

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The \$5 million Iowa Food Insecurity Infrastructure Fund is an investment in food bank infrastructure to help more Iowans in need get access to fresh, nutritious food.

The fund assists eligible nonprofit food banks and food pantry networks that have experienced economic hardship build, expand, or rehabilitate facilities to enable them to increase the amount of food, especially fresh food, distributed to local food pantries throughout Iowa. Funding may be used only for vertical infrastructure projects.

Vertical infrastructure projects. This includes new build construction, new expansion or rehabilitation of an existing facility. Eligible activities include construction costs, including labor and materials; site acquisition, site development, building permit fees, engineering and architectural services, industrial refrigeration equipment, including installation, racks and shelving.



PROGRAM POLICIES & GUIDELINES

The program runs from June 2023 through December 31, 2026. Grantees must obligate funds by December 31, 2024, and funding must be spent no later than June 30, 2026. Projects currently in progress may be considered for assistance only if the applicant can demonstrate a need for financial assistance and/or project expansion and compliance with applicable 2 CFR 200 requirements (the Uniform Guidance) including, but not limited to, procurement standards set out in the Uniform Guidance. Funds cannot be used to replace already existing or pledged funding.

Individual food pantries that distribute bags or boxes of food directly to Iowans **are not eligible for funding**. Food pantries are supplied with food by partnering with a local food bank or pantry network and receive donations from local grocery manufacturers, retailers and food drives.

AWARD AMOUNTS


The maximum award under this program will be 25% of the total project costs, capped at \$2 million.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications will be accepted through iowagrants.gov.

APPLICATION TIMELINE AND REVIEW

Applications will be accepted and scored on a rolling basis beginning June 1, 2023, through expiration of funding or July 1, 2023, whichever comes first.



IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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REQUIRED APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS

The application form in lowagrants.gov lists all attachments required to be submitted with Food Insecurity Infrastructure applications. Required attachments include documentation of nonprofit status, documentation of ownership/site control of project property, and documentation of matching funds available to the project. Applications without all required attachments submitted will not be reviewed by IEDA.

AWARD DECISIONS

Award decisions will be made on an ongoing basis as applications are submitted and reviewed. Typically, an award decision will be made by IEDA within 45- 60 days of submission of a complete application.

POST AWARD ACTIVITIES

Entities receiving an award through this program will enter into an agreement with IEDA. Program funds will be released on a reimbursement basis, as eligible project costs are incurred. Grantees must gather and report data to IEDA to demonstrate the increased number of Iowans served.

COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING

The State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act requires that all costs be incurred during the period beginning March 3, 2021, and ending December 31, 2024. Therefore, all costs incurred prior to March 3, 2021 and after December 31, 2024 are not eligible uses of these funds. The period of performance for SLFRF funds runs until December 31, 2026, which will provide recipients an additional two years during which they may expend funds for costs incurred (i.e., obligated) by December 31, 2024. Any award funds not obligated or expended within these timeframes must be returned to the state. Recipients of these funds will be held accountable to these funding timeframes.

For more information, please contact Paul Stueckradt at
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