



**1—Project Name:** Hunger Offering Network

**2—If this grant is being requested on behalf of an external organization, what is that organization's name and connection with Texas Baptists?**

N/A

**3—Please request the minimum amount needed—with a maximum of \$20,000 possible—in order to accomplish the project's goals.**

\$20,000.00 (*budget attached*)

**4—Overview: Give a one paragraph description of the project.**

With Texas now leading the nation in food insecurity and the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex ranking 3rd in the nation of metropolitan areas with highest food insecurity rates (just after Los Angeles and New York City), we are in deep need of a collaborative response to addressing hunger in our state and beyond. Texas Baptists provide prepared meals, pack sack lunches, distribute groceries through food drives and food pantries, and so much more to live out the missional lifestyle of Matthew 25 to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty. The Hunger Offering Network has historically strengthened advocacy to increase awareness of hunger needs; however, now more than ever, we need a concerted effort to collaborate and strengthen communities to end hunger. The Hunger Offering Network proposes a new collective impact approach to asset map hunger initiatives among Texas Baptists to organize and elevate community missions. Additionally, we will place a stronger emphasis on missions education and equip churches to engage with area hunger relief ministries.

**5—STRATEGIC: How will this project make Texas Baptists stronger?**

Texas Baptist churches are carrying out great work in the area of hunger relief and these ministries oftentimes operate in silos. We have had churches reach out to our Director of Hunger and Care Ministries to ask how they can be identified as a Texas Baptist Hunger Offering ministry but not receive funding. They are interested in the Hunger Offering network of shared experiences and to promote stronger community development with other area Texas Baptist hunger relief ministries. Additionally, we have Texas Baptist churches who reach out wanting to connect with area hunger relief ministries but we are limited to the knowledge of the ministries who receive funds from the Texas Baptist Hunger Offering. Maintaining a network of Texas Baptist hunger relief ministries will be helpful to strengthen community missions collaboration among our Texas Baptist churches.

The proposed Hunger Offering Network initiative will 1) identify and connect with all Texas Baptist churches who have a current hunger relief ministry; 2) assess interest in and active

collaboration with area hunger relief initiatives for each ministry; 3) educate ministries on the collective impact of systemic responses to hunger; and 4) promote the collective Texas Baptist response to feeding the hungry in our state that ranks highest in the nation for food insecurity.

#### **6—SIGNIFICANT: What is the anticipated long-term impact of this project?**

Missional lifestyle requires a daily commitment to living propelled by the Great Commandment and responding to the Great Commission. A coordinated response to feeding the hungry will strengthen Texas Baptist churches mobilized for missions. If we continue to operate in silos, unaware of our fellow ministries carrying out the mission of addressing hunger relief, we lose the opportunity to create efficient systems that truly benefit our neighbors and strengthen communities.

A Hunger Offering Network that identifies and connects Texas Baptist hunger relief ministries, despite their receiving of Texas Baptist Hunger Offering funds, will promote a greater togetherness in gospel-centered missions among our Texas Baptist churches. Additionally, a strategic approach to collaborating with area hunger relief ministries will bring efficient community development and scalable solutions to end hunger in our state.

#### **7—SUSTAINABLE: How will the grant help this project become self-supporting?**

With a more concentrated effort in strengthening the network and collaboration among Texas Baptist hunger relief ministries and educating them on the value of a systemic response to hunger, we could very well end hunger in our state and more importantly, others will see this missional service and glorify our God. When I first heard of ending hunger in our state, I thought it to be a lofty and unattainable goal. However, the more I connect with anti-hunger advocates and leaders in our Texas Baptist churches, local universities, nonprofits, farms, and other disciplines, I believe ending hunger in our state is possible through strategic scalable solutions. We cannot accept the consistent high rates of food insecurity and spin our wheels delivering the same foods in our church food pantries or sack lunches. We are called to work diligently and our God is beyond worthy of our excellence. There are strategic solutions in collaborating with area hunger relief ministries and in coordinating a strategic approach to community missions, hunger initiatives can maintain and sustain their collaborative efforts.

#### **8—INNOVATIVE: How will this project break new ground?**

This proposal strengthens Texas Baptist churches on mission through hunger relief ministries and provides a collective Texas Baptist response to hunger relief. This does not mean one response housed under Texas Baptists. On the contrary, this initiative empowers the existing area Texas Baptist hunger relief ministries to connect, learn, strategize, and strengthen their systemic response to hunger. Hunger relief ministries should want to collaborate and advocate so their ministry would no longer be needed. We are called to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty and Texas Baptists are doing just that. Unfortunately, the communication often does not exist among the area ministries and churches and we want to be part of creating those pathways.

#### **9—INVOLVING: How will the churches served by Texas Baptists be included in this project?**

Texas Baptist churches will have stronger missions engagement with hunger relief ministries and a more effective strategy to addressing community needs. This proposal will require the involvement of many of our Texas Baptist churches. Strengthening the Hunger Offering Network will allow our Texas Baptist churches to know how to better connect with area hunger relief ministries for shared experiences and missions engagement.

**How many churches will be involved?** 200+

**10—INTERESTING: How will this project produce helpful stories and encourage donor engagement for future ministry support?**

Stories on process improvement and kingdom collaboration should excite and encourage donor engagement. Hunger Offering ministries have provided opportunities for leaders such as Paul Conteh in Sierra Leone who created Agraverse, a self-sustained peanut farm, in his hometown and has now returned to Baylor University and studying in the Theology, Ecology, and Food Justice program at Truett Seminary. The Christian Life Commission and Texas Baptists Communications team regularly cover Hunger Offering stories and would be delighted to feature Hunger Offering Network stories.

**11—Has this project received previous TBMF grants? If YES, list years and amounts.**

2021 - \$20,000

2022 - \$20,000

2023 - \$15,000

2024 - \$20,000

2025 - \$20,000

**12—Is this request for an ongoing project with a new name? If YES, what was the former name of the project?**

N/A

2026 Hunger Offering Network Proposed Budget													
Budget Item	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Missions Education Materials	\$ 3,000.00			\$ 3,000.00		\$ 1,500.00							\$ 7,500.00
Public Health Intern		\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00					\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00		\$ 2,400.00
Hunger Initiative Sponsorships		\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00		\$ 600.00	\$ 3,100.00
Hunger Offering Luncheon										\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 7,000.00
													<b>\$ 20,000.00</b>