

**CITY OF DAVIS**  
**2003-2004 CDBG/HOME APPLICANT QUESTIONS WITH RESPONSES**

**Name of Organization:** Food Bank of Yolo County  
**Project Title:** Food Bank

**One agency served by the Food Bank (STEAC) also receives CDBG funds for food distribution. Is it possible that the numbers counted by the Food Bank are duplicative of those reported by STEAC?**

Yes. The Food Bank numbers are derived from reports received from the agencies we serve. Together we provide for families. The Food Bank concentrates on acquiring food in large quantities, handling much more food than smaller food closets such as STEAC would be capable.

**Do 596 individuals or households receive food each month at the three food distributions? Does only one person per household pick up food or can more than one person in a household receive food? Is it possible that people receive food at more than one distribution each month?**

The 596 individuals (200 families) that receive food at the USDA commodity distribution sites are allowed to pick up the designated commodities once a month. There is one set of commodities for each family. Larger families receive additional food as stated on a guide provided to the volunteers. A sample of the guidelines is attached. It is possible for families to go to more than one site each month. However, the sites are scheduled fairly close together and the distribution at the Davisville Apartments is primarily for the residence there (see attached schedule). While all sites are open to the public, the Davis Senior Center site is the one that receives the most requests. The other two cater to the low-income families that live at those sites. The federal government prohibits collecting information beyond the signature of each family. The signature is self-certification that they meet the income guidelines established by the federal government and they are in need of assistance. CDBG funding would aid in supplementing these commodities when possible. It would be an indirect benefit of CDBG funding.

**The proposal stated that agencies save as much as \$1,500 per month by acquiring food at the Food Bank facility. Is that \$1,500 per agency or in total for all agencies?**

The Food Bank conducted an agency survey asking them how much money they saved by acquiring food at our facility. The highest response was \$1,500 a month. The average was \$700 a month. This survey is two years old. We will be conducting another survey this year. The survey also asked what we could do to serve them better and the primary request was to provide meat. We have responded by conducting two group purchases of ground turkey and other turkey products at 50 cents a pound. We have also been instrumental in soliciting donations of meat such as hams and turkeys during the holidays.

**Many of the agencies served are residential care programs, for example, that receive funding (e.g. SSI) that is intended to cover the costs of food and rent. As noted in the application, Food Bank services to these agencies result in cost saving to those agencies that enable them to enhance their**

**programs. In this respect, therefore, CDBG funds are not, in fact, being used to meet the identified critical needs specified in the proposal -- Hunger Prevention & Homeless Prevention – but, rather, to indirectly support the other services provided by those agencies. Please comment.**

The primary mission of the Food Bank of Yolo County is to alleviate hunger and malnutrition. Therefore, our purpose is to implement that responsibility in cooperation with any agency that serves the food and nutrition needs of the needy. Many families and individuals on SSI are unable to meet the cost of living and are at risk of homelessness or doing without food. For one person if they make below \$1,044 a month, they meet the federal poverty guidelines and qualify for food distribution through USDA. The cost savings to agencies is an indirect benefit of CDBG funding. CDBG funding is spent on acquiring and distributing food. The Food Bank and other agencies are part of a network that work together to meet the needs of the chronically ill, elderly, homeless and those in crises. A food bank increases the ability of agencies to meet the needs of those seeking help. Food bank assistance by its very nature provides greater buying power and increases the number and variety of food donations available overall. It also provides infrastructure for sorting and storing food collected in food drives. Without a food bank, Yolo County agencies would have a difficult time meeting the increasing needs, which have averaged 25% annually since 1998.

**Could, e.g., CDBG funds be designated to provide additional discounts to agencies that do not receive funding to meet the food needs of their clients – e.g., homeless programs?**

Any 501(c)3 agency in Yolo County that serves the needy and has a feeding program is eligible to receive food from our warehouses. Local food drive donations, bread and produce are distributed at no cost. The 18 cents a pound may be carried in accounts receivables for agencies in financial difficulty. In the past we have provided credit to qualifying agencies. It is possible to provide credit to Davis agencies through this funding. However, because grant funding is only 30% of the estimated cost to provide 200,000 or more pounds of food to Davis agencies, we rely on income from the 18 cents a pound system established by America’s Second Harvest to pay for the balance. We do not turn away any qualifying agency and assist them whenever possible. Through the USDA commodity program, homeless onsite feeding programs can receive assistance at no cost each month and food closets can access commodities for distribution at no cost. CDBG funding is used to pay for infrastructure costs associated with acquiring and distributing food as well as some funding for direct purchase of food.

Food Bank of Yolo County Food Products will be distributed to low-income residents according to the following schedule:

Davis	Davis Senior Center	March 26	12:30 to 1:30
Davis	Davis Retirement	March 26	12 – 1 p.m.
Davis	Davisville Apts.	March 28	11:30 to 12:30

(modified: taken from hard copy which includes all locations and identification of food to be distributed)

Distribution Schedule:

Instant Milk, Dehydrated Potatoes and Spaghetti are to be distributed at the rate of one (1) per family for families of three or less; families above three, distribute two (2) per family.

All other commodities listed (Peas, Salmon, Tomatoes, Applesauce, Rice and Raisins) are to be distributed at the rate of two (2) per family for families of three or less; above three, distribute three (3) per family.