

NFI Board meeting notes

Date: October 23, 2024

Format: Online

Participants: There were 4 NFI Board members present: Johanna Fajardo, Fowzia Adde, Thea Jorgensen and Dave Jenkins.

NFI members absent 8

CE unit staff: Alicia Belay and Luisa Hoyos

Meeting minutes:

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Alicia** provides updates on the past project's ideas. Two projects' ideas were rejected due to a misunderstanding of the grant's rules, but the experience of rejection provided valuable insights into the grant's requirements.
- 3. Alicia** reminds that the project grant should serve large communities, not just individuals and align with HHS's strategic objectives and the NFI Advisory Board charter. The project aims to demonstrate the board's contributions.
- 4. Alicia** informs that a significant Cultural Food Project proposal has been approved. The initiative involved collaboration between Great Plains Food Bank and other organizations. The goal is to ensure culturally appropriate food access for low-income NFI populations in North Dakota and mitigate the mental health problems of our community.
- 5. Alicia** explains that the project focuses on educating food banks about the importance of providing diverse food options and better meeting the needs of diverse communities by providing culturally appropriate and healthy food. The approved project involves creating multilingual flyers, and the distribution of flyers and posters requires community input on locations.
- 6. Alicia** explains that the collaboration with the HHS NFI Advisory board will help the NFI communities in North Dakota improve food access. The Cultural Food Project presents an opportunity to educate and address the challenges faced by immigrants.

7. **Alicia** provides specifications and ideas for the project, such as expanding the food initiative project, contacting grocery stores, and making educational presentation to food banks and grocery stores, and others. However, a decision to proceed depends on achieving unanimous agreement of the NFI Advisory Board members. If members reject the idea, the NFI Advisory Board will need to find another idea project to allocate the funds.
8. Next steps: Board approval is needed before proceeding, and active participation will then be determined. Ideas will be compiled and detailed further for submission to the project committee, and a committee meeting is planned to finalize details. Additional discussion and commitment are anticipated.
9. **Members** express significant excitement surrounding the project launch, which aims to address professional development and NFI community needs.
10. **The meeting has been adjourned. Luisa** informs the group that the next meeting will be on November 26th.