

**Friends Foundation for the Aging  
Additional Grant Responses  
Starve Poverty**

**1. What impact do you think the Federal turmoil will have on your work?**

The changes in Federal spending have already impacted the amount and variety of food that we receive from Fulfill. Fulfill receives a large amount of support from Feeding America, and the funding changes are reducing what is available to us. In short, this means we are already purchasing food each week to supplement what we get from the food bank (Fulfill).

**2. I note “international” in your name. Are you local or international?**

When Starve Poverty was founded, our first area of work was in Exuma, Bahamas, where we completed building repairs, worked on an orphanage and provided programs such as Vacation Bible School. Some years ago, we stopped organizing these trips because of the difficulties in keeping construction tools secure on the island while we were absent. In the meantime, God led us to work on homes that are local as well as others in the Eastern United States. Our food pantry started in 2022. We no longer work out of the United States.

**3. You describe feeding families. Is there an age restriction on your pantry? How do you track seniors separate from families?**

Since our previous phone conversation, and per your suggestion, we have begun tracking seniors (age 65+) at our food pantry. We do this by asking the neighbor in our office how many are in their household, how many are children and how many are age 65+. We started doing this in late January, and since then, the percentage of people we help to feed who are seniors is nearly 40%. Another 20% of family members we help to feed are children. With our home repair program, 100% of the beneficiaries are seniors.

**4. You mention transportation as a problem, so how do people get there?**

Many of our neighbors have transportation difficulties when they must travel to the county seat of Toms River, New Jersey for services. This is why we do what we can from the southern end of Ocean County. Our food pantry sits adjacent to two age-restricted communities. A large portion of those utilizing our food pantry reside in these communities. Some walk to our facility, and the rest can get to us with help from a neighbor. While we do not advertise it, we do allow people that cannot get to us to phone us with their requests, and we have volunteers that will deliver food to their home.

**5. FFA does not fund capital, which would include your storage container and vehicle. How would our funding be used?**

We are blessed to have been awarded a capacity-expansion grant from Kentucky Fried Wishes last year. This will cover most of our expenses getting the storage container, along with the necessary remodeling, shelving, freezers and refrigerators. We also received a capacity-building grant from Fulfill that provided some shelving, a large freezer and a commercial refrigerator. Starve Poverty's immediate priority is to pay the part-time project manager to focus on the food pantry and home repair programs. The project manager is essential for both programs to run efficiently, and gradually, his work will get us to the point of being able to add a third window of service for the food pantry. Thus, we would put this grant toward his salary as well as the purchase of nutritious foods.