



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

**CAMPUS  
SUSTAINABILITY FUND**

## Campus Pantry Reusable Bags

### **Grant Type**

Mini Grant

### **Application Type**

Final Application

### **Project Manager 1 Name**

Daniel Gallardo

### **Project Manager 1 Status**

Student

### **Project Manager 1 Email**

danielgallardo@arizona.edu

### **Project Manager 1 Department**

Associated Students of the University of Arizona

### **Project Manager 2 Name**

Pete McGraw

### **Project Manager 2 Email**

pmcgraw@arizona.edu

### **Project Manager 2 Status**

Staff

### **Project Manager 2 Department**

Associated Students of the University of Arizona

### **Project Manager 2 Role**

Back-up

### **Project Advisor Name**

### **Project Advisor Email**

## **Project Advisor Department**

### **Fiscal Officer**

Estella Trevers

### **Fiscal Officer Email**

etrevers@arizona.edu

### **Fiscal Officer Department Name**

Associated Students of the University of Arizona

## **Requested Funding Amount**

*Only enter this number after completing the budget sheet (the budget template will round up your request).*

*Mini Grants may request \$250 up to \$5,000.*

*Annual Grants may request \$5,001 up to \$100,000, and up to three years of funding.*

#### **Year 1:**

\$5000

#### **Year 2:**

#### **Year 3:**

## **Project Name**

Campus Pantry Reusable Bags

## **Primary Project Category**

Food

## **Secondary Project Category**

Waste

## **Background and Context**

*Please provide relevant background about your organization/team including your mission and/or expertise. Lay out the rationale for the proposed project, focusing on the issue that your project would address. You may also share how the project is new or how it complements, builds upon, or scales existing initiatives. This section is meant to give us more information about you and the context for the project, while the questions below provide space to go into detail about your proposal's plan and specifics.*

#### **Response:**

The mission of the UA Campus Pantry is to provide supplemental groceries to students, faculty, and staff to alleviate food insecurity within our community. In our 2016 Campus Climate survey, 50% of

students reported that they often or always ate less nutritious meals due to financial constraints. The University of Arizona (UA) is located in a food desert, meaning that it is located within a geographic area where residents' access to affordable, healthy food options (especially fresh fruits and vegetables) is restricted or nonexistent due to the absence of grocery stores within convenient traveling distance. Providing students with nutrient rich foods, such as fresh produce, will increase their overall health and decrease the risk of illness which could cause them to miss work or class. Ensuring that students do not drop out of college due to issues related to food insecurity is an important part of the work of the Campus Pantry as a student cannot reach their full potential if they are distracted by being hungry or unsure when they will be able to eat next. Currently, the Campus Pantry program sees approximately 2048 users per week and distributes an average of 4836 pounds of food daily. With the Campus Pantry seeing this many users weekly, we aim to promote more sustainable methods for transporting one's goods. To accomplish this, we ask our users to bring their own reusable bags to take their items home. Although we encourage the use of reusable bags, around 80% still arrive to our space without a bag that is not their backpack. As a result, we provide plastic grocery bags and cardboard boxes if they are available, but the bags are not durable and the boxes tend to be an inconvenience as they are not as easy to carry. It is our hope to move in a direction that is more environmentally friendly, and we believe this project will assist our users by providing reusable tote bags. Of course, the impacts of this project will go beyond our space as these reusable tote bags will be utilized by our users in a variety of ways than just simply carrying goods from our distributions. We hope that these reusable tote bags increase our outreach and make students aware of the resources we provide here on campus.

With the increase in food costs and our limited program budget, our purchasing power have decreased considerably, leaving little to no discretionary funds to help implement this initiative. These funds are necessary to be able to enhance our mission of serving the community and be sustainable.

## **Project Description**

*Please provide a thorough description and explanation of your project. Be explicit in what your team is proposing. What will your project's outcomes be and how will you achieve them? Outcomes should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely.*

### **Response:**

The Campus Pantry Reusable Bags project provides those who visit the UA Campus Pantry a reusable tote bag upon request to carry the goods they receive and for personal use as well. The outcome of this project is to promote sustainability, decrease the single use plastic bags, and increase awareness of our program. We hope to provide at least 1,500 reusable bags to those who need them when visiting the Campus Pantry.

## **Timeline**

*Please provide a timeline breakdown for the key steps in your project. The timeline can be basic, but please include anticipated timeframes for each major step, including any key dates for when certain elements must start or be completed. The timeline can be in list format.*

**Response:**

October [COMPLETE]: Create design draft for bags

Mid-November: Purchase tote bags in bulk.

First Tuesday of every month (starting in December/January): Set up an information table and distribute reusable bags upon request during our TEFAP distribution hours, a collaborative distribution with the Community Foodbank of Southern Arizona. Bags will still be provided on our other distribution days, but only upon request.

## **Budget Narrative**

*Use this section to provide supplemental justification for the items you are requesting on your budget sheet. Please break down your justifications into the budget categories: Personnel or operating budget. Do not list out each expense or repeat notes made in the budget template, but instead address why the line items are being requested and the purpose they will serve, providing elaboration when necessary.*

*If you are requesting funding for personnel, use this section to elaborate on the position you are creating and how the budget and timeline was established for it. If you plan to hire students, describe in what capacity. Describe relevant details thoroughly (wages, responsibilities, duration of job, extent of involvement, how you will solicit/ market these opportunities etc.).*

*Ensure the descriptions match the line items in the budget sheet.*

*If matching or supporting funds are secured for the project, identify the source and amount in this section, and detail the impact of the matching funds on your overall budget.*

**Response:**

### **Operating Budget:**

Grocery Tote Bag w/ Reinforced Base: The only item that is being requested are the reusable tote bags that will be distributed for this project. Funds will be used to purchase at least 1500 reusable tote bags. This cost includes branding on the bags and shipping. The design of the bag (located in the Supporting Documents section) is inspired by the generic "Thank You, Have A Nice Day" bags seen in grocery stores and will include both the Campus Pantry and the CSF logo. Based on quotes from Safeguard, we will be able to safely purchase 1,500 bags, with the design printed on one side, with the requested funding amount. This will help cover not only shipping, but also the royalty costs with using a UA logo on the bag.

Safeguard has mentioned to us a potential promotion we may be able to take advantage of. Since we plan on maximizing the funds allocated to us, we may purchase more reusable bags than planned

based on if this promotion will be ongoing later this month.

## **Project Feasibility and Logistics**

*The Campus Sustainability Fund will only fund projects that have completed the necessary work to ensure they can succeed, be completed in the grant's timeline, or have an accurate budget.*

*Please provide a description of the work that has been completed so far to make this project feasible. Please provide a description of the work that has been completed so far to make this project feasible. If relevant partners have been contacted/coordinated with, please identify them in your response.*

*For example, have you received consent or authorization to complete your project (such as from Housing and Residence Life, Facilities Management, Parking and Transportation, etc.)? If you are making modifications to campus, do you have written authorization or official quotes from Facilities Management to accurately identify the cost of labor and supplies?*

### **Response:**

Reusable tote bags for this project will be purchased from Safeguard, a printing company located here in Tucson. General prices for the bags can be found here:

<https://shop.safeguardtucson.com/p/FARMN-HMSNI/grocery-tote-bag-wreinforced-base>. \$5,000 will be able to safely cover the cost of 1,500 bags, a print on one side, shipping, and royalty costs with using a UA logo.

## **Environmental Sustainability Outcomes**

*Please provide a description of how you expect your project to advance environmental sustainability on campus. A definition of environmental sustainability is provided on our Guides and Tips page.*

### **Response:**

The Campus Pantry Reusable Bags project will advance environmental sustainability on campus by reducing the reliance of single-use plastic bags. By providing reusable tote bags for our users, we are encouraging sustainable behaviors and are reducing the campus' overall plastic waste output. These reusable bags can be used in various contexts and settings, not just for carrying goods from the Campus Pantry. This will lower the need for plastic use bags from our students and inspire them to adopt more eco-friendly practices beyond the Campus Pantry.

## **Social Sustainability Outcomes**

*Please provide a description of how you expect your project to advance social sustainability on campus. A definition of social sustainability is provided on our Guides and Tips page.*

### **Response:**

The Campus Pantry Reusable Bags project will advance social sustainability on campus by ensuring that all of our users have access to a reliable and sustainable way to transport their goods to their homes.

This project also serves as a symbol of support and helps reduce the stigma associated with food insecurity. Feedback that we hear from our users is how they can advocate for our program outside of volunteering, donating, and utilizing our resource. This initiative will allow our users to become visible ambassadors of our mission, helping to normalize the conversation around food insecurity and promote awareness of our resources.

## **Student Leadership & Involvement**

*Please provide a description of how your project will benefit students on campus regarding the creation of leadership opportunities or student engagement. What leadership opportunities exist within your proposal? If you plan to seek student involvement, include relevant details thoroughly and how you will solicit/ market these opportunities.*

### **Response:**

The Campus Pantry Reusable Bags project will benefit students regarding leadership opportunities by having students be involved in the distribution and promotion of this initiative. Our student staff will coordinate the logistics of how the bags will be distributed. This involves tabling, ensuring smooth operation, and educating our users on making environmentally conscious choices. Our student team will also be promoting this initiative and share the importance of sustainability through our social media pages. Volunteers of the Campus Pantry will also assist in distributing these bags. The design of the bag was created by a student artist in our team.

## **Education, Outreach, and Behavior Change**

*What opportunities does this project provide for members of the campus/community to learn about sustainability? How will your project educate the campus community and/or incorporate outreach and behavior change, particularly those who are not currently engaged with sustainability or environmental work? Please provide a description of how you expect your project will communicate its impacts to the campus community.*

### **Response:**

The Campus Pantry Reusable Bags project will provide members of the campus community opportunities to learn more about sustainability through visible use. One way to educate the campus community, especially those who are not engaged with environmental work, is through the everyday visibility of the reusable bag. The use of these reusable bags becomes a vivid symbol of sustainability in action. This can spark conversations among students and staff about reducing plastic waste.

Our team will also include informational posts on our social media about the environmental benefits of reducing single-use plastics and encourage other eco-friendly habits. For those who may not prioritize sustainability in their daily lives, this initiative offers a practical and non-intimidating way of incorporating sustainable behaviors in one's everyday life.

Lastly, we will be having an information table during the first Tuesday distribution of every month to further explain the benefits of using these reusable bags and include info slips in them created by our student team.