

City of Lawrence Outside Agency Annual Report For Calendar Year 2021

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Danielle Buschkoetter, at dbuschkoetter@lawrenceks.org by 5:00pm on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. To answer the following questions please refer to your [2021 application/agreement for funding](#).

Reporting Period: Calendar Year 2021

Agency Name: Just Food of Douglas County, KS

1. Refer to the program in which your agency received funding; provide a participant success story that helps demonstrate the accomplishments of the program.

Just Food received 2021 funding from the City of Lawrence to provide access to healthy food. Increasing access to healthy food in communities is a tried and true evidence-based practice that has proven successful in communities for decades especially when paired with nutrition education such as what Just Food provides. Research shows that increased healthy food access increases fruit and vegetable consumption, improves diet quality, and increases food security. Just Food is the food, diaper, and period supply bank of Douglas County, Kansas, serving 15,000 to 20,000 individuals annually with food and essential everyday supplies.

Just Food's mission is to end hunger in the community by increasing access to healthy foods, reducing barriers to health and well-being, and cultivating self-sufficiency. This work is accomplished in Just Food's main direct service pantry, as well as with 30+ area partner agencies working within the local food system. Partner agencies work as a network of satellite pantries that serve specific vulnerable populations experiencing barriers in reaching Just Food's location, all in order to provide fresh, healthy foods at no cost. These partner agencies include Bert Nash Homeless Outreach, the Lawrence Community Shelter, The Ballard Center, Lecompton Food Pantry, and the Eudora Food Pantry, among others. These pantries are in addition to Just Food's mobile food pantry, 17 school food pantries, two university food pantries, and a food pantry at Heartland Community Health Center. Before March of 2020, there were 19,000 Douglas County residents who were classified as food insecure according to Feeding America. At the peak of COVID-19 pandemic, Douglas County experienced growth in food insecurity by 44%. Now, Douglas County is seeing an increase in food insecurity by 20% for adults and 30% for children compared to 2019. This has made a significant impact on individuals in our community, and this is evident by the following feedback received in its latest annual survey.

"Just food does a great job over the years every year growing beautifully thank u for all u do for a lot of people especially during pandemic, thank you so much"

"Thank you so much for what you do for the community. You have helped my family through one of the toughest times. After Covid and long-term unemployment as a direct result, Just Food kept food on the table. The holiday packages were also much appreciated. I see all the hard work people put into their jobs there."

"I am grateful to you. I am a single mother and I don't have any income. I am grateful to you. Just only because of your support we are passing a great time in Lawrence. Thanks a lot."

2. Refer to your 2021 agreement for funding; provide a brief narrative of the activities funded with City funds.

Just Food distributes a weekly, total-choice food allocation directly to thousands of individuals who are in need of food assistance all across Douglas County. This distribution takes place from Just Food’s main food pantry in Lawrence, as well as through its network of 30+ satellite pantries, the Cruising Cupboard (Just Food’s mobile pantry), and Classroom Cupboards, Just Food’s pantries in schools. The Cruising Cupboard regularly visits Baldwin City, Eudora, Lecompton, and various locations in Lawrence in order to reach more individuals who may not be able to easily travel. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Just Food also began weekly home delivery services, a program that has continued for individuals who are disabled, homebound, or are quarantining for COVID-19 exposure or diagnosis. At the core of this distribution model is increasing access to healthy foods to anyone in the county expressing a need for food assistance, and providing an ample supply of food to ensure they will not go hungry and can provide meals for all of their household family members. Just Food also offers educational cooking classes (Just Cook), plots to grow one’s own food (Just Grow), a culinary training program (KitchenWorks), as well as allotments of kitchen supplies (Pots & Pan-try) and diapers and menstrual products (Just Basics). These programs are all designed to increase the self-sufficiency of Just Food’s clients.

3. Refer to your 2021 agreement for funding; report what progress was made toward your proposed outcomes and comment as necessary.

Outcomes	List 2021 outcomes from agreement	Comment as necessary
Outcome #1	Establish and maintain at least one additional senior/assisted living facility pantry.	Just Food has maintained a partnership with Prairie Ridge with its existing food pantry. Additionally, Just Food works with Bert Nash, Senior Resource Center and Midland Care to provide home delivery service to vulnerable populations. In 2021, 7% of those who received services from Just Food were seniors.
Outcome #2	Increase food distribution service by 15% at local grade schools through the Classroom Cupboard program.	Just Food saw a 183% increase in food distributed through the Classroom Cupboard Program. This increase is a result of an increase in the number of schools participating as well as the reopening of schools and greater access to those pantries.
Outcome #3	Increase home delivery service by 25%.	In 2021, Just Food performed 3,444 home deliveries to vulnerable families in the community. This includes people who are homebound, immunocompromised or quarantining due to COVID-19. This is a 13% increase from the number of home deliveries performed in 2020. The goal of a 25% increase in home deliveries was not met due to more individuals being more protected thanks to COVID-19 vaccine availability, so they were able to shop the food pantry in person.

4. Refer to the line-item budget provided in your 2021 application for funding; is this accurate to how your allocation was actually spent? If no, what changed and why?

Budget Categories	Requested Amount	Actual Amount	Comment as necessary
Personnel	\$10,000	\$10,000	No changes made
Fees & Services			
Estimates/Bids			
Travel	\$5,000	\$5,000	No changes made
Marketing			
Cost of Materials			
Operating Expenses	\$10,000	\$10,000	No changes made
Other	\$25,000	\$25,000	Food Purchases: No changes made
Grand Total			