



REGION 4: Northwest

Allen, Defiance, Huron

6

Total Grants
Awarded

6

Total Sites
Served

West Ohio Food Bank: Mobile Food Truck Education

Allen County, OH – Farmers Market



THE NEED

Poverty and food insecurity persist in Allen County, affecting 14.3% of residents and 21.6% of children, with over 13,000 people relying on SNAP. Despite fresh produce availability at farmers markets, low-income families and seniors often hesitate to purchase unfamiliar seasonal items due to a lack of confidence or knowledge in preparing them.

THE GRANT AT WORK

In partnership with Allen County Public Health, OSU Extension, and Job and Family Services, grant funds deployed the West Ohio Food Bank's mobile food truck to transform local markets. The initiative provides:

- Live recipe demonstrations and produce taste tests.
- Targeted SNAP outreach to boost program utilization.
- Reusable nutrition education materials, standardized tasting protocols, and prominent market signage.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

By combining access with hands-on education, the program turns emergency food reliance into self-sufficiency:

- **Confidence & Accessibility:** Real-time tastings and practical instruction eliminate food hesitancy, giving residents the confidence to purchase and cook fresh produce.
- **Projected Reach:** Interactive displays and tastings will directly reach 500 to 1,000 residents within six months, building on West Ohio Food Bank's broader impact of supporting 32,000 Allen County households in SFY 2025.

Another Region 4 Success Community Garden Success

"This mini grant allows the Defiance County Food Council to move forward in implementing action items within our strategic plan. The funding allows us to expand access to community gardens, increasing access to fresh, healthy food while fostering community engagement and collaboration. As a 'quick win,' this project will build momentum and credibility for future initiatives, helping us leverage additional partnerships and in-kind support from local organizations to further strengthen our local food system."

— BRIDGET FISCHER
DEFIANCE COUNTY, OH HEALTH DEPARTMENT



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY
Mary Ann Swetland Center
for Environmental Health

Healthy Choices Mini Grants support healthy eating and active living strategies at food pantries, farmers markets, early childhood education centers, K-12 schools, and community gardens.

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For additional information, contact psereadi@case.edu