

## **FEE REFERENDUM PACKAGE – AMS Food Bank**

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### **Part A**

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### **Part B**

Located in room 343 of the JDUC, the AMS Food Bank serves confidential and non-judgmental food service to members of the Queen's community. We aim to provide our patrons with food services in the most comfortable environment possible. We operate mainly on an opt-outable student fee from both the AMS and the SGPS, along with donations from community organizations such as the United Way KFLA.

Our funding primarily goes towards the regular purchase of healthy foods, including produce, eggs, meat, and dairy products.

The Food Bank provides a reliable and confidential service to ensure that Queen's students and postdocs can be healthy and productive as they pursue academic achievement. Additionally, the AMS Food Bank acts as a liaison for the Good Food Box program on campus. We also seek to address the underlying causes of poverty so as to alleviate, and ultimately eliminate food insecurity among Queen's community members. The Food Bank also works closely with other food-focused organizations in the Queen's and Kingston community.

Given the current status of COVID-19 and its impact on students, it is now more important than ever for the Food Bank to receive our student fee in order to run a professional and well-stocked food bank for our patrons. We have pivoted to remain open and adaptable during COVID-19, switching between being open for in person operations (when permitted), and curbside pick up options. The AMS Food Bank is committed to providing students with reliable food services no matter the circumstances as we understand the important of our service for members of the Queen's community.

### **Part C**

The SGPS student activity fee, along with the AMS student fee, will be used towards the operating costs of the AMS Food Bank. This includes student wages, purchasing food, as well as space and administrative costs. Purchased food and wages for our student staff make up 86% of the total operating costs.

### **Part D**

#### **1. Why is your group seeking a fee?**

The fee allows the AMS Food Bank to improve the quality and consistency of food services, continuing weekly food pick-ups over the course of the summer months and throughout the

COVID-19 pandemic. With the funds from the AMS and SGPS student fees, the AMS Food Bank has expanded services to include additional educational and skill building activities surrounding food security. This year the AMS Food Bank is seeing a significantly higher number of patrons coming in each evening to use the Food Bank services in comparison to previous years. Our core use of funds from SGPS members remains purchasing fresh food for patrons to maintain our stock and fill food orders, as such the continuation of this fee is of crucial importance for us to continue to provide these services to all members of the Queen's community.

**2. What direct benefits will SGPS members derive from granting your group a fee?**

The AMS Food Bank services are available to all SGPS students to use. In fact, a recent survey launched by the Market Research office to understand the AMS Food Bank demographics and general attitudes of the service found that of the 53 patrons surveyed, over 50% were Graduate/Professional students. As such, the continuation of this fee will allow for the AMS Food Bank to continue to provide food services to SGPS members, alongside encouraging participation in food centered events such as community dinners.

**3. How is the dollar value of the fee related to the benefit you are proposing to provide?**

The dollar value of the fee is directly related to the benefit we are proposing to provide as the funds collected go towards the purchasing of food and weekly groceries for patrons and staffing the service.

**4. When was your group established?**

The AMS Food Bank (previously Queen's Food Centre) was established in 1997.

**5. If you have collected a fee in the past, what initiatives and/or opportunities have you provide the Queen's Community with the collected funds?**

The primary initiative undertaken with the student fee is the regular purchasing of healthy foods, including produce, eggs, meat, and meat alternative products. As a result of the student fee, we are able to feed on average over 11 students per weeknight (when open for in person operations) by providing them with a confidential, professional, and non-judgemental service and over 80 students per week through our curbside pick-up options.