges | Expand current food pantry service with more nutritional food options and proteins, and maintain supply of staples; and introduce a community lunch program. | Hume |
| Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre | Design and deliver a food relief market program, including deep engagement on culturally-appropriate food items, food purchasing and coordination. Develop a supporting recipe book and directory of local services. | Melbourne; Yarra |
| Castlemaine Community House | Deliver a collaborative project across three elements - food purchasing for existing Food Pantries; a Food Relief Network to strengthen systems, collaboration, and data; and Harvest Program to coordinate the supply and distribution of fresh seasonal produce from local farms. | Mount Alexander |
| Centre for Participation | Install a walk-in cool room to increase food storage and distribution capacity, and support a Wimmera region systems approach. | Ararat; Buloke; Hindmarsh; Horsham; Northern Grampians; West Wimmera; Yarriambiack |
| Cheltenham Community Centre | In partnership with Southern Community Church of Christ, purchase food to expand existing meals and food parcel programs; increase staffing to strengthen community consultation, supplier relationships, volunteer recruitment and training; and upgrade kitchens with new equipment and air conditioning. | Bayside (Vic.); Kingston (Vic.) |
| Chevra Hatzolah Melbourne | Provide food vouchers for families in immediate need of food assistance, to be delivered via existing community first responders program. | Bayside; Glen Eira; Kingston ; Port Phillip; Stonnington |
| Cobram Community House Inc. | Provide food parcels and frozen meals for people in need, with a new microwave for use by the community. Cooking workshops will include take-home ingredient packs. Includes food purchasing, training for volunteers, and community BBQs for social connection. | Moira |
| Colac Area Health (Colac Neighbourhood House) | Expand community garden to increase supply of seasonal produce. Deliver community education and budget-friendly cooking program with supply of nutritious ingredients, including seasonal produce. | Colac Otway |
| Common Ground Project | Continue delivery of food knowledge programs that support migrant and refugee women with growing and cooking cultural foods, and produce culturally appropriate meals for distribution by local food relief agencies. | Greater Geelong; Surf Coast |
| Community Support Frankston | Purchase additional meals from Meals on Wheels to expand delivery of the new Feed Frankston initiative. | Frankston |
| Corinella & District Community Centre Inc. | Purchase new efficient refrigeration, storage and cooking equipment for community pantry and lunch programs. Food purchasing to increase provisions through food pantry and supply of fresh food options. | Bass Coast |
| Cornerstone Contact Centre Inc. | Expand current meal program with extra community meal times per week, and increased food parcel capacity, providing fresh fruit, vegetables and bread, and culturally appropriate non-perishable food. | Greater Dandenong |
| Cranbourne Community House | Purchase storage equipment and food staples to expand food pantry operations, while developing sustainable strategies to continue offering the service in the longer-term. | Casey |
| Creswick Neighbourhood Centre Inc | Expand capacity of existing food pantry, hampers, and cooked meals programs - recruit and train volunteers, additional equipment, and storage. Provide vouchers and transport for community members to use at Foodbank's Ballarat Community Food Centre. | Hepburn |
| Crossenvale Community Group Incorporated | Upgrade kitchen to improve safety and capacity, including commercial fridge and freezer, benches, and storage; additional food purchasing; delivery of cooking and nutrition education, and food safety training for community members and volunteers. | Campaspe |
| Dallas Neighbourhood House Inc | Upgrade kitchen and storage to strengthen existing food relief program; food purchase and transport for additional food parcels to meet mobility, dietary and cultural needs, and an additional weekly community meal. | Hume |
| Darebin Information Volunteer Resource Service | Purchase new freezer and increase supply of fresh healthy food through existing food sharing program; develop and strengthen partnerships to improve local food relief and donations. | Darebin |
| Darley Neighbourhood House and Learning Centre | Purchase seasonal fruit and vegetables through local growers, for provision through take home food parcels and community cooking classes. Staff and volunteer training to enhance support for vulnerable community members. | Moorabool |
| Deans Marsh Community Cottage | Source additional food from regional providers to increase capacity of existing programs - monthly community dinners and distribution of frozen meals; provide training for volunteers. | Surf Coast |
| Djerriwarrh Employment & Education Services | Deliver a food swaps program including free produce from the community garden. Skill-building through horticultural and cooking workshops focussed on preparing nutritious meals and using garden produce. | Melton |
| Donald Learning Group Inc | Purchase additional food and gift cards for use at local butcher and supermarkets; freezer and equipment to enhance safety and efficiency for food pantry and hampers programs. | Buloke |
| Doveton Neighbourhood Learning Centre | Expand the existing community meals program, provision of food parcels and purchase of culturally-appropriate proteins. Kitchen upgrades to increase capacity for fresh and frozen food donations. | Casey; Greater Dandenong |
| Dromana Community House Inc | Upgrade kitchen to enhance food relief provision and establish a community café offering mid-week lunches. | Mornington Peninsula |
| Duke Street Community House | Continue delivery of market-style food relief program for 12 months, including staff costs, food purchasing and transport, volunteer and program management expenses, and purchase of new fridge/freezer. | Brimbank; Maribyrnong |
| Dunolly & District Neighbourhood Centre Inc | Renovate ageing kitchen space, including new cabinets and movable island, to enable on-site cooking of meals for food relief using end-of-life food pantry items. | Central Goldfields |
| Eaglehawk Community House Inc | Enhance facilities and culturally-appropriate food relief with Bendigo Filipino Foundation and Indian Association of Bendigo. Includes kitchen upgrades, supporting a new community café and soup kitchen, community education and Christmas meals programs. | Greater Bendigo |
| Flowerdale Community House Inc | Expand food relief program to include a weekly dinner, increase lunch group delivery, provision of take-home meals, and cooking and nutrition classes for young people during school holidays. Replace broken or ageing kitchen appliances. | Murrindindi |
| Follow Bless Collective | Establish a community garden for sustainable fresh produce; purchase and distribute additional culturally appropriate panty items with eco-friendly containers. | Cardinia |
| Forrest & District Neighbourhood House | Purchase equipment and materials to enhance kitchen facilities, community garden and pantry storage. Needs assessment and strategic planning, as well as food purchasing and provision of vouchers to meet current demand. | Colac Otway |
| Foundation Murrindindi | Upgrade existing food share facilities to store food more effectively and potentially expand food relief offerings. Provide additional staff hours to strengthen program delivery, develop partnerships and support collaboration with other local food relief organisations. | Murrindindi |
| Gathering Place | Expand food access for First Nations participants through additional food purchasing. The project will also offer cooking classes, preserve traditional recipes, and upskill volunteers in food handling and cultural competency. | Latrobe |
| Glen Park Community Centre Inc | Purchase commercial kitchen equipment and supplies to enhance food relief capacity and safety; and deliver a food relief program for registered jobseekers. Includes provision of supermarket vouchers, outreach, volunteer management and fuel reimbursement costs. | Knox; Maroondah; Yarra Ranges |
| Glenroy Neighbourhood Learning Centre | Continue providing weekly food pantry and ready-made meals programs, including costs of coordination, food purchasing, volunteer training and reimbursements. | Moreland |
| Greenhills Neighbourhood House | Purchase additional culturally-appropriate food and deliver catered community meal programs. Enhance community pantry program with cooking demonstrations and social opportunities to build community resilience. | Banyule; Nillumbik |
| Halal Food Bank Melbourne | Source and distribute halal food items to individuals and families in need. | Melbourne; Monash; Moreland; Whitehorse; Whittlesea; Wyndham; Yarra |
| Hare Krishna Food For Life | Provide nutritious, culturally-appropriate vegetarian and vegan meals to international students and new immigrants, with weekly meal distributions through a new Food Truck across four LGAs. | Melbourne; Port Phillip; Casey; Wyndham |
| Indigeekare Services Pty Ltd | Enhance new premises to expand food relief services, including shelving, fridges and freezers for storage, planter boxes for indigenous herbs and produce, baskets and bags. Employ a part-time indigenous program worker, and provide vouchers for access additional food via the Food Share supermarket. | Wodonga |
| Kensington Neighbourhood House (KNH) | Expand and diversify food security programs in response to community needs. Includes new food voucher program, extended hours for community pantry service, and expanding community meals program beyond seniors to other public housing residents. | Melbourne |
| Khalsa Shaouni Inc. | Provide food and grocery hampers to under-served community members and engage volunteers to deliver meals. | Brimbank; Melton; Wyndham |
| Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House | Upgrades to community garden, and food pantry with new refrigeration and storage. Food purchasing for meals program and pantry to increase nutritional and diverse food options. Includes food safety training for volunteers. | Murrindindi |
| Knox Infolink Inc | In partnership with Outer East Foodshare, install a cool room to expand local capacity for food relief distribution. Provide a pool of trained volunteers for local organisations to support warm referrals and advice for food relief recipients; and purchase additional food for delivery of breakfast program. | Knox |
| Koha Community Café | Trial a fuel reimbursement program to strengthen volunteer engagement, and introduce a food preservation program to increase food pantry capacity and reduce waste from seasonal gluts. | Yarra Ranges |
| Kyneton Community House | Enhance program delivery, including options for those unable to attend in person and increase meal production. Includes upgrading kitchen equipment, volunteer recruitment and training, community education and improved local partnerships. | Macedon Ranges |
| Lalor Neighbourhood House | Engage a Project/Volunteer Coordinator to enhance program delivery; purchase food for halal food packages and weekly community lunch; deliver a cooking program; and provide food safety training for staff and volunteers. | Whittlesea |
| Link Neighbourhood House | Establish new community garden beds to grow fresh produce and support existing food pantry and ready-made meals programs. | West Wimmera |
| Living and Learning at Ajani Inc | Partner with Warrandyte Neighbourhood House to increase availability of culturally appropriate pantry staples for multicultural and First Nations community members. Establish a community garden with produce used in cooking programs for low-income households. | Manningham |
| Living Learning Pakenham Inc. | Provide culturally-appropriate food packs and community grocer gift cards. Deliver workshops on growing food and budgeting and engage with multicultural communities to source additional culturally appropriate food items. | Cardinia |
| Maffra Neighbourhood House | Expand community garden and purchase food to supplement donations for the food pantry and hampers; purchase kitchen equipment to support community lunches and education programs. | Wellington |
| Manna Gum Community House Inc | Upgrade kitchen to enhance food provision through existing food bank and meals programs. Review of existing food programs and planning to meet ongoing community needs. Includes training for staff and volunteers. | South Gippsland |
| Marrar Woorn Neighbourhood House | Purchase additional food to support program delivery; enhance facilities, storage, and equipment, and engage a dedicated staff resource to develop systems for future sustainability; increase volunteer and staff capacity and training. | Colac Otway |
| Milpara Community House Inc | Enhance layout to improve storage capacity and enable bulk purchases and increased local produce donations. Develop resources for people with low literacy, and training for community members and volunteers to increase capacity to make nutritious meals. | South Gippsland |
| Montrose Community Cupboard | Upgrade food storage facilities and expand delivery of food relief programs including community meals, food pantry and markets. Includes volunteer training and fuel reimbursements. | Yarra Ranges |
| Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre | Continue delivery of free food and meals programs; and establish a robust community model, including needs assessment, volunteer training, and strengthening local partnerships. | Greater Shepparton |
| Myrtleford Neighbourhood Centre | In partnership with King Valley Learning Exchange, expand community garden and upgrade kitchen to increase capacity to store produce and support cooking of meals on-site. Food purchasing for program delivery, and community education on growing and preparing food. | Alpine; Wangaratta |
| Nairm Marr Djambana | Provide nutritious, culturally-appropriate meals for Elders and community members in need, and delivery of online family cooking classes and life skills for youth. Includes training for staff and volunteers. | Frankston; Kingston (Vic.); Mornington Peninsula |
| Norlane Community Centre | Continue delivery of existing meals program; and engage a community facilitator to enhance program delivery and sustainability, including partnership development, consultation, and co-design of effective, user-centric activities. | Greater Geelong |
| Notting Hill Neighbourhood House | Upgrade kitchen to enhance capacity, efficiency, and safety, including new sink, appliances, storage, equipment, and supplies; purchasing of food for community meals and food parcels; volunteer training and fuel reimbursements. | Monash |
| Nourishing Neighbours | Upgrade facilities for dry and cold storage, including a new cool room, shelving and equipment, and to improve client dignity and volunteer efficiency. Includes some purchasing of culturally appropriate food. | Brimbank; Darebin; Hume; Moonee Valley; Moreland; Whittlesea |
| Numurkah Community Learning Centre | Train and upskill volunteers to prepare easy and nutritious meal packs for community members to take home. | Moira |
| Olympic Village Exodus Community | Continue delivery of weekly drop-in meal service for local residents experiencing food insecurity. | Banyule |
| Prahran Place Ltd | Purchase a freezer to increase storage capacity and equipment for safe and efficient handling of heavy food items; and provide food vouchers for clients to purchase essential items from local stores. | Stonnington |
| Pulse with Purpose Inc. | Continue delivery of halal-friendly meals program for individuals and families experiencing hardship in Tarneit. | Wyndham |
| Quantin Binnah Community Centre | Source and purchase additional food for community food pantry, fresh food parcels and daily breakfast club programs. Includes additional storage. | Wyndham |
| Reservoir Neighbourhood House Inc | Purchase food for delivery of community meals and continue delivery of community cooking program. Includes additional kitchen equipment and packaging supplies, and volunteer transport costs. | Darebin |
| Rochester Community House | In partnership with Gigarre Community House, purchase food and equipment to grow and store greater quantities of fresh produce and expand cooking programs - with provision of support across three regional towns. Includes sustainability planning and volunteer training. | Campaspe |
| Rye Community House | Build a custom outside food-safe cupboard and purchase a portable fridge/freezer; provide a community lunch prepared by participants; and deliver food security training for volunteers. | Mornington Peninsula |
| Seymour & District Community House Inc. | Establish a large-scale dedicated food pantry and storage facility, providing a reliable and accessible food hub supporting the Seymour Food Relief Collaborative. | Mitchell |
| Soul food Program Incorporated | Purchase new kitchen equipment; and enhance delivery of community meals program with provision of take-home bags of fruit and vegetables for attendees. | Melton; Moorabool |
| South East Community Links | Expand existing food pantries with additional storage capability, and the purchase and transport of more culturally-appropriate food items. Provide food vouchers for use at local grocery stores and the Dandenong Market. | Greater Dandenong |
| South Shepparton Community House | Purchase kitchen equipment; expand delivery of food relief program through food purchasing, distribution costs and support services; and host a monthly community lunch. | Greater Shepparton |
| Springvale Learning and Activities Centre | Develop a strategic plan through community co-design to improve food relief delivery and outcomes. A short-term project worker will focus on sustainability through volunteer engagement, partnership development and improving operational systems. | Greater Dandenong |
| Springvale Neighbourhood House | Implement a community-led Friday Food Club for participants to share knowledge and develop skills, while preparing nutritious meals that they can take home. | Greater Dandenong |
| St. Arnaud Neighbourhood House Inc | Expand delivery of community cooking and take-home meals program and provide food parcels and vouchers. | Northern Grampians |
| Sunbury Aboriginal Corporation | Establish two community food pantries across Sunbury, and host fortnightly food markets, allowing residents to purchase affordable, fresh, nutritious produce. Provision of grocery vouchers. | Hume |
| Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc (SMECC) | Expand culturally-appropriate food relief services across Mildura and into Swan Hill LGA, including additional food relief packages and grocery gift cards for locally-owned ethnic stores, engaging new volunteers and empowering community members with practical skills. | Mildura; Swan Hill |
| Sustain: The Australian Food Network | Expand culturally-appropriate food relief services across Mildura and into Swan Hill LGA, including additional food relief packages and grocery gift cards for locally-owned ethnic stores, engaging new volunteers and empowering community members with practical skills. | Darebin |
| Sustainable King Valley | Establish a new community food hub with increased capacity and storage and expanded opening hours; and upgrade kitchen facilities at King Valley Children's Services to support community meals and workshops. | Wangaratta |
| The Earth Village Community Ltd | Restore in-house meals service and increase capacity to meet takeaway demand, by installing donated commercial ovens, repair and upgrade kitchen preparation areas, and adding stainless steel benches. | Melton |
| The Give Where You Live Inc. | Deliver additional 'Community Choice' food vouchers through existing partner network; identify new food merchants to provide more food options for beneficiaries including dietary needs and culturally-appropriate food; and strengthen partner capability to provide wrap-around supports. | Colac Otway; Golden Plains; Greater Geelong; Queenscliffe; Surf Coast |
| The Grain Shed Church of Christ Swan Hill | Expand delivery of food hampers within the community. Includes purchase of additional food and packaging supplies. | Swan Hill |
| The Sephardi Association of Victoria | Continue delivery of community lunches and food packs, including for seniors and clients with limited mobility. Includes provision for strategic planning. | Glen Eira; Port Phillip |
| The Venny Inc | Expand meals program as part of the Cubbies drop-in play sessions, increasing the quality and volume of food provided, including for families to take home. | Yarra |
| Transit Soup Kitchen and Food Support | Enhance food storage capacity and operational efficiency by installing space-saving and flexible food storage solutions and modern communications equipment, alongside improved volunteer training. | Casey |
| Waminda Community House | Create a coordinated community model to strengthen food relief and food security efforts in Benalla and enhance access to nutritious food. Includes partnerships, and purchase of equipment to increase capacity to cook and store food and support volunteers. | Benalla |
| Warracknabeal Neighbourhood House and learning Centre Inc | Build community resilience through education and programs, including cooking and food growing skills; enhance storage for food pantry and community garden; provide food vouchers for access to additional culturally-appropriate food from local supermarkets. | Horsham; Yarriambiack |
| Warrnambool Neighbourhood & Community Centre Inc. | Expand the food pantry program, providing hampers and perishable items to community members in need. Kitchen upgrades and delivery of workshops on food literacy, meal planning and cooking skills. | Warrnambool |
| Wellsprings for Women | Provide food vouchers and support women (particularly from refugee and migrant backgrounds) to access the 'Grow Green' community gardening plots to grow and harvest fresh food. | Greater Dandenong |
| Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre | Engage project workers to enhance existing services for longer-term sustainable approaches to food relief and food security, leveraging social enterprise kitchen model. Includes food purchasing to support delivery. | Ballarat |
| Whittlesea Community Connections | Expand delivery of community lunches through the Food Collective Café and provision of fresh produce boxes. Provide warm referrals to other support services for food relief recipients. | Whittlesea |
| Whittlesea Community House inc | Establish a local food cooperative to obtain fresh food in bulk and distribute to local families and individuals, prepare, and distribute frozen meals, and engage secondary students in volunteer activities. Includes community education in sustainable cooking. | Whittlesea |
| Winchelsea Community House | Expand food pantry program through kitchen and building upgrades and purchase of culturally appropriate food; deliver cooking and gardening programs, co-designed with community. | Surf Coast |
| Wingate Avenue Community Centre | Continue delivery of food relief Monday Markets, providing pantry items, fresh produce, and halal meals. Includes food purchasing and staffing for coordination and warm referrals to other programs and services. | Moonee Valley |
| Wyndham Park Community Centre | Deliver community lunches in partnership with Wyndham Women’s Support Group; purchase additional produce for food pantries; and expand community garden facilities to produce a greater variety of fresh, culturally-appropriate, and healthy produce. | Wyndham |
| Yarram Neighbourhood House Inc | Purchase food for community meals and food pantry programs and enhance pantry storage; expand community gardens with new beds and shade structure for workshops. Includes volunteer training and community education. | Wellington |
| Yarrawonga Mulwala Community & Learning Centre | Increase capacity and sustainability through strengthened volunteer engagement, youth-specific and youth-led programs; purchase a fridge and core chilled produce; expand community garden for supply of nutritionally and locally grown fresh food. | Moira |
| Yarrunga Community Centre Inc | Purchase a commercial dishwasher to improve efficiency and safety and establish a community garden program to grow fresh healthy produce for food relief programs. | Maroondah |

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