# *Thank you for your commitment to green initiatives at the University of Illinois. One of the ongoing requirements listed in the terms of the funding agreement for your project is the submission of semesterly reports with key information about your project. In addition to this form, please provide additional financial documentation and/or progress photos if available.*

# *Please be as accurate as possible in describing the project (including possible setbacks or challenges in meeting the initial goals of the project). Not fully meeting your project's goals will not disqualify you from making future funding requests as long as your reports are as complete and accurate as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee, at* *sustainability-committee@illinois.edu**.*

**Project Name:** Project for Less

**Date of Report Submission:** 1/9/2023

**Project Purpose:**

Our goal is to reduce food waste and food insecurity both on campus and in the greater Champaign-Urbana area. We work alongside University Dining to help ensure that pre-consumer food waste is redistributed to local individuals in need. Further, we spread awareness of local resources available for food-insecure individuals.

**Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:**

No expenditures to date. Purchasing cold carts has been delayed because of slow communication with dining, and expansion restrictions.

**Project Progress to Date:**

This semester, Project 4 Less has made progress in maintaining and improving our relationship with University Dining and working on expanding to more packaging nights a week. It is our goal to expand to more nights and more dining halls to increase the amount of food we recover, but this expansion is dependent on University Dining. We have had a few promising meetings with them this semester, and it seems like they are interested in working with us to expand. We have reached out after the meeting to keep the progress going, but we are still waiting for them to further figure out the logistics of expansion with us.

P4L maintains a great relationship with Wesley Food Pantry, but we are no longer giving food to UniPlace due to staffing issues at UniPlace. We still maintain a good relationship with UniPlace despite this. We hope to get in contact with them soon and hope to be able to donate to them in the future. In the meantime, Wesley has been kind enough to take the food that would have normally gone to UniPlace. Further, we also have paperwork set up to donate to Salvation Army. We hope to begin to donate to them in the near future.

We have been working to improve our outreach to interested students by continuing to use the MailChimp mailing list to send out meeting reminders and updates.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

This semester we encourage engagement in our bi-weekly meetings with students without requiring a large time commitment. Students involved in our bi-weekly meetings take upon the responsibility of media content creation, partnership communication, and planning. Any student interested in getting more involved with leadership and other roles is provided with the opportunity to do so. Additionally, we hold open volunteer sessions for students, and members of Project 4 Less act as supervisors at these sessions. We have continued to increase interaction with other organizations, such as Food Justice Alliance (FJA) and Everybody Eats. We participated in several tabling/recruitment events, such as Quad Day and the Green Quad Day events in October and April. Also, we tabled at the Campus Sustainability Celebration in October. Through these events, we have increased our membership so Project 4 Less can continue and grow its work in the future.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

We have continued to grow our social media accounts, including promotional information, project updates, member spotlights, and informational content on Instagram and Facebook. We have a website jointly with FJA that includes information about both of our organizations and the Food Recovery Network. This website showcases our food recovery statistics and includes a link to sign up for our mailing list and to volunteer. In addition, we have been sending out emails to people who are involved or potentially want to be in the future via our new MailChimp email list.

**Additional Comments:**

We are so grateful for the funding you have provided us and we are looking forward to using it to expand our food recovery efforts next semester. Thank you so much again.