

New York Providing Local Access to Essential Sustenance (NY PLATES) Public Questions Received and Answers		
Category	Question Received	Final Response
Eligibility	How do I know if we are eligible for the NY PLATES grant?	Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. This section outlines the applicant eligibility requirements for the NY PLATES program.
Application Process/Materials	How do I access the application and what is the process?	Please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26.
Application Process/Materials	How to apply?	Please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26.
Grant Disbursement Agreement	What's the disbursement timeline?	Please refer to Section I(C) in Appendix 5 of the RFA, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). This section in the FAQs outlines the next steps in the grant administration process, once a NY PLATES grant has been awarded. This includes additional reviews that must take place, prior to executing a Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA). The GDA is the contract between DASNY and the Grantee setting forth the terms pursuant to which the NY PLATES Grant funding will be disbursed. Section III(A) of the FAQs also outlines the timing with respect to the payment requisition process.
Eligibility	Are religious organizations encouraged to apply?	Religious organizations may be eligible to apply for NY PLATES funding if they are formally incorporated with the federal IRS and State of New York with a designated religious affiliation and/or purpose, so long as they meet all of the program's eligibility requirements, and they can attest that their proposed project is to be used solely for the eligible program, and will in no way be to the benefit of the landlord and/or religious purposes of the organization.
Grant Disbursement Agreement	What's the disbursement timeline?	Please refer to Section I(C) in Appendix 5 of the RFA, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). This section in the FAQs outlines the next steps in the grant administration process, once a NY PLATES grant has been awarded. This includes additional reviews that must take place, prior to executing a Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA). The GDA is the contract between DASNY and the Grantee setting forth the terms pursuant to which the NY PLATES Grant funding will be disbursed. Section III(A) of the FAQs also outlines the timing with respect to the payment requisition process.
Eligibility	I would like to know how someone would qualify for the program. I just recently lost SNAP benefits, I've been calling the snap office to be placed in a work program but never heard back	NY PLATES is a competitive grant program that will enable New York's 10 regional food banks and eligible emergency food organizations across New York State to apply for funding for capital projects, including construction to expand space and upgrade infrastructure as well as for the purchase of equipment such as cold storage, freezers and food transport vehicles. For inquiries regarding SNAP benefits, please reach out to the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) at 1-800-342-3009 or visit otda.ny.gov . Please see the links below for additional resources. ➤Impact of H.R.1 Legislation on New York's Essential Plan ➤Impact of Essential Plan Changes by Congressional District ➤Stay Connected with NY State of Health ➤Changes to Medicaid Starting January 2027
Eligibility	I recently lost SNAP benefits though I have reached out to the office for work requirements and didn't hear back. Would I be able to qualify?	NY PLATES is a competitive grant program that will enable New York's 10 regional food banks and eligible emergency food organizations across New York State to apply for funding for capital projects, including construction to expand space and upgrade infrastructure as well as for the purchase of equipment such as cold storage, freezers and food transport vehicles. For inquiries regarding SNAP benefits, please reach out to the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) at 1-800-342-3009 or visit otda.ny.gov . Please see the links below for additional resources. ➤Impact of H.R.1 Legislation on New York's Essential Plan ➤Impact of Essential Plan Changes by Congressional District ➤Stay Connected with NY State of Health ➤Changes to Medicaid Starting January 2027
Eligibility	Disability Status	Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. This RFA is limited to certain Not-for-profit Food Banks, Emergency Food Programs (i.e., Food Pantries, Soup Kitchens, Emergency Shelters), Other Emergency Food Programs (i.e., Special Nutrition Initiatives, Food Recovery Organizations), and municipalities providing food relief services in New York State.
Other	Could this grant be used to help cover the expense for labor to staff the food program?	Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Ineligible uses include, but are not limited to working capital, including funds required to operate a facility, such as staff, rent, utilities, internal labor, and supplies.
Application Process/Materials	Application submission process	Please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26.
Application Process/Materials	How long does it take to register with Grants Management Statewide Financial System?	Please refer to Section 2.2 Statewide Financial System (SFS) Prequalification Requirement in the RFA. This section outlines the prequalification process, which may take several weeks to complete.
Eligibility	What will be the process to request funding for an existing program?	Please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26. Please also refer to Section I(C) in Appendix 5 of the RFA, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). This section in the FAQs outlines the next steps in the grant administration process, once a NY PLATES grant has been awarded. This includes additional reviews that must take place, prior to executing a Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA). The GDA is the contract between DASNY and the Grantee setting forth the terms pursuant to which the NY PLATES Grant funding will be disbursed. Section III(A) of the FAQs also outlines the timing with respect to the payment requisition process. Per section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA, proceeds of NY PLATES Grants cannot be used to reimburse any costs incurred on or before April 1, 2026.
Eligibility	Our organization is a New York 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates food pantry distributions and Home Delivered Meals programs for older adults. Our organization partners with another organization, which holds an HPNAP contract and EFRO ID, but our organization itself does not have an HPNAP contract or EFRO ID. Are we eligible to apply directly for NY PLATES funding, or must the HPNAP contract holder be the applicant?	No. Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. All Applicants for NY PLATES must have their own valid Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) Emergency Food Relief Organization identification number (EFRO ID#) or current HPNAP contract number. Applicants cannot use a partner organization as a pass-through to apply for funding.
Eligibility	If a nonprofit food provider partners with an HPNAP-funded organization and distributes food through that partnership, can the nonprofit qualify as an eligible Emergency Food Program under Section 2.1 without holding its own HPNAP contract or EFRO ID?	No. All Applicants for NY PLATES must have their own valid Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) Emergency Food Relief Organization identification number (EFRO ID#) or current HPNAP contract number. Applicants cannot use a partner organization as a pass-through to apply for funding.

Eligibility	Are soup kitchens/meal sites eligible?	Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. This RFA is limited to certain Not-for-profit Food Banks, Emergency Food Programs (i.e., Food Pantries, Soup Kitchens, Emergency Shelters), Other Emergency Food Programs (i.e., Special Nutrition Initiatives, Food Recovery Organizations), and municipalities providing food relief services in New York State.
Other	Form to apply for the NYS NY Plates grant program	Please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26.
Eligibility	Is a County Department of the Aging eligible to apply?	Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. This RFA is limited to certain Not-for-profit Food Banks, Emergency Food Programs (i.e., Food Pantries, Soup Kitchens, Emergency Shelters), Other Emergency Food Programs (i.e., Special Nutrition Initiatives, Food Recovery Organizations), and municipalities providing food relief services in New York State. For the purposes of this RFA, the term Municipality shall only mean a County, City, Town, Village, or Indian Nation that provides food relief services and runs an emergency food program that is established, regulated, open to the public and vetted by a food bank or NYS DOH.
Grant Disbursement Agreement	Is there a County contribution share requirement?	There is no grantee funding match requirement for the NY PLATES program, however Applicants must demonstrate that they have the funds needed to complete the Project.
Project Timeline	What is the timeline?	Please refer to Section I(B) in Appendix 5 of the RFA, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). NY PLATES Funds will only be awarded for a Project if it can be demonstrated that the Project can be fully completed as proposed before December 31, 2030.
Eligibility	Our emergency food program currently provides food relief services one day per week. However, we have plans to offer services for at least 3 days per week in the future. Are we eligible to apply? If so, is there a date by which we need to state that food relief services will be offered 3 days per week?	Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. Eligible Applicants need to have been operating as an emergency food program vetted by NYS DOH HPNAP or a HPNAP contractor for at least three (3) days per week for minimum of six (6) months during the period of May 2025 to April 2026; and need to have submitted at least six (6) months of service reports during the period of May 2025 to April 2026 to NYS DOH HPNAP or HPNAP contractors prior to submitting a NY PLATES application.
Eligibility	Does a church with a Food Pantry having a 501(c)3 tax exemption qualifies for this grant?	Religious organizations may be eligible to apply for NY PLATES funding if they are formally incorporated with the federal IRS and State of New York with a designated religious affiliation and/or purpose, so long as they meet all of the program's eligibility requirements, and they can attest that their proposed project is to be used solely for the eligible program, and will in no way be to the benefit of the landlord and/or religious purposes of the organization.
Application Process/Materials	How can a church check if its already registered with SFS?	All Not-for-profit Entity Applicants must register, apply for, and obtain approved Prequalification status in SFS in order to be eligible to receive funding from New York State. Applicants must be Prequalified in SFS prior to the submission of their NY PLATES Application. Please refer to Section 2.2 Statewide Financial System (SFS) Prequalification Requirement in the RFA, which includes additional resources to assist Applicants with the registration and prequalification process.
Eligibility	Are continuing lease payments eligible costs? As in the organization already holds a lease for a food transport vehicle and would like to continue making payments using PLATES funding.	Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Ineligible uses include, but are not limited to long-term debt, including financing of machinery or equipment. Please also refer to Section II(C) in Appendix 5 of the RFA, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), which states that the NY PLATES Grant may not be used to make payments on a lease, mortgage, or to pay down existing debt.
Eligibility	Are construction costs for parking and driveway renovations eligible?	It depends. Site Control is required to prove that the Applicant has sufficient authorization and control to undertake the Project at the Project location. Please also refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Eligible Project Costs include, but are not limited to construction, reconstruction or renovation of facilities. Ineligible uses of NY PLATES funds include, but are not limited to capital improvements that benefit space being used by entities or individuals other than the Eligible Applicant, and routine repairs or routine maintenance projects. Therefore, the construction of a new parking lot may be eligible, as long as the Applicant has sufficient site control, and it will only be utilized by the Eligible Applicant. Costs for resealing or restriping an existing parking lot are considered routine maintenance projects, and therefore would be ineligible. Furthermore, Projects located in facilities owned or operated by religious organizations will need to demonstrate that the assets they wish to acquire or improve with NY PLATES funds will only be utilized by the food relief program and cannot be beneficial in any way to religious worship services or activities.
Eligibility	We deliver to seniors Meals on Wheels are eligible for this grant	Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. This section outlines the applicant eligibility requirements for the NY PLATES program.
Application Process/Materials	When can I get my application?	Please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26.
Project Funding/Match Requirement	Can the funds be used to pay for a professional position?	Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Ineligible uses include, but are not limited to working capital, including funds required to operate a facility, such as staff, rent, utilities, internal labor, and supplies.
Eligibility	We are a food pantry that serves as a redistribution organization for larger food bank/hunger relief organizations. We do not have our own HNAP number but work collaboratively with larger organizations to support our community. We have worked with these organizations for several years a submit service reports to these organizations. Are we eligible to apply for this funding since we do not have our own HNAP number? If not, are we eligible to apply for funding with our partner organization?	No. Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. All Applicants for NY PLATES must have their own valid Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) Emergency Food Relief Organization identification number (EFRO ID#) or current HPNAP contract number. Applicants cannot use a partner organization as a pass-through to apply for funding.
Application Process/Materials	How can I apply my food pantry to be able to part take in the program?	Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. This section outlines the applicant eligibility requirements for the NY PLATES program. If your organization meets the eligibility requirements set forth in the RFA, please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26.
Project Funding/Match Requirement	Are we required to provide matching funds for the proposed project? If so, is there a specific percentage or amount that must be matched?	There is no grantee funding match requirement for the NY PLATES program, however Applicants must demonstrate that they have the funds needed to complete the Project.
Application Process/Materials	Is there a word or character limit for the narrative questions on project need, impact, and viability?	Please refer to Appendix 2 of the RFA, the NY PLATES Application Program Specific Questions. While there is no character limit for responses on Appendix 2, please be aware that all supporting documentation uploaded into the portal must be uploaded as a pdf, and individual files are limited to 32Mb.
Site Control	Is site control required for vehicle or equipment procurement?	Yes. Please refer to Section 2.4 Eligible Project Locations in the RFA. This section outlines site control requirements, including capital projects proposing only the acquisition of moveable equipment or food transport vehicles.

Project Funding/Match Requirement	Will projects with committed funding or match funding receive preferential consideration?	There is no grantee funding match requirement for the NY PLATES program, however Applicants must demonstrate that they have the funds needed to complete the Project. Please refer to Section 4.2 Project Viability in the RFA. This section outlines how applications will be scored with respect to your project budget and committed funding sources. DASNY will review and score all Eligible Applications based upon evidence of construction readiness and evidence of committed funding sources in an amount sufficient to complete the Project as described. Please also refer to Sections 3.1 and 4.1 of the RFA, in addition to Appendix 8, which is the Scoring Matrix, for a complete overview of how applications will be scored.
Application Process/Materials	How do I get an application?	Please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26.
Eligibility	Is the grant open to any non-profit organization that runs a food pantry and how long does it need to have been in existence?	Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. This section outlines the applicant eligibility requirements for the NY PLATES program.
Application Process/Materials	What will the application process entail for a first time applicant?	Please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26.
Eligibility	In the past I have researched a freezer for our pantry. The grant amount was 2,500. Unfortunately we didn't qualify because of our service levels we received \$850. I don't want to put time into paperwork and then not receive the equipment that's needed for our clients.	NY PLATES Grants may be used for reimbursement of capital costs including, but not limited to, the design, construction or renovation of eligible program locations as well as for the purchase of equipment and vehicles used solely for the eligible applicants and their food relief services. Please refer to section 1.3 of the RFA to see if your project falls within one of the two priority targeted grant funding levels, in addition to section 2.1 of the RFA to see if your organization meets the eligibility requirements for NY PLATES.
Eligibility	Would the purchase of smallwares for our kitchen (e.g., spoons, spatulas, mixers, blenders, bowls, storage containers, etc.) be considered an eligible project?	Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Ineligible uses include, but are not limited to working capital, including funds required to operate a facility, such as staff, rent, utilities, internal labor, and supplies. Therefore commercial grade appliances may be eligible equipment costs, but operating costs for supplies, such as storage containers, spoons, bowls, or standard countertop appliances are not considered an eligible capital cost.
Application Process/Materials	Where do we find the link to application?	Please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. The section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26. A link to the portal can also be found in Section 5.2 of the RFA.
Project Funding/Match Requirement	Are infrastructure improvements related to office renovations at our food bank headquarters eligible expenses?	Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Eligible project costs include, but are not limited to Design and Engineering costs that result in stamped construction documents, as well as construction, reconstruction or renovation of facilities. Please also refer to section 1.3 of the RFA to see if your project falls within one of the two priority targeted grant funding levels.
Application Process/Materials	What is the application process, scoring and grant distribution agreement?	Please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26. Please also refer to Sections 3.1, 4.1, and 4.2 of the RFA, in addition to Appendix 8, which is the Scoring Matrix, for a complete overview of how applications will be scored. Please also refer to Section I(C) in Appendix 5 of the RFA, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). This section in the FAQs outlines the next steps in the grant administration process, once a NY PLATES grant has been awarded. This includes additional reviews that must take place, prior to executing a Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA). The GDA is the contract between DASNY and the Grantee setting forth the terms pursuant to which the NY PLATES Grant funding will be disbursed.
Project Timeline	What is the grant timeline?	Please refer to Section I(B) in Appendix 5 of the RFA, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). NY PLATES Funds will only be awarded for a Project if it can be demonstrated that the Project can be fully completed as proposed before December 31, 2030. Please also refer to Section I(C) in Appendix 5 of the RFA, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). This section in the FAQs outlines the next steps in the grant administration process, once a NY PLATES grant has been awarded. This includes additional reviews that must take place, prior to executing a Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA). The GDA is the contract between DASNY and the Grantee setting forth the terms pursuant to which the NY PLATES Grant funding will be disbursed. An Awardee has three (3) years from the date the GDA is executed to be reimbursed for a completed Project. Prior to executing a GDA once a grant has been awarded, NYS DOH and DASNY reserve the right to withdraw the award if the Awardee is non-responsive and does not begin the grant administration process within six (6) months of award announcement, or if the Awardee fails to provide documentation required to prepare a GDA or fails to execute a GDA within twelve (12) months from date of award. Please refer to Section Six of the RFA.
Application Process/Materials	I would like to know how to apply for the NY PLATES grant.	Please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26.
Eligibility	Are the following expenses eligible for the RFA: - Two to three Motorized utility Service Cart to better transport food deliveries into the emergency food pantry, - Capacity funds to establish a volunteer base to assist in maintaining the emergency food pantry (example- cover the cost of background checks and oversite) -Capacity funds to start a community garden that can assist in stocking the emergency food pantry that would also be run by volunteers and community members -Funds to bring in facility members to assist the emergency food pantry program with designing a better layout that will allow for more food storage capacity.	Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Eligible Project Costs include, but are not limited to the purchase of non-fixed equipment such as freezers, stoves, pallet movers and shelving. Ineligible uses include, but are not limited to working capital, including funds required to operate a facility, such as staff, rent, utilities, internal labor, and supplies, as well as capital improvements that benefit space being used by entities or individuals other than the Eligible Applicant, and preliminary planning, market studies, and similar activities.
Eligibility	Would a grant application to construct a handicapped ramp for access to a soup kitchen be accepted if the organization does not own the property?	Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Eligible project costs include, but are not limited to construction, reconstruction or renovation of facilities, however ineligible uses include, but are not limited to capital improvements that benefit space being used by entities or individuals other than the Eligible Applicant.
Scoring/Review Process	Can you share examples of past projects that were awarded funding, and what criteria made them particularly successful in the selection process?	There have been no previous NY PLATES grants awarded, as the program was only enacted this year as part of the 2026-2027 New York State Budget. Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA to see if your organization meets the eligibility requirements for this grant program. Please also refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program.
Eligibility	What are the requirements to be eligible for NY PLATES?	Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. This section outlines the applicant eligibility requirements for the NY PLATES program.

Application Process/Materials	When will we get the application?	Please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26.
Project Funding/Match Requirement	Do we need to match these funds?	There is no grantee funding match requirement for the NY PLATES program, however Applicants must demonstrate that they have the funds needed to complete the Project.
Project Timeline	How much time do we need to completed the job?	Please refer to Section I(B) in Appendix 5 of the RFA, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). NY PLATES Funds will only be awarded for a Project if it can be demonstrated that the Project can be fully completed as proposed before December 31, 2030.
Project Location	Who determines what project we can do?	Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program.
Eligibility	Does the three day per week minimum include days that are open for appointment and/or emergency service? The pantry runs two days a week the rest of the time.	Eligible Applicants must be able to attest that the program provides food relief services at least three (3) days per week for a minimum of 6 months of the year. The hours of operation during these three (3) days may include services for food assistance or for a food assistance appointment.
Eligibility	I understand that applicants must attest that their program provides food-relief services at least three days per week for a minimum of six months each year. My question is whether there is any flexibility in this requirement. Our program operates one day per week—every Saturday—year-round.	No. Eligible Applicants need to have been operating as an emergency food program vetted by NYS DOH HPNAP or a HPNAP contractor for at least three (3) days per week for minimum of six (6) months during the period of May 2025 to April 2026; and need to have submitted at least six (6) months of service reports during the period of May 2025 to April 2026 to NYS DOH HPNAP or HPNAP contractors prior to submitting a NY PLATES application.
Eligibility	The applicant filed an extension for their 2025 990 and CHAR 500. May the applicant submit the extension in lieu of the completed 2025 990 and CHAR 500?	When submitting a prequalification application in the Statewide Financial System (SFS), Applicants should upload their most recently filed IRS 990 and CHAR 500. A tax year begin date of 1/1/2025 and a tax year end date of 12/31/2025, would mean your SFS prequalification would not expire until 11/15/2027.
Eligibility	Our church operates our food pantry weekly housed within a NY Public School in the Bronx serving general population and home delivery and are in need of a vehicle. Though we do not own the space would we be able to apply for this funding to purchase a vehicle to continue our operations?	Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Eligible Project Costs include, but are not limited to the purchase of light and heavy-duty trucks and vehicles for food transport. Please also refer to Section 2.4 Eligible Project Locations in the RFA. For all leased project locations, the term of the lease must be in the legal name of the Applicant. For capital projects proposing only the acquisition of moveable equipment or food transport vehicles, the lease or rental agreement must show that it is in effect for at least three (3) years from the date the Application is submitted. Religious organizations may be eligible to apply for NY PLATES funding if they are formally incorporated with the federal IRS and State of New York with a designated religious affiliation and/or purpose, so long as they meet all of the program's eligibility requirements, and they can attest that their proposed project is to be used solely for the eligible program, and will in no way be to the benefit of the landlord and/or religious purposes of the organization.
Eligibility	We received a grant in prior years DEC for cooling. Can we apply again and get a truck?	Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Eligible Project Costs include, but are not limited to the purchase of light and heavy-duty trucks and vehicles for food transport.
Project Funding/Match Requirement	Hi is there a funding match requirement for this grant or will orgs get more money if they can show a funding matchwhats the max funds an org can apply for is it 125k....you all mentioned showing proof of other funds to complete a job....thanks for letting us know also do you need letters of supportwill more points be given if we submit themthanks	There is no grantee funding match requirement for the NY PLATES program, however Applicants must demonstrate that they have the funds needed to complete the Project. Please refer to Section 4.2 Project Viability in the RFA. This section outlines how applications will be scored with respect to your project budget and committed funding sources. DASNY will review and score all Eligible Applications based upon evidence of construction readiness and evidence of committed funding sources in an amount sufficient to complete the Project as described. Please also refer to Sections 3.1 and 4.1 of the RFA, in addition to Appendix 8, which is the Scoring Matrix, for a complete overview of how applications will be scored. Section 1.3 in the RFA also outlines the targeted grant funding levels. The maximum amount an applicant can apply for depends on which priority level their organization falls under.
Project Location	Unsure what this means w the location but our nonprofit owns its space where our food pantry is housed we need a roof our pantry roof is leaky plus heating is inadequate too cold in the winter...plus we would like to expand it	Please refer to Section 2.4 Eligible Project Locations. Entities that own their project location must provide a deed, in the legal name of the Applicant organization, for the proposed project location. Please also refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Eligible Project Costs include, but are not limited to construction, reconstruction or renovation of facilities, as well as the purchase and installation of fixed equipment such as HVAC systems. Ineligible uses of NY PLATES funds include, but are not limited to capital improvements that benefit space being used by entities or individuals other than the Eligible Applicant, and routine repairs or routine maintenance projects. Therefore, the replacement of a roof and installation of new HVAC may be eligible, as long as the Applicant has sufficient site control, and it will only benefit the Eligible Applicant. Routine repairs or routine maintenance projects for the current roof or HVAC system would be considered ineligible.
Eligibility	Also do you need letters of supportwill more points be given if we submit themthanks	Letters of support are not required. Please refer to Section 4.2 Project Viability in the RFA. This section outlines how applications will be scored with respect to your project budget and committed funding sources. DASNY will review and score all Eligible Applications based upon evidence of construction readiness and evidence of committed funding sources in an amount sufficient to complete the Project as described. Please also refer to Sections 3.1 and 4.1 of the RFA, in addition to Appendix 8, which is the Scoring Matrix, for a complete overview of how applications will be scored.
Eligibility	We are a food pantry. Do we qualify to get funding to help those in need?	Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. This section outlines the applicant eligibility requirements for the NY PLATES program.
Application Process/Materials	Is your grant application convoluted? It is unfortunate that trying for grants becomes frustrating as it is not made to be understandable and manageable. It comes to a point that you do not want to continue. Is that your objective?	The Application process is expected to be highly competitive. Criteria used to evaluate and score the Applications is outlined in Section 1.3 of the RFA. It is highly recommended that applicants view the pre-recorded NY PLATES Program Overview Webinar and DASNY Grants Application Portal Webinar on the DASNY website at https://www.dasny.org/about/what-we-do/grants-administration . The NY PLATES Program Overview Webinar will clarify specific elements of the RFA announcement. The DASNY Grants Application Portal Webinar will walk prospective applicants through the registration and application process in the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The videos can be viewed at your convenience.
Eligibility	Who is eligible?	Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. This section outlines the applicant eligibility requirements for the NY PLATES program.
Eligibility	For purposes of the eligibility requirement that the applicant provide food relief services at least three days per week, may an applicant aggregate pantry service days across multiple emergency food program locations operated by the same organization, or must the specific project location itself operate food relief services at least three days per week?	The specific project location must operate food relief services at least three (3) days per week for minimum of six (6) months during the period of May 2025 to April 2026; and need to have submitted at least six (6) months of service reports during the period of May 2025 to April 2026 to NYS DOH HPNAP or HPNAP contractors prior to submitting a NY PLATES application.

Eligibility	Our organization is evaluating eligibility for the NY PLATES program and would appreciate clarification regarding the requirement that an applicant's program "provides food relief services at least three (3) days/week for a minimum of 6 months of the year." Our organization's Food Access Initiatives program currently provides pantry services three days per week across two locations: twice weekly at one, and once weekly at the other. Would our organization satisfy this eligibility requirement if food relief services are provided three days per week across the Food Access Initiatives program as a whole, even though no single site operates all three days? Or does DASNY require the three-day threshold to be met at one specific project location? Thank you for your clarification.	Each project location must operate food relief services at least three (3) days per week for minimum of six (6) months during the period of May 2025 to April 2026; and need to have submitted at least six (6) months of service reports during the period of May 2025 to April 2026 to NYS DOH HPNAP or HPNAP contractors prior to submitting a NY PLATES application.
Eligibility	Would the project be considered eligible if the applicant has an executed sale of contract with an identified closing date, but the deed has not yet been issued by the August 20 deadline?	Please refer to Section 2.4 Eligible Project Locations. Entities that own their project location must provide a deed, in the legal name of the Applicant organization, for the proposed project location when submitting their application. Providing only a contract of sale will disqualify an application, as Site Control is required to prove that the Applicant has sufficient authorization and control to undertake the Project at the Project location.
Eligibility	How do I know if my organization is eligible for the grant and how do I apply	Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. This section outlines the applicant eligibility requirements for the NY PLATES program. Please also refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26.
Application Process/Materials	What is the application process	Please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26.
Eligibility	We operate a weekly food pantry at our church and purchase our food and supplies through the regional food bank. We also offer home delivery to guests who cannot get to our location in person. Would we qualify to apply for a grant, potentially for a vehicle to expand our community outreach/delivery?	Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Eligible Project Costs include, but are not limited to the purchase of light and heavy-duty trucks and vehicles for food transport. Please also refer to Section 2.4 Eligible Project Locations in the RFA. For all leased project locations, the term of the lease must be in the legal name of the Applicant. For capital projects proposing only the acquisition of moveable equipment or food transport vehicles, the lease or rental agreement must show that it is in effect for at least three (3) years from the date the Application is submitted. Religious organizations may be eligible to apply for NY PLATES funding if they are formally incorporated with the federal IRS and State of New York with a designated religious affiliation and/or purpose, so long as they meet all of the program's eligibility requirements, and they can attest that their proposed project is to be used solely for the eligible program, and will in no way be to the benefit of the landlord and/or religious purposes of the organization.
Site Control	There is a parent-subsidiary affiliation with our food pantry. The pantry is operated by parent charity however; the building is owned by the subsidiary. Would the application be submitted under the parent or subsidiary? What documentation would we need to submit?	All NY PLATES applicants must meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Section 2.1 of the RFA. Please also refer to Section 2.4 Eligible Project Locations in the RFA regarding site control, which is required to prove that the Applicant has sufficient authorization and control to undertake the Project at the Project location. If the Applicant leases their project location, the term of the lease must be in the legal name of the Applicant, and it must meet the requirements set forth in Section 2.4 of the RFA. Additionally, all project costs to be submitted against the NY PLATES grant must be both incurred and paid by the Applicant, and not an affiliate, subsidiary, or parent organization. All Applicants for NY PLATES must have their own valid Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) Emergency Food Relief Organization identification number (EFRO ID#) or current HPNAP contract number, and cannot use a partner organization as a pass-through to apply for funding. Please refer to Appendix 1 NY PLATES Application Preparation Worksheet in the RFA. This worksheet will help Applicants with gathering the materials needed before beginning an official Application.
Eligibility	We are an existing food pantry and member of a Food Bank. We have 5 freezers all about the same age. Are we eligible for help replacing maybe 2 of them?	Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Eligible project costs include, but are not limited to the purchase of non-fixed equipment such as freezers, stoves, pallet movers and shelving. Please also refer to section 1.3 of the RFA to see if your project falls within one of the two priority targeted grant funding levels.
Application Process/Materials	What is the process to apply for the grant funding?	Please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26.
Eligibility	We are a food rescue and feeding organization. We deliver to local food pantries and have our own food pantry. We are not a member of our local food bank because there seemed to be no benefit to us as the other members are food pantries and we are a food provider. Therefore, we have no HPNAP number. Can we apply for this grant?	All Applicants for NY PLATES must have their own valid Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) Emergency Food Relief Organization identification number (EFRO ID#) or current HPNAP contract number. Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. This section outlines the applicant eligibility requirements for the NY PLATES program.
Eligibility	We have a brand new space open to the public where we operate regular food distributions with food coming from a lead agency. We submit monthly service stats to the lead agency. Are we eligible to apply?	Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. This section outlines the applicant eligibility requirements for the NY PLATES program.
Eligibility	If I understand this correctly, the purchase of vehicles for staff to do mobile delivery to those who are disabled, elderly, or shut-ins is in the parameters of eligibility. Am I correct?	Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Eligible Project Costs include, but are not limited to the purchase of light and heavy-duty trucks and vehicles for food transport.
Project Funding/Match Requirement	What is the funding match?	There is no grantee funding match requirement for the NY PLATES program, however Applicants must demonstrate that they have the funds needed to complete the Project.
Other	What is the total grant amount allowable?	Please refer to section 1.3 of the RFA to see if your project falls within one of the two priority targeted grant funding levels. For Applicants who fall under the definition of an Emergency Food Program, Other Emergency Food Program, or Municipality providing food relief services, grants will range from \$25,000 to \$125,000. For Applicants who are Food Banks, grants will range from \$150,000 to \$500,000. No partial grants will be awarded. This is expected to be a highly competitive program. Therefore, it is possible that not all Eligible Projects will receive a NY PLATES Grant.
Application Process/Materials	Where is the application available?	Please refer to Section 5.2 Application Submission in the RFA. This section outlines the application submission process through the DASNY Grants Application Portal. The application submission period is from 7/8/2026 to 8/20/26. Please note that all applications must be submitted through the DASNY Grants Application Portal before 3:00 PM EST on 8/20/26.
Eligibility	Our food pantry has depended on dumbwaiter for over 23 years. It slowly died 4 months ago. The repair or replacement is incredibly costly, beyond our means. Would we be eligible to apply for help?	Please refer to Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants in the RFA. This section outlines the applicant eligibility requirements for the NY PLATES program. Please also refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Eligible project costs include, but are not limited to the purchase and installation of fixed equipment such as HVAC systems and lifts.

Eligibility	Can DASNY confirm applicant can include as a project cost, funds for applicant's agency network capacity support and management program (technology and equipment improvement for programs that are part of our distribution network, as part of efforts to improve applicant's distribution capacity through these agencies)?	Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Eligible Project Costs include fixed equipment and moveable equipment, which include but are <i>not limited</i> to the items outlined in the RFA. Therefore technology hardware may be eligible, however the NY PLATES grant may not be used to pay any recurring costs such as recurring software licensing fees.
Eligibility	If applicant's capacity support and management program is an eligible project cost, are capacity improvements only allowable for agency partners who do not receive HPNAP funding? (inclusive of HPNAP-eligible partners)	All NY PLATES applicants must meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Section 2.1 of the RFA. Please also refer to Section 2.4 Eligible Project Locations in the RFA regarding site control, which is required to prove that the Applicant has sufficient authorization and control to undertake the Project at the Project location. If the Applicant leases their project location, the term of the lease must be in the legal name of the Applicant, and it must meet the requirements set forth in Section 2.4 of the RFA. Additionally, all project costs to be submitted against the NY PLATES grant must be both incurred and paid by the Applicant, and not an affiliate, subsidiary, or parent organization. All Applicants for NY PLATES must have their own valid Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) Emergency Food Relief Organization identification number (EFRO ID#) or current HPNAP contract number, and cannot use a partner organization as a pass-through to apply for funding.
Project Timeline	In the event of an award, when can successful applicants begin requesting reimbursement?	Please refer to Section I(C) in Appendix 5 of the RFA, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). This section in the FAQs outlines the next steps in the grant administration process, once a NY PLATES grant has been awarded. This includes additional reviews that must take place, prior to executing a Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA). The GDA is the contract between DASNY and the Grantee setting forth the terms pursuant to which the NY PLATES Grant funding will be disbursed. Section III(A) of the FAQs also outlines the timing with respect to the payment requisition process.
Project Timeline	The guidelines state that the vehicle must physically be in the applicant organization's possession at the time of the grant. If awarded for vehicle reimbursement, is there flexibility to choosing the start date of the grant or does the purchase need to be made by a certain date?	For a food transport vehicle purchase, the vehicle must be in the Applicant Organization's possession, and be titled, registered and insured under the legal name of the Applicant, prior to submitting for reimbursement, however Applicants do <i>not</i> need to be in possession of the vehicle at the time they submit an application. Applicants will be able to submit eligible project costs for reimbursement once a Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA) has been fully executed. Please refer to Section I(C) in Appendix 5 of the RFA, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). This section in the FAQs outlines the next steps in the grant administration process, once a NY PLATES grant has been awarded. This includes additional reviews that must take place, prior to executing a GDA. The GDA is the contract between DASNY and the Grantee setting forth the terms pursuant to which the NY PLATES Grant funding will be disbursed. Section III(A) of the FAQs also outlines the timing with respect to the payment requisition process. NY PLATES Funds will only be awarded for a Project if it can be demonstrated that the Project can be fully completed as proposed before December 31, 2030.
Application Process/Materials	The FAQ document indicates Match is not required for eligible Food Bank applicants (page 4). However, the RFA also indicates applicants must demonstrate the availability of funds necessary to complete the Project beyond the requested grant amount (page 15). Is there a recommended number or percentage of other funding (outside of the proposal to DASNY) to make an application competitive?	No. Applicants must simply demonstrate that they have the funds needed to complete the Project. Please refer to Section 4.2 Project Viability in the RFA. This section outlines how applications will be scored with respect to your project budget and committed funding sources. DASNY will review and score all Eligible Applications based upon evidence of construction readiness and evidence of committed funding sources in an amount sufficient to complete the Project as described. Please also refer to Sections 3.1 and 4.1 of the RFA, in addition to Appendix 8, which is the Scoring Matrix, for a complete overview of how applications will be scored.
Project Funding/Match Requirement	Would applying to replace the roof over a walk-in freezer and repointing one of the freezer walls be eligible for this RFA as a capital cost?	Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Eligible Project Costs include, but are not limited to construction, reconstruction or renovation of facilities. Ineligible uses of NY PLATES funds include, but are not limited to capital improvements that benefit space being used by entities or individuals other than the Eligible Applicant, and routine repairs, routine maintenance or deferred maintenance projects. Therefore, repointing a freezer wall may not be eligible, however the replacement of a roof may be eligible, depending on where it is located. Projects located in facilities owned or operated by religious organizations will need to demonstrate that the assets they wish to acquire or improve with NY PLATES funds will only be utilized by the food relief program and cannot be beneficial in any way to religious worship services or activities.
Application Process/Materials	Please provide more information on Construction Readiness (RFA page 14) and the specific documents needed to be provided to show that construction is ready to begin.	Applicants should provide a description or evidence of steps taken in furtherance of the Project, including obtaining permits, undertaking the State Environmental Quality Review process, retaining a design professional, obtaining zoning or planning board approval, or possessing architectural/engineering plans, construction documents or any other documentation indicating the project is ready to begin.
Project Funding/Match Requirement	Can NY PLATES funding be utilized to support costs incurred after April 2, 2026?	Yes. NY PLATES funding can be utilized to support eligible project costs incurred after April 2, 2026. Per section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA, proceeds of NY PLATES Grants cannot be used to reimburse any costs incurred on or before April 1, 2026.
Scoring/Review Process	If an application includes multiple related capital improvements at the same project location (i.e., roof repairs, masonry work, and other eligible infrastructure improvements), will the project be evaluated as a single integrated capital project, or will each component be evaluated independently?	Please refer to Sections 3.1, 4.1, and 4.2 of the RFA, in addition to Appendix 8, which is the Scoring Matrix, for a complete overview of how applications will be scored. Only one application can be submitted for each organization, however the single application can have a multi-faceted project at the project location, so long as each task included in the overall project is described and documented in the application and backup materials. Therefore documentation must be provided with the NY PLATES Application to support the total cost of the NY PLATES Project. No partial grants will be awarded. Please also refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program. Eligible Project Costs include, but are not limited to construction, reconstruction or renovation of facilities. Ineligible uses of NY PLATES funds include, but are not limited to routine repairs or routine maintenance projects. Deferred maintenance projects are also ineligible.
Other	For projects that primarily preserve or protect existing food distribution capacity rather than create new capacity, how should applicants demonstrate project impact? For example, would preventing disruptions to cold storage infrastructure and protecting the organization's ability to safely store and distribute food be considered an increase in capacity under the Project Impact criteria?	Preventing disruptions of cold storage infrastructure should be explained in the Application. If this means securing replacement cold storage or capability, that would increase an organization's capacity to safely store and distribute food. If, however this is referring to routine/deferred maintenance and/or repairs, these costs would be ineligible. Please refer to Section 2.5 Eligible Use of Funds in the RFA. This section outlines eligible and ineligible use of funds for the NY PLATES program.
Other	What is the process for debriefing applicants who do not receive grant funding?	After the NY PLATES awards are announced, DASNY will notify all applicants via email of the results of the scoring and review process. Applicants will then have 15 calendar days from the notification date to request a debriefing meeting, which shall be scheduled within 10 calendar days of the receipt of the request. DASNY may not consider requests made after this deadline. The purpose of the debriefing will be to provide a high-level overview of the application's characteristics and general categories. The decision of the review and scoring teams are final and there is no provision to reconsider the scores or request a re-review of application materials.