

EB Proposal: Food Collective Centre Lockers of Love Reserve Budget

Date: Monday, October 4, 2021

Program Information

Lockers of Love is an initiative that gives students and community members a confidential method of assistance in relieving food insecurity. As the program was run completely online in the Fall 2020-Winter 2021 terms, this e-card program was continued as a means to support FCC partners who could not access our in person services due to campus closures.

When the e-card program officially began on August 23rd this year, we offered \$15 gift cards with an additional \$5 per disclosed dependent to further support service users. However, this change was determined to be financially unsustainable (many people were indicating dependents!) and a formal policy change was announced on September 5th through social media and to previous users that the e-card program would be a one-time, \$15 access to ensure fair access throughout the school terms.

As of September 27th, our in person option became available in which FCC partners can confidentially request various nonperishable food items and health items. The director or assistant director then packs these items into a designated locker in BSB or TSH and shares the combination and location to the FCC partner to pickup within 10 days. This in person option has been well promoted and emphasized as the primary method of Lockers of Love support to conserve the reserve budget, though there continues to be orders placed for the e-gift card option. Between September 30th to October 4th, there have been 4 orders for the in person option and while this in person option is available,

Commented [FJ1]: you could explain that there may still be additional costs though because we still take things on a case-by-case basis (e.g., that partner who messaged us about not being able to afford bus fare) – i’m just thinking of things that would help convince someone that we need more funding

Finances and Timeline

Date in 2021	Number of Gift Cards	Total Value of Gift Cards	Cumulating Value of Gift Cards
August 23 rd : E-gift card program opens			
July 21 st	2	25	
August 10 th	1	20	
August 26 th	12	320	
August 31 st	3	95	
September 4 th	3	90	\$575
September 5 th : Policy change to one time \$15 gift card access			
September 9 th	5	75	
September 14 th	5	75	
September 23 rd	4	60	\$210
September 27 th : In person Lockers of Love option opens			
October 4 th	3	45	
As of October 4 th :	38 gift cards purchased; Total spent: \$830		

Commented [FJ2]: could we describe how we are emphasizing this option to try to conserve budget, but that we are still running out of money despite this? (you could also mention our upcoming promo that highlights in-person LoL)

Commented [FJ3R2]: just another thought (not sure where this would go, but: saying that we’ve been communicating with JJ for more than a month now about this - that this is not a last-minute ask, but a well-considered and well-documented need for additional funding

Current Success

In the previous school year, there were 41 e-gift card orders placed between November 19, 2020, to April 12, 2021 (41 gift cards x \$15 each = \$615 on Lockers of Love in 2020-2021). Between August 7, 2021, to October 3, 2021, there have been 46 e-card orders placed. Of those 46, 7 are repeating users and have been referred to our in-person options which began on September 27th. When the additional \$5/dependent option was available between August 23th to September 5th there were 24 gift card orders placed at varying amounts (e.g., \$15 for 0 dependents, \$20 for 1 dependent, etc.) totaling \$635. Between September 6th to October 4th, there have been 22 e-gift card orders placed (22 gift cards x \$15 each = \$330). In total, as of October 4th, 2021, \$945 of the allocated \$1000 has been used for the gift card program alone and thus, we will not be able to continue the Lockers of Love program without additional funding.

Therefore, we are requesting an additional \$1500 to support the FCC in sustaining the online option (purchasing gift cards) and In person option (purchasing food and health items). Furthermore, there may still be additional costs as we try to support FCC partners on a case-by-case basis where possible (e.g. an FCC partner has used both the e-gift card and in person options and has reached out for support to afford bus fare). The FCC Director, Morghen Jael, and Assistant Director, Ester Chow, have been in communication with the MSU VP Finance, Jeganiyah Jayachandran since September 1st, 2021, to discuss this well-considered and well documented need for additional funding and would be happy to provide further resources to support this proposal.

Thank you for considering our request. We are happy to answer any questions.

Morghen Jael, Food Collective Centre Director (fcc@msu.mcmaster.ca)

Ester Chow, Assistant Director (fcc.asst@msu.mcmaster.ca)

Commented [FJ4]: could you make it explicit that we will not be able to run programming as usual for the rest of the year if we don't get more funding?