



THE PRESIDENT'S FUND TO **Advance Innovation**

THE **Challenge**

Nonprofits often face significant hurdles in securing unrestricted funding. Donors tend to feel more comfortable directing their contributions toward specific “pillars” or programs with proven success. As a result, general operating support often goes underfunded because of the widespread “overhead myth” that persists in the philanthropic community. Moreover, many donors hesitate to support innovation, believing that traditional methods of serving our communities should remain unchanged. **While well-intentioned**, these perspectives are often shaped by lived experiences that differ greatly from those of the populations being served. Together, these factors create formidable barriers to securing the flexible funding nonprofits need to innovate and address urgent needs effectively and efficiently.

OUR **Solution**

The President's Fund to Advance Innovation is a bold, strategic initiative designed to tackle systemic food insecurity in North Carolina. This unrestricted, leadership-level fund empowers the President and CEO with the flexibility to pioneer innovative, long-term strategies to combat hunger. The President's Fund also ensures the Food Shuttle can respond quickly to urgent and emerging community needs.

The Benefits

The President's Fund to Advance Innovation provides the Food Shuttle with opportunities for:

FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY to address unforeseen challenges, respond to emergencies or natural disasters, and seize new opportunities. This agility ensures that the Food Shuttle remains effective and impactful in its efforts to fight hunger and food insecurity.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT in initiatives that tackle the root causes of hunger and poverty. By focusing on comprehensive, long-term solutions, the Food Shuttle can go beyond meeting immediate needs to drive systemic change.

PROGRAMMATIC INNOVATION to implement pilot projects without the constraints of specific grant requirements and timing of awards. These initiatives allow the organization to test new ideas, learn from successes and failures, and refine approaches for greater impact.

CONSTANT EVALUATION reflects the Food Shuttle's commitment to data-informed decision-making and impact measurement. Investing in data collection and analysis helps the Food Shuttle understand community needs, assess program effectiveness, and improve outcomes.

IMPACT In Action

The President's Fund to Advance Innovation has formally launched with **\$1.2 million** in funding thanks to the generosity of seed funders Chiesi USA and the Mead Family Foundation. While the fund will remain agile and responsive, Food Shuttle's leadership has already launched and identified key priority projects for the upcoming year.

Current Initiatives

GROWING STRONGER COMMUNITIES – Sustainable Agriculture for Nutrition Security: The Food Shuttle is launching a groundbreaking national agriculture conference. The conference will unite food networks to scale up local, sustainable agriculture that promotes self-sufficiency in communities.

GARDENS FOR EVERYONE WORKSHOPS: By pivoting the Gardens for Everyone initiative from one-at-a-time box installations to build-your-own workshops, impact can be scaled into counties across North Carolina.

MEDICALLY TAILORED MEALS: Expanding into medically tailored meals, which are prepared to meet the specific dietary needs of individuals with chronic illnesses or medical conditions, the Food Shuttle can make a bigger impact on community health.

NUTRITION AND CULINARY EDUCATION: Through scaling the Food Shuttle's existing Learning Management System, more neighbors will receive critical nutrition and culinary training – empowering them to make healthier, budget-friendly food choices and address long-term health challenges.

YOUR Investment Matters

The President's Fund to Advance Innovation aims to raise **\$2 million** by December 2025. Achieving this vision requires bold leadership, innovative solutions, and the unwavering support of individuals like you. Your generous donation will directly impact our ability to **FEED** our neighbors, **TEACH** self-sufficiency, and **GROW** healthy foods. Together, we can cultivate innovative approaches to end hunger and build a healthier, hunger-free future.

President's Fund Giving Levels

GIVING LEVEL	INDIVIDUAL*	CORPORATE
Gold	\$100,000+	\$500,000+
Silver	\$50,000	\$250,000
Bronze	\$35,000 (minimum gift)	\$100,000 (minimum gift)

Gifts to the President's Fund will be treated as unrestricted commitments. If you'd like to restrict your gift, please contact us to start the conversation. Monthly installments, multi-year pledges, and alternative gift methods (e.g., stock and real estate) are available.

**Individual donors will also receive membership in Inter-Faith Food Shuttle's Cultivator's Circle.*

Cultivator's
CIRCLE