



Livery Food Initiative Requests for 2025

London continues to face a severe food poverty crisis.

London has the highest poverty rate in the UK. In inner London, 30% of households are in distress, and for some groups, the rate is even higher, reaching 53% for single parents. Shockingly, 2 million people in the city are facing food poverty, and food banks and charities are feeling immense pressure with the growing demand for food and other services.

Food inflation
2008-21 28%
2021-24 30.6%

Why City Harvest?

City Harvest is a food charity that addresses food waste and poverty in London. Every week, they rescue over 120 tons of surplus food from the food industry and deliver it to 375+ charities. City Harvest first worked with Livery Companies during the pandemic, through the Livery Kitchen Initiative.

How the Livery Food Initiative support is evolving

Our support to [City Harvest](#) has evolved in response to their challenges. **In Year One**, we raised funds for a Van to transport food across London. **In Year Two**, we raised most of the funds for a much larger food collection Truck. Together, the two vehicles have transported **1.6 million meals so far**.

In **Year Three**, the final year of our fundraising, we want to help City Harvest establish a new **Distribution Centre** at New Covent Garden Market (NCGM), Nine Elms. NCGM is the UK's largest market for fruit and vegetables, with 152 wholesalers based in the market, and it serves 40% of the fruit and vegetables eaten outside of the home in London. Following a successful pilot earlier in the year, City Harvest has secured a 2,164-square-foot site in the market, including a chiller with 24 pallet spaces and a dry area, to serve as its third distribution centre. The site will rescue nutritious food from the market traders, which will then be delivered directly to the charity's community partners. This location will give City Harvest access to surplus healthy food that was unavailable before. It is ideally placed for the charity to increase its support in South London and distribute the food to areas such as Wandsworth and Lewisham where the need is significant. Over its first year, the site will deliver 900,000 meals to people in need.

In response to the above, we have three requests for Livery Charities in our final year.

1. To help us raise **the final £64,000** needed to keep the Livery-funded Truck on the road for three years.
2. To contribute at least **£120,000** to cover the costs of City Harvest staffing and rent at their newly established site at New Covent Garden Market in 2025 (*see overleaf for costings*).
3. Over the last two years, Livery Companies have helped City Harvest enormously through providing contacts, building relationships, giving professional expertise, offering the use of Livery Halls and by their members volunteering at City Harvest Depots. **Please get in touch with [City Harvest](#)** if you feel your Company or Charity might be able to help.

Support from the Lord Mayor Alderman Alastair King

"The Livery Food Initiative has in its first two years demonstrated just how much impact Livery Companies can have when they work together. I hope that the final third year will leave a Legacy not only of resources to meet the day to day needs to face down food insecurity, but also a change in thinking about some of the root causes to unleash growth in the City for all."

The Livery Food Initiative is also supported by Sheriffs Alderman Greg Jones and David Chalk, by former Lord Mayors and Sheriffs, and by Julia Sibley, Chair of the Livery Committee.

For further information see Appendix or contact Hilary Lindsay at liveryfoodinitiative@gmail.com.



Appendix

1. New Covent Garden Budget

Staff Costs	£79,333
Site Manager	£42,019
Assistant Site Manager	£37,314
Operating Costs	£41,430
Rent	£37,930
Rates	£3,500
Total Annual Costs	£120,763

2. Bank details

Please add to your payment the reference: **LFI your company name**
and email details of your gift to Hilary Lindsay at liveryfoodinitiative@gmail.com

City Harvest Bank Details	
Account name	City Harvest Ltd
Account Number	00099236
Branch sort code	40-52-40
Bank name	CAF Bank Ltd
Address 1	25 Kings Hill Avenue
Address 2	West Malling
Address 2	Kent ME19 4JQ

3. Background information

City Harvest was founded in 2014. Its company registration number is 08986929 and its charity registration number 1163055. Its registered office is Unit 8, Acton Park Estate, The Vale, London W3 7QE and its website www.cityharvest.org.uk. Copies of its accounts up to 31st March 2024 are available on the Charity Commission website. The LCCG members of the Food Task Group carried out appropriate due diligence on City Harvest. City Harvest provides regular impact summaries to LCCG, who share them with contributors.

The **Livery Charity Chairs Group** was founded in 2021 and has over 120 members from 100 Livery Companies and Guilds. Its Steering Committee members are Julia Sibley MBE (Innholders), Steve Graham (Glaziers), Hilary Lindsay (Chartered Accountants), Michael Davis-Marks (Makers of Playing Cards), Chloe Andrews-Jones (Fuellers), Stephen Gilbert (Chartered Secretaries and Administrators) and David Aitchison-Tait (Gardeners). The LCCG Food Task Group members are Richard Winstanley (Drapers), David Laxton (Bowyers), Hilary Lindsay (Chartered Accountants), Denise Fellows (Management Consultants), Laura Winningham OBE (Draper and former CEO of City Harvest) and, from City Harvest, CEO Sarah Calcutt, Fiona Hollis and Donna Beetham.

<https://www.liverycommittee.org/charities-and-education/charities/livery-charity-chairs-group/>

4. The future of the Livery Food Initiative

The Livery Food Initiative was launched in December 2022 to raise funds for City Harvest for three years. We had optimistically thought that, by that time, the worst of the food crisis would be over. Sadly, despite all that has been done, the problem is now more significant and more embedded. From 2026, the Livery Charity Chairs Group will continue to support City Harvest as City Harvest approaches Livery Companies and their Charities directly for funding and other sources of support. City Harvest already has strong links with many Livery Companies and their Charities, both recently and through the Livery Kitchen Initiative. The Livery Charity Chairs Group will retain the title 'Livery Food Initiative' and plans to use it to convene support from within and beyond Livery Companies to help raise awareness and address issues around the ongoing problems of food poverty and food insecurity.