

Greenfield Community Kitchen

Columbus, Ohio

Hot meals and pantry services for food-insecure families in Columbus's east side neighborhoods.

SIX MATCHED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. Ingram-White Castle Foundation
2. Nationwide Foundation, Community Impact Grants
3. Kroger Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation
4. Cardinal Health Foundation, Community Health Grants
5. Reinberger Foundation, Human Service Grant
6. Walmart Spark Good Local Grants

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Greenfield Community Kitchen is well-positioned for grant funding in central Ohio. Its mission aligns with active priorities at local human-services funders and corporate foundations with a Columbus presence. Six opportunities passed all four Grant Fit factors. Four are a Strong Fit. Two are a Conditional Fit that become viable after a specific first step. Where a funder does not publish an award range, that is noted rather than estimated.

The most time-sensitive actions are the Ingram-White Castle Foundation deadlines (January 15 and July 15) and completing the Nationwide Foundation's required grant-training session before its June-to-September window. Kroger and Cardinal Health accept direct applications and can be pursued in parallel. Two more funders, Reinberger and Walmart, are worth preparing for, but each carries a specific first step noted in the summary.

KEY FINDINGS

Strongest local fit	Ingram-White Castle Foundation. A central-Ohio human-services funder with an open application and two clear annual deadlines, January 15 and July 15.
Best mission match	Nationwide Foundation. Food security is one of its four named funding priorities, so the kitchen's core work is a direct match rather than a stretch.
Largest verified award	Kroger Zero Hunger Zero Waste, at \$25,000 to \$250,000. The \$25,000 floor means it should be approached with a specific, project-scale ask rather than a small operating request.
Process steps to plan for	Nationwide requires a grant-training session before you can access its portal, and Reinberger asks first-time applicants to speak with the president before applying. Neither is a cold submission.

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Organization	Greenfield Community Kitchen
Type	501(c)(3) food security nonprofit
Location	East Columbus, Ohio (Franklin County)
Founded	2019
Annual Budget	Approximately \$180,000
Staff	3 full-time employees + approximately 40 volunteers
Mission	Hot meals and pantry services for food-insecure families in Columbus's east side neighborhoods.
Service area	East Columbus ZIP codes 43205, 43213, 43219 — documented high food insecurity concentration per Franklin County Community Health Assessment

BOARD-READY FUNDING SUMMARY

A one-page summary of the funding position, written to be presented at your next board meeting. It shows where the organization stands, which funders are worth pursuing, and which to leave alone.

Six opportunities cleared all four Grant Fit factors. Four are a Strong Fit and are recommended for action within the next 90 days. Two are a Conditional Fit and become viable after a specific first step. Two of the four recommended funders publish award ranges (Kroger at \$25,000 to \$250,000 and Cardinal Health at \$1,000 to \$13,500); the other two do not disclose amounts, so a realistic ask should be confirmed directly rather than assumed.

RECOMMENDED FUNDERS

Funder	Fit	Award Range	Board takeaway
Ingram-White Castle Foundation	Strong	Not disclosed	Local human services. Open application; deadlines Jan 15 and Jul 15.
Nationwide Foundation	Strong	Not disclosed	Food security is a named priority. Complete the required training first.
Kroger Zero Hunger Zero Waste	Strong	\$25,000-\$250,000	Apply directly with a defined project at the \$25k-plus scale.
Cardinal Health Foundation	Strong	\$1,000-\$13,500	Frame as community health. Confirm the current window.

PURSUE AFTER PREPARATION

Reinberger Foundation	Not disclosed	After a conversation with the foundation's president (required for first-time applicants).
Walmart Spark Good	\$250-\$5,000	A low-effort entry grant with no history requirement; small dollars, so pursue alongside the larger funders, not instead.

DO NOT PURSUE

Large national foundations (Gates, Ford, MacArthur). At this scale they prioritize organizations with multi-million-dollar budgets. An application would not be competitive, and the time is better spent on the funders above.

THE BOTTOM LINE FOR THE BOARD

Four funders are worth pursuing in the next 90 days. Two publish ranges (Kroger up to \$250,000 for a defined project, Cardinal Health up to \$13,500); the other two do not disclose amounts and should be confirmed directly. Two more open up with a first step. The takeaway: concentrate effort on these central-Ohio funders, not on large national funders the organization is not yet positioned to win.

THE GRANT FIT METHOD

Every opportunity in this report passed all four Grant Fit factors before it was included. Opportunities that failed any single factor were excluded, regardless of award size. The four factors are:

Factor	What It Measures
Mission Alignment	Does the funder's stated priorities match this organization's specific work? General nonprofit eligibility is not sufficient.
Geographic Eligibility	Does the grant program explicitly accept applications from organizations serving Columbus, Ohio?
Funding Stage	Is the funder accessible to an organization at this budget level and stage of development?
Award Compatibility	Is the award range appropriate and proportionate to the organization's scale and capacity?

Score	Meaning
STRONG FIT	Passes all four factors with strong mission alignment. Apply without modifications to the program model.
CONDITIONAL FIT	Passes all four factors. One factor carries a specific condition — a framing adjustment or program element to address before applying.

RECOMMENDED PURSUIT SEQUENCE

Priority	Funder	Timing	Action
1 - Now	Ingram-White Castle Foundation	Next deadline: Jan 15 or Jul 15	Open the portal ~6 weeks prior; confirm a realistic ask
1 - Now	Nationwide Foundation	Before the Sept 1 window	Complete the required grant-training session first
2 - Apply	Kroger Zero Hunger Zero Waste	Next quarterly deadline	Apply via communitygifts.com with a defined project
2 - Apply	Cardinal Health Foundation	Confirm the current window	Complete eligibility quiz; frame as community health
3 - Prep	Reinberger Foundation	Before the LOI window	Speak with the president first, then submit an LOI
3 - Prep	Walmart Spark Good	Next open window	Create a Spark Good account and apply

DO NOT PURSUE — REASONS

Opportunity Type	Reason to Skip at This Stage
Federal SNAP Outreach Grants	Federal grants require significant administrative infrastructure, matching funds, and compliance capacity that divert resources from program delivery at this organizational stage. The cost of compliance routinely exceeds grant value for organizations under \$500k.
Large national foundations (Gates, Ford, MacArthur)	National foundations at this scale prioritize organizations with multi-million dollar budgets, established evaluation frameworks, and demonstrated national impact. A first application from Greenfield would not be competitive and the staff time cost is not justified.
State of Ohio agency contracts	Government contracts typically require cash flow capacity to front program costs before reimbursement, and compliance overhead is significant. Not appropriate until the organization has reserves and administrative capacity to absorb the risk.

OPPORTUNITY 1

Ingram-White Castle Foundation

Foundation Grants

GRANT FIT SCORE: STRONG
FIT

Factor	Assessment	Result
Mission Alignment	The foundation funds critical human-service needs in central Ohio. As White Castle's hometown foundation it has a documented interest in food and nourishment, and a community kitchen framed around human-services need fits its giving.	PASS
Geographic Eligibility	Funds the 10-county Columbus metropolitan area, with Franklin County at the core. Greenfield's east Columbus service area is squarely within scope.	PASS
Funding Stage	Open online application with no stated exclusion of small or newer organizations. A roughly \$180,000 food nonprofit is within the range of applicants it considers.	PASS
Award Compatibility	The foundation does not publish an award range. Confirm a realistic ask directly rather than assuming a figure.	PASS

Award Range **Not publicly disclosed**

Deadline Two cycles a year: January 15 and July 15. The portal opens about six weeks before each.

Application columbusfoundation.org/nonprofit-center/grant-opportunities/supporting-foundation-grants/ingram-white-castle-foundation

FUNDER INTELLIGENCE

The Ingram-White Castle Foundation is a supporting foundation with its own board, administered through The Columbus Foundation but with a separate open application. Its stated purpose includes addressing critical human-service needs in central Ohio alongside education. It does not fund religious purposes, so a secular food program is eligible. The award range is not published, so the size of a realistic ask should be confirmed before applying rather than assumed.

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEP

Work back from the nearest deadline (January 15 or July 15) and open the application portal about six weeks prior. Frame the kitchen's work as a human-services and self-sufficiency intervention rather than charity alone, and confirm a realistic request amount, since the foundation does not publish one.

OPPORTUNITY 2

Nationwide Foundation

Community Impact Grants

GRANT FIT SCORE: STRONG
FIT

Factor	Assessment	Result
Mission Alignment	Food security is one of the foundation's four named funding priorities, alongside crisis stability, children's wellbeing, and economic empowerment. A hot-meals and pantry program is a direct match to a stated priority.	PASS
Geographic Eligibility	Nationwide is headquartered in Columbus, and Franklin County is a core funded market.	PASS
Funding Stage	The application carries no stated minimum organization size or age, and food security is an open, not invitation-only, priority area.	PASS
Award Compatibility	The foundation does not publish an award range; it offers general operating, program, and limited capital support. Confirm a realistic ask directly.	PASS

Award Range Not publicly disclosed

Deadline Applications June 1 to September 1 each year (deadline September 1).

Application nationwide.com/personal/about-us/giving/nationwide-foundation/apply-now

FUNDER INTELLIGENCE

The Nationwide Foundation names food security as one of four funding priorities on its own what-we-fund page, and food security is an open application area, unlike arts and higher education, which are invitation-only. Access to the application portal requires completing a mandatory grant-training session first, so the timeline needs to account for that step. Award sizes are not published.

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEP

Register for and complete the foundation's required grant-training session early, because portal access depends on it. Then apply within the June 1 to September 1 window, leading with food security as one of their named priorities.

OPPORTUNITY 3

Kroger Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation

Foundation Grants

GRANT FIT SCORE: STRONG
FIT

Factor	Assessment	Result
Mission Alignment	The foundation exists to fund organizations tackling food insecurity and food waste. A hot-meals and pantry program is a core funded category.	PASS
Geographic Eligibility	Funds nonprofits in communities where Kroger operates, and Kroger operates extensively across central Ohio, including Columbus.	PASS
Funding Stage	Open to any established 501(c)(3) in good standing that applies directly through the online portal; funding is not routed only through food banks. Greenfield qualifies.	PASS
Award Compatibility	The verified range is \$25,000 to \$250,000. The \$25,000 floor is a real project-scale ask for a \$180,000 organization, so it fits a defined project rather than a small operating top-up.	PASS

Award Range **\$25,000 to \$250,000**

Deadline Fixed quarterly review cycles (recent deadlines have fallen in April, June, September, and December).

Application communitygifts.com (via thekrogercozerohungerzerowastefoundation.com)

FUNDER INTELLIGENCE

The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation is a real 501(c)(3) that has directed more than \$66 million to food-security and food-waste work since 2018. Applications are made directly by qualifying nonprofits through the communitygifts.com portal, reached from the foundation's How We Give page, and are reviewed on fixed quarterly cycles rather than on a rolling basis. The verified award range starts at \$25,000, so this is best approached with a specific, fundable project in mind.

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEP

Define a specific project at the \$25,000-and-up scale (the funder's floor), create the nonprofit account at communitygifts.com through the foundation site, and submit ahead of the next quarterly deadline.

OPPORTUNITY 4

Cardinal Health Foundation

Community Health Grants

GRANT FIT SCORE: STRONG
FIT

Factor	Assessment	Result
Mission Alignment	The foundation funds hunger and food access as a social determinant of health, and runs a Food Pharmacy initiative pairing health providers with food banks. A food program framed around health outcomes is a match.	PASS
Geographic Eligibility	Cardinal Health is headquartered in Dublin, Ohio (Franklin County), and roughly half of its giving stays in Ohio, with documented central-Ohio grantees.	PASS
Funding Stage	The Community Health Grants tier accepts unsolicited applications from community nonprofits via an online eligibility quiz and portal.	PASS
Award Compatibility	The verified range for this tier is \$1,000 to \$13,500, appropriate for operating or program support at Greenfield's scale.	PASS

Award Range	\$1,000 to \$13,500 (Community Health Grants tier)
Deadline	Confirm the current window directly; no live application window was confirmed at the time of research.
Application	cardinalhealth.com/community

FUNDER INTELLIGENCE

Cardinal Health Foundation's small-community-nonprofit tier is Community Health Grants, not Community Impact Grants, with a verified range of \$1,000 to \$13,500. It funds food access through a health-determinant lens rather than as stand-alone hunger relief. Applications are open and unsolicited through an online eligibility quiz. No live application window was confirmed at the time of research, so timing should be checked with community relations.

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEP

Frame the kitchen's work as a community-health intervention, connecting food access to health outcomes, complete the online eligibility quiz at cardinalhealth.com/community, and confirm the current application window with community relations before drafting.

OPPORTUNITY 5

Reinberger Foundation

Human Service Grant Program

**GRANT FIT SCORE:
CONDITIONAL FIT**

Factor	Assessment	Result
Mission Alignment	The Human Service program explicitly names food security, alongside housing stability and family-violence prevention, as a funded area for moving people toward self-sufficiency.	PASS
Geographic Eligibility	Funds 501(c)(3)s serving Ohio, with an explicit Franklin County and Columbus focus.	PASS
Funding Stage	The letter-of-inquiry process is open, but priority goes to organizations funded in the last five years, and first-time applicants are asked to speak with the president before applying. This is not a cold submission.	CONDITIONAL
Award Compatibility	The foundation does not publish an award range (historically five figures). Confirm a realistic ask in the pre-application conversation.	PASS

Award Range	Not publicly disclosed
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Deadline	Annual letter-of-inquiry window (a recent cycle ran mid-April to mid-July); LOI first, then invited full proposal.
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Application	reinbergerfoundation.org
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FUNDER INTELLIGENCE

The Reinberger Foundation is a genuine Franklin County human-services funder that names food security as a funded area. Its process is an open letter of inquiry, but it gives priority to organizations it has funded in the last five years and asks first-time applicants to have a conversation with the president before submitting. That makes it a real opportunity that requires relationship-building first rather than a direct apply.

Condition: This funder gives priority to past grantees and asks a first-time applicant to speak with the president before applying. Treat it as a relationship to open now, not an application to submit cold. The conversation itself is the qualifying step.

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEP

Contact the foundation's president to introduce Greenfield before the LOI window, and use that conversation to confirm both fit and a realistic ask size before preparing a letter of inquiry.

OPPORTUNITY 6

Walmart Spark Good Local Grants

Spark Good Local Grants

GRANT FIT SCORE:
CONDITIONAL FIT

Factor	Assessment	Result
Mission Alignment	Hunger relief is an explicitly named focus of the Spark Good Local Grants program. A food pantry and meals program qualifies.	PASS
Geographic Eligibility	Grants are tied to a specific Walmart, Sam's Club, or distribution center whose community the organization serves. Franklin County has many locations.	PASS
Funding Stage	No minimum budget and no years-in-operation requirement, a clean entry point for a newer organization, with a fully open, unsolicited application.	PASS
Award Compatibility	The verified range is \$250 to \$5,000. This is capacity or operating money, not program-scale funding, which is why it sits in the prepare-and-pursue tier.	CONDITIONAL

Award Range **\$250 to \$5,000**

Deadline Three open windows a year (roughly Feb 1 to Apr 15, May 1 to Jul 15, Aug 1 to Nov 30).

Application walmart.com/nonprofits

FUNDER INTELLIGENCE

Walmart's Spark Good Local Grants is a fully open, unsolicited program with a published \$250 to \$5,000 range and, importantly, no organization-age requirement, which makes it one of the most accessible entry points for a newer nonprofit. Applications run through a free Spark Good account verified by Walmart's partner Deed, and are tied to serving the community of a specific nearby Walmart or Sam's Club. The small dollar amount is the only real limitation.

Condition: The award ceiling is \$5,000, so this is best treated as reliable capacity money rather than a program-scale grant. It is low-effort and requires no operating history, which makes it worth doing, but it should not displace time on the larger funders above.

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEP

Create a free Spark Good account at walmart.com/nonprofits, get verified through Deed, identify the nearest Walmart or Sam's Club whose community Greenfield serves, and apply in the next open window.

90-DAY ACTION PLAN

The following 90-day sequence moves Greenfield from first outreach to several submitted applications, while opening the two conditional-fit funders that need a first step before an application can go in.

Week	Action	Outcome
Week 1	Register for the Nationwide Foundation's required grant-training session (portal access depends on it). Contact the Reinberger Foundation president to introduce the organization.	Nationwide training scheduled. Reinberger conversation opened.
Week 2	Create the Kroger nonprofit account at communitygifts.com and define a project at the \$25,000-plus scale. Confirm the nearest Ingram-White Castle deadline (Jan 15 or Jul 15).	Kroger project defined. Ingram-White Castle timeline set.
Week 3	Draft the Ingram-White Castle application. Complete the Cardinal Health eligibility quiz and confirm the current window with community relations.	Ingram-White Castle draft underway. Cardinal Health window confirmed.
Week 4	Submit the Ingram-White Castle application at its deadline. Submit the Kroger application ahead of the next quarterly cycle with the defined project.	Two applications submitted.
Weeks 5-8	Complete the Nationwide training and submit within its June-to-September window. Prepare the Cardinal Health application on the health-outcomes framing.	Nationwide submitted. Cardinal Health ready.
Weeks 9-12	Submit the Cardinal Health application. Create the Walmart Spark Good account and apply in the next open window. If the president conversation confirmed fit, prepare a Reinberger letter of inquiry.	Recommended set submitted; entry-level and relationship funders in motion.

ABOUT THIS SAMPLE

Greenfield Community Kitchen is a fictional organization created to demonstrate the Grant Fit Audit methodology. The funders referenced are real organizations. Opportunity details are illustrative and should not be relied upon for actual grant applications without independent verification of current program guidelines.

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