

SOCIAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMISSION FUNDING
REQUEST

Legal Name of Agency: Food for Thought Learning Institute.

Mailing Address: 1165 E. Main St. Norman, Ok. 73071

Application completed by: Matt Joplin, Director

Telephone Number: (405) 323-1892

Email Address: Joplin@FFTLI.org

Amount of Funding Request: \$6,500

*****Please note that agency funding will be on a reimbursement basis.
Payment will be made as invoices with appropriate documentation are
Provided.**

In what year was your Agency incorporated: 2010

Are you associated with a national organization: No

Number of volunteers: 17

How many hours do volunteers donate: 2,652

How much money do volunteers save the agency: \$19,890

Has your Agency applied for SVSC funds before: Yes

Year 2010 Amount \$40,000 Purpose: General Operating/Start-Up

Year 2012 Amount \$7,289 Purpose Programs

Year 2013 Amount \$4,2002 Purpose Programs

Financial Information from the last fiscal year:

Percent of the budget which is spent on fund-raising: 3%
Percent of your budget spent on programs: 84%
Percent of your budget spent on administrative expenses: 13%

Percentage of Organizational funding:

Religious Organizations	<u>0%</u>
Civic Clubs	<u>6%</u>
Corporate Donors	<u>0%</u>
Endowment/Interest Income	<u>0%</u>
Fees for services/products	<u>21%</u>
Government Grants	<u>13%</u>
Government Contracts	<u>0%</u>
Individual Donors	<u>32%</u>
Private Foundations	<u>15%</u>
Special Events (based on net earnings)	<u>0%</u>
United Way	<u>13%</u>
Other	<u>0%</u>

Overall Mission of Agency

Please provide a one-page narrative in 10 or 12 point type describing the mission of your agency. List the client population (income, age, geographic location – percentage of City of Norman residents) and describe all programs and services offered currently by your agency. Include any duplication of services in our area and the percentage increase or decrease projected in staff numbers over previous year.

Specific project for which funding is being requested

Please provide a one page narrative in 10 or 12 point type describing the project for which funds are requested including staff positions, salaries, equipment, office supplies and other expenses. Please address what similar services are available through other local agencies, why this program is unique, how many will benefit and why it would be appropriate for City of Norman funds to be used to support this program.

Financial Information

Please provide a description of internal financial evaluation procedures, control processes and performance review procedure including the percentage increase or decrease of total budget over previous fiscal year budget. Attach previous year budget summary and projected budget to include in kind contributions and budget assumptions. An independent audit (not an internal audit) is required for any organization that has assets, an annual budget or annual income of \$100,000 or more. For an organization below the \$100,000 level, if no audit is available, so state and provide a signed financial statement (signature of the Board Treasurer or the organizations' chief financial officer) for the most recent fiscal year.

Required Attachments to this application:

Narrative describing Overall Mission of Agency

Narrative describing Specific Project for which Funding is being requested

Financial Information as previously outlined

Budget summary and projected budget

Copy of most recent Audit

Copy of IRS tax exempt status letter or your application for tax exempt status

List of current board members including names and professions

List of current staff members and their position titles



SVSC 2015 Funding Request

EIN 80-0609567

Mission

Food for Thought Learning Institute

Food For Thought Learning Institute is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization based in Norman, Oklahoma. Our mission is to teach vulnerable members of our community basic kitchen safety, food preparation and nutritional skills needed to overcome the cycle of hunger and poverty in our state.

The need is very great. According to current State Department of Education statistics 42% of Norman Public Schools students qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch program. Further, a recent study by the Annie E. Casey Foundation found that in Cleveland County alone, out of more than 53,000 residents under the age of 18, 7,190 (13.7%), experience some form of food insecurity.

Fortunately, here in Norman, hungry Oklahomans have access to several terrific feeding programs and pantries, including, our partnering agency, Food and Shelter, Inc. The mission of these pantries and feeding sites is to provide groceries or immediate meals to those in need. They do this very well, however, at this time there are no programs to teach them how to effectively, safely, and deliciously utilize the food and groceries, to which they may already have access.

Food for Thought is unique because we are the only organization whose sole mission is to provide hands-on cooking classes to all ages and all skill levels of vulnerable people in Norman, Oklahoma.

We have seen that with a little training, and encouragement, even the youngest among us can develop the skills and abilities required to break the cycle of hunger and poverty in their homes. Too often, a child is left at home to cook for brothers and sisters while parents are working, or otherwise absent. Hunger is not only a by-product of a lack of food, but also a direct result of a lack of control. It is here that Food for Thought is making a difference. Our entire mission is centered towards teaching others how to prepare food. And more accurately, the food they already have access to through our many partner agencies.

The skills we teach last a lifetime. We also teach effective shopping techniques so that they may manage a family menu on a restricted budget.

Currently in our fifth year of operation, Food for Thought has partnered with a dozen organizations in the Oklahoma City and Norman area. These include The YMCA of Greater OKC, Bridges of Norman, the City of Norman, the Center for Children and Families, Baby Steps and Dimensions Academy, Oklahoma County Health Dept., the Pioneer Library System, and now, proudly, the United Way of Norman and the Sarkeys Foundation. Through these organizations, Food for Thought has taught more than 200 classes and more than 2,000 students of all ages the kitchen skills they will use the rest of their lives.

When we began Food for Thought, we knew the need for our program would be great, but we have already far surpassed our initial goals and expectations. In the past year alone, we had a 349% increase in students reached. With additional funding for our programs, we will be able to reach even more needy families, deliver our program to a greater portion of Norman's hungry population, and meet the need of our anticipated 75% increase in staff.

As much work as we have done since we began, we know that there is still much need and many more people we can reach.



Food for Thought

LEARNING INSTITUTE, INC.

SVSC 2015 Funding Request Programs Food for Thought Learning Institute

EIN 80-0609567

Food for Thought Learning Institute is requesting \$6,500 to fund one year of services with the following partnering agencies: Baby Steps of Norman, CCFI Summer Enrichment Program, Dimensions Academy and the continuation of our partnerships with the Bridges Program and Planet Reeves (now known as Irving Explorers Camp). The service we provide is not being duplicated in Norman or Oklahoma City.

So far this year, we have taught 35 classes with 7 partnering organizations to more than 700 students, ages 6 to 75. Food for Thought has a history of proven and measurable outcomes with each of these organizations. Through our work with Bridges, Planet Reeves, and the Pioneer Library System, for example, more than 150 youths and adults have learned hands-on cooking and nutrition skills that will have a positive effect on the rest of their lives. Our classes have immediate benefits and positive outcomes for our clients.

In the past, we have asked these agencies to cover the cost of groceries and equipment for our classes, while Food for Thought's instructors have gone uncompensated for their time. This model is not sustainable. In tough economic times our partnering organizations do not have the budget for auxiliary programs. For these reasons it is appropriate and beneficial for the City of Norman to fund the following specific programs so that we may continue our mission.

In order to continue our successful service to the community, we are asking the following funding:

Baby Steps Early Head Start/Dimensions Academy: 8 Classes

Cooking and nutritional information for High school aged mothers who are finishing their education and need instruction on cooking for themselves and their babies.

Amount Requested: \$1,600

Bridges: 6 Classes

Hands-on cooking classes and instruction for emancipated high school students centered towards their busy lives and to build life skills and greater independence for their lives after graduation.

Amount requested: \$1,200

Irving Explorers Camp: 13 classes

Provide fun (and healthy!) summer snack alternatives to campers age 6 to 12 at the City of Norman's most affordably priced summer camp. We introduce these youngsters to lifelong ideas of better nutrition and fun food concepts. By far the largest, and absolutely, the most rewarding class we teach. This is Food for Thought's longest running partnership.

Amount requested: \$2,000

CCFI Neighborhood Centers, Summer Enrichment Program: 8 classes

The Center for Children and Families is one of Norman's most important resources. We are proud to renew our partnership to teach some of Norman's most vulnerable children basic cooking, but also to aid CCFI in their mission to teach confidence and self esteem to their young clients in a safe and nurturing environment.

Amount requested: \$1,700