

Dean Foods Foundation
Grant Guidelines

Mission

At the Dean Foods Foundation, we support organizations and programs that ensure children in our communities have access to the healthy foods they need to grow and thrive, and that enhance their understanding of the importance of a balanced, nutritious diet – now and throughout their lives.

Programs

*Ending Childhood Hunger**: More than 12 million American children are living with hunger. In addition to devastating physical effects, research shows that hungry children suffer developmentally. Even mild hunger during critical growth periods impacts young children's behavior, school performance and cognitive development. As a leading producer of healthy food products, we feel obligated to provide children with nutritious food. We support programs and organizations that work to prevent childhood hunger and its effects, and provide hungry kids with access to healthy foods.

Teaching the Value of Nutrition: While millions of children live with hunger, many more suffer from the effects of poor nutrition. Nutrition-related health issues that once were considered adult concerns, including diabetes, heart disease and obesity, are now prevalent among our nation's children. They affect the physical health, development and academic performance of future generations. We believe a healthy diet that emphasizes nutrition, balance and moderation is essential for kids to live healthy and successful lives. We support organizations that teach at-risk children and youth the importance of maintaining a nutritious diet.

For both program areas, we focus on organizations benefiting children and youth, age birth to 18 years.

* Hunger is defined as lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life; also, limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods (Source: Feeding America/USDA).

Criteria

Dean Foods Foundation supports organizations that:

1. Are engaged in programs falling clearly under one or both of our program areas
2. Are charitable in purpose
3. Are established 501(c)(3)s, or are fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3)
4. Have a broad purpose and impact (are not just for personal benefit)
5. Are sustainable (have other sources of funding and are financially stable)
6. Are effective (have a history of excellence and credibility in the field)
7. Have been operating and providing relevant programs/services for at least three years
8. Operate in compliance with Dean Foods' non-discrimination policy
9. Impact the Dallas, Texas, area (home to our corporate headquarters) or are national in scope

Ineligible Organizations/Projects

Dean Foods Foundation does not fund the following:

- Direct support, including scholarships and travel funds, for individuals or families
- Religious or faith-based organizations, unless their outreach programs are offered to the general population, do not promote a specific religion or faith, AND have established a separate 501(c)(3) organization to operate the funded program(s).
- Film, music, television, video or media production, or broadcast underwriting
- Capital campaigns or endowments
- Operating support for schools or colleges/universities
- Athletic teams and fraternal, veteran, social, alumni or labor organizations (university alumni groups, sororities/fraternities, labor unions, exclusive membership clubs, etc.)
- Political campaigns or lobbying organizations, or organizations supporting the candidacy of a particular individual
- Sponsorship of fundraising events, including benefit dinners, auctions, sports competitions, etc. or goodwill advertising
- Activities of organizations serving primarily their own membership
- Organizations that are contrary in mission to Dean Foods Company

Terms

During its two annual grant cycles, Dean Foods Foundation typically provides one-year grants to select organizations. The Foundation understands that childhood hunger and nutrition education programs take time to bear fruit. As such, it considers renewal grants to existing grantees based on continued adherence to Dean Foods' criteria, continued organizational effectiveness, and a high level of performance with the funds previously granted. The Foundation is also committed to funding new endeavors and may adapt its program focus areas from time to time, so there are no guarantees of ongoing funding. On an exceptional basis, we make multi-year grants.

Instructions

Please refer to the following calendar for deadlines and a general timeline of this process.

For unsolicited inquiries:

Interested organizations that meet the criteria of the Deans Foods Foundation should fill out the Letter of Inquiry (LOI) form completely and concisely. Submissions exceeding the one-page narrative limit will not be considered. Completed LOIs should be emailed to Dean Foods Foundation at giving@deanfoods.com. Pending availability of funds, LOI applicants that best meet the criteria and further the mission of the Dean Foods Foundation will be invited to complete a grant application. No phone calls, please.

For invited applications:

Invited applicants will receive separate instructions at the time of the invitation. Completed applications should address all questions posed and include all requested documents.

Dean Foods Foundation Annual Grantmaking Calendar

Process	Spring Dates	Fall Dates
Letter of Inquiry (LOI) Due	No Later than March 31	No Later than Sept. 30
9-Month Progress Reports Due from Existing Grantees	No Later than March 31	No Later than Sept. 30
Invitation to Complete Grant Application	Notification by April 15	Notification by Oct. 15
Grant Application Completed	No Later than May 15	No Later than Nov. 15
Award Letters Issued	By June 15	By Dec. 15
Grants Disbursed	By June 30	By Dec. 31

¹According to Feeding America, 2009. Hunger is defined as being without consistent access to enough food for a healthy, active life.