



SOLID WASTE ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM Food Storage Capacity Grant Offer Guidelines

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is offering grants to non-profit food banks and food pantries and other non-profit entities that accept and distribute food to food insecure Iowans.

The purpose of Food Storage Capacity Grants is to:

- Reduce landfilling of edible food items;
- Reduce spoilage of perishable foods; and
- Increase the availability of non-perishable food items.

For the Fiscal Year 2027, the DNR has allocated \$250,000 for qualified applicants. Once this year's funding has been allocated, the application period will be closed until the start of Fiscal Year 2028 - July 1, 2027

Individual awards of up to **\$5,000** in grant funding is available, on a competitive basis, for projects seeking:

- additional storage (i.e. shelving) to facilitate managing and displaying food items for distribution; and
- additional cold storage to increase the availability of perishable food items **and** to minimize the loss of perishable food items prior to distribution. Freezers and refrigerators must be **Energy Star** rated. Walk-in coolers, and freezers and other commercial or industrial equipment not **energy** Star rated, must be energy efficient as identified by the Dept. of Energy.

Applicants must use the DNR provided grant application. Applications will be reviewed on an on-going basis until available funds have been awarded.

Projects funded under this grant offering are required to enter into an agreement with the DNR and provide a final report summarizing the project and project results. The final report may include, but is not limited to, the number of people/families served, the amount of food distributed, the increase in acceptance of donated food items made possible by increased storage capacity and the resulting decrease in spoiled perishable food items landfilled.

Applicants receiving funding **must** follow applicable food safety guidelines.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include non-profit food banks and food pantries and other non-profit organizations responsible for accepting and donating edible food to food insecure Iowans.

The Department reserves the right to verify any information presented in the application. If an applicant is selected to receive financial assistance, an offer of financial assistance may be rescinded if the applicant is determined to be out of compliance with local, state or federal regulations or does not meet the conditions of eligibility.

Proposal

Proposals for financial assistance must be submitted electronically through the Land Quality Bureau and must use the application forms and format provided herein. Electronic proposals must be submitted with the subject line "**Food Storage Capacity Grant Offer**" to reid.bermel@dnr.iowa.gov.

Proposals submitted for financial assistance consideration are not guaranteed funding.

Financial assistance offers may be less than the full amount requested by the applicant.

Proposals are considered public information and are available for review upon request.

Proposals **must be** signed by an authorized representative of the applicant

A current W9 form will be required of applicants awarded grant funding.

Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE) representatives are available to discuss your project and assist with proposal writing upon request. To find the IWE representative serving your area of the state, go to www.iowadnr.gov/faba and click on Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE).

Direct questions regarding the Food Storage Capacity Grant Offer to:

Reid Bermel, email: reid.bermel@dnr.iowa.gov.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

Proposals should contain sufficient detail for reviewers to visualize and understand the project in its entirety. Applicants must:

- Submit a **signed**, original completed electronic proposal;
- Utilize forms contained herein;

Proposal Review

- Proposals will be reviewed and funding decisions made within approximately 30 days.
- If a proposal is determined to be incomplete, the proposal may be rejected.
- Based upon review of proposals, additional information may be requested for projects meriting further consideration. A request for additional information does not guarantee funding.
- Award recipients shall enter into an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources. A fully executed agreement must be completed prior to incurring costs for which grant funds will be claimed for reimbursement.

Eligible Expenses

Applicants may request financial assistance for the purchase of:

- Shelving to properly store or display donated **food** items for distribution;
- Cold storage **Energy Star** rated freezers and refrigerators; and
- Cold storage, energy efficient commercial/industrial walk-in coolers and freezers.

*****Delivery, Warranties, and Installation are NOT eligible expenses that would be covered by this grant.*****

Award Disbursement and Agreement Requirements

Funds will be released on a reimbursement basis after a correctly completed Grant Expense Sheet (Department provided) and supporting documentation (i.e. invoice, cancelled check) has been submitted to the Department for payment.

Project costs incurred prior to an executed agreement or costs not identified in the agreement budget are ineligible for reimbursement.

Projects selected to receive financial assistance must:

- enter into an agreement with DNR within 1 month of grant award notification;
- provide a current W9 form upon signing the draft version of the grant;
- provide a final report by date set forth in the grant;
- submit a correctly completed Grant Expense Sheet claiming grant reimbursement by date set forth in the grant agreement between the applicant and the DNR.

Failure to meet the above conditions may result in the DNR rescinding any grant assistance offer in the absence of prior written approval between the grant recipient and the Department.