The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) will be offering a mini grant opportunity to assist with the establishment of campus food pantries. These grants aim to address the environmental, social, and economic challenges associated with food insecurity and food waste generation throughout the state.

This grant will be offered to Tennessee Higher Education Institutions with high levels of student food insecurity and/or a school located in a food desert. TDEC has budgeted $30,000 total for Campus Food Pantry Grants with the expectation that no individual grant will exceed $7,000. Funding will be used to purchase equipment necessary for operation of the food pantry.

Each school will need to maintain documentation showing the amount of food that the food pantry receives from rescued sources (those sources of food that would have otherwise gone to waste) to demonstrate that the food pantry is also diverting food from the waste stream. In the U.S. 40 percent of the food produced goes uneaten and sent to the landfill and $218 billion is spent on growing, processing, transporting, and disposing of food that is never eaten. Most of this food waste is still good for consumption and could be given to those who are food insecure. In Tennessee, 1 in 7 Tennesseans are food insecure.

Adequate space for the campus food pantry must also be demonstrated. With some schools having limited space, if there are any technical questions about space requirements, contact Brook Powell at brook.powell@tn.gov.

Grant Timeline:
- **November 1, 2020:** Grant application opens online
- **March 1, 2021:** Deadline to submit application
- **April 28, 2021:** Announcement of awardees