

# Insights | Agency Capacity Fund

**We distribute 25 million pounds of food annually thanks in large part to our partners on the front lines of hunger relief. With the resources of the *Agency Capacity Fund* we can invest in them to ensure our services will continue to reach neighbors in need.**

## The Power of Local Collaboration

The Food Bank benefits from the collective power of a regional network and our community-level partnership with 212 food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters — and they benefit from access to the reach and resources of the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. Together we feed 105,100 children, seniors, veterans, and other individuals each month.

We used to provide “emergency food assistance.” Now we’re a steady lifeline for the working poor; 60% of our client households report someone in the home worked in the last year. This along with an aging and dwindling volunteer workforce has put untold stress on a fragile safety net.

Data shows this trend is not likely to change and with potential cuts to federal programs on the horizon, the strain on our partners may only increase.

## A Practical Solution: Generous Grants to Partner Agencies

Thanks to donors who designated their gift to the Food Bank’s Agency Capacity Fund, last year we provided equipment grants totaling \$261,970 to



pantries throughout the 25-county, 8-city region we serve. It was so successful we will repeat the strategy.

Our focus in 2018 will be to replace aging residential coolers and freezers with commercial-grade units, to make computers and tablets available to make daily processes easier to manage and minimize report requirements, and we’ll offer warehouse equipment like floor scales and pallet jacks to move food faster and more efficiently.

## How You Can Help

Make a gift to the Agency Capacity Fund and know your support will make a difference at locations throughout our community. We are deeply grateful to the **Manning Family Foundation** for their pledge — thanks to them, the first \$20,000 donated to the *Agency Capacity Fund* **will be matched, dollar for dollar.**

Your gift is an investment in the network —the dividends will be healthy returns that directly benefit thousands of neighbors in need. 100% of your donation is passed-through to our partner agencies.

**“We are so excited to be able to serve those in need and offer them such healthy options.”**  
~Campbell County Social Services

