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We would like to thank the Elbogen Foundation for their consistent and tireless work in Wyoming and the Laramie community in particular. You have changed the face of education, career and community opportunities here in ways that enrich and expand the lives of the people you have touched through your giving. We at the Laramie Soup Kitchen invite the Elbogen Foundation to help expand our efforts to reach out further to our community here, specifically to the students at the University of Wyoming.

The Laramie Soup Kitchen provides nutritious meals without cost to those who are hungry or alone and has done so for 40 years. It is a local source of community which connects everyone through food and a comforting place to meet. Their goal is to maintain and foster a better quality of life for the people of Albany County by continuing outreach to the hungry and those in need of a friendly and safe environment. They do not stand alone within the community: 154, 000 pounds of food was donated to the Soup Kitchen which was distributed either directly or through other local resources. This is largely due to donations from local businesses as well as the nearby University of Wyoming.

Our grant request is to address the current and growing student food insecurity at the University of Wyoming. While the Laramie Soup Kitchen serves its community well, its broad mission limits engagement with University of Wyoming students. Unfortunately, U.S. college student food scarcity has been a steadily growing problem which has only been amplified by the Covid19 pandemic. Recent attempts to legislate change by including college students in existing relief programs (SNAP) to mitigate the 30-plus percent of college students facing food insecurity

were unsuccessful. Add to this the fact that Albany County, with the highest rates of "limited or uncertain access to food" at 17.6%, is a food desert.

We propose a short-term pilot outreach program specifically intended to engage UW students at both the planning/outreach level and at the recipient level. This means a group of three students will plan and implement the outreach under the direction of the Soup Kitchen leadership to inform and engage the student population. Anecdotally, UW students are unaware of their community food resources outside of commercial grocery stores or restaurants. Informing them of the Laramie Soup Kitchen's availability could mean the difference between graduating on time or even at all for many students. A further level of uncertainty is added to the lives of international students who must navigate this new and sparse landscape with limited resources and often with new families. They have been asked to journey across the world to our community with the expectation of success despite strained resources. The on-campus food pantry, a needed but limited on-campus resource, reports that the largest number of patrons are international students. Since the pantry and other community and campus resources do not fulfill the gap left by Albany county's food scarcity and the lack of federal assistance, the Laramie Soup Kitchen stands as a potential bridge to keep both international and other students from experiencing food insecurity.

A grant of \$6900 would fund the cost of the three student interns—one of which will be recruited from the school of business—as well as costs for student specific promotional items and the planning and implementing of on-campus events and interventions. Much of the cost of additional food and supplies are extant donations from local resources rather than part of the cost of the proposed program. The program begins with an on-campus open call at the end of

the Spring or even summer semester to ensure recruitment starts as the following Fall semester begins. The lead intern plans a series of on-campus outreach events both broad (in the union breezeway for example) and targeted (classroom visits as well as international student gatherings and programs). Our plan is to distribute utilitarian but quality merchandise with the Soup Kitchen logo and information which is meant to last the school year, if not the length of a four-year program rather than cheap event giveaways. The end of year wrap-up will assess the process and success through various student engagements at the Soup Kitchen, on-campus event signups, and merchandise distribution numbers. Further plans will be amended toward improving those results prior to seeking further grant money.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding our on-campus engagement program. If we can answer any questions, please reach out to us at 307-460-1605.

## General Information:

Date-

Legal Name of Organization- Laramie Soup Kitchen

Contact Information- 104 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 101

Laramie, Wyoming 82010

Phone number 307-460-1605

Tax ID number- ---

Website- <https://www.laramiesoupkitchen.org/>

Contact- Ted Cramer [Director@LaramieSoupKitchen.org](mailto:Director@LaramieSoupKitchen.org)

Mission Statement- "The Laramie Soup Kitchen is passionate about improving the quality of life for our guests by providing hot, nutritious meals, a comfortable place for social interaction, and information about the network of services available to those in need. It's a place where all are welcome to enjoy meals at no cost in a friendly and safe environment."

Grant funds requested from the Ellbogen Foundation- \$6900

Total project costs- \$6900