

# FEEDING IOWANS TASK FORCE

*RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC*

REPORT

MAY 2021





## BACKGROUND

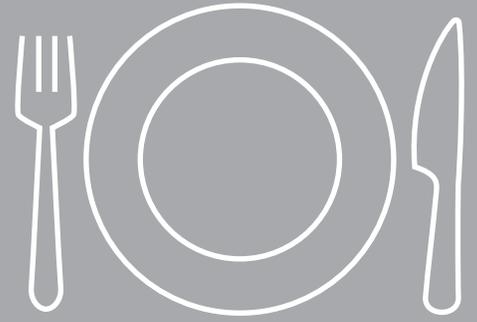
The Feeding Iowans Task Force (Task Force) was created by Governor Kim Reynolds in March 2020 to assist Iowans impacted by food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The objective of the Task Force was to obtain a complete picture of the feeding operation across all applicable populations and identify any current or potential future shortfalls or gaps in Iowa's capacity to continue feeding operations as needed. The Task Force met this objective through raising awareness of hunger, identifying potential gaps in Iowa's food system, supporting the food supply chain, and connecting Iowans with food resources during the pandemic.

A Food Security Strategy was developed by the Task Force within the first few months of creation by Governor Reynolds. The strategy considered movement restrictions imposed by precautionary measures, unemployment concerns, and diminishing staff, volunteer, and financial donations resources. The closure of established meal sites and disruptions to the national-level and state-level food supply chain were obstacles that were addressed in the strategy's proposed course of action, and adaptations to the current service models of feeding-related activities across the state were planned for the short-term, mid-term, and long-term in the Food Security Strategy.

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# TASK FORCE MEMBERS

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Lieutenant Governor

**Alexandra Bauman**

Department on Aging (IDA)

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**Sandra Hurtado-Peters**

Department of Management (DOM)

**Nalo Johnson**

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**Robert Schlueter**

Department of Human Services (DHS)

**Kala Shipley**

Department of Education (DOE)

**Lori Williams**

Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD)



# BY THE NUMBERS

## GROWING INDICATORS OF FOOD INSECURITY

PRIOR TO COVID-19  
**305,000 + IOWANS**  
WERE FOOD INSECURE  
FEEDING AMERICA'S, 2018 MAP THE MEAL GAP STUDY

**51% INCREASE**  
DURING FIRST  
THREE MONTHS



**168%**

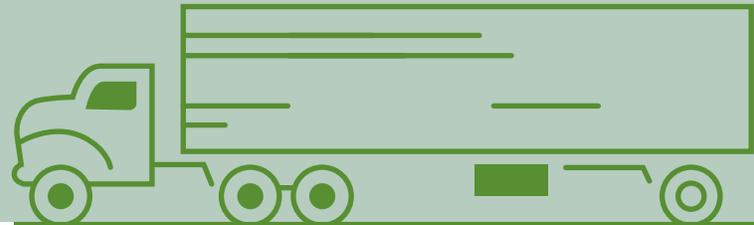
INCREASE IN  
SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
(SNAP) APPLICATIONS  
DURING MARCH OF 2020



**OVER 20,000**  
ASSISTANCE CALLS TO  
AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

INCREASED CHILD  
FOOD INSECURITY IN  
**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION  
PROGRAM FOR WOMEN,  
INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)**

RECORD NUMBER OF CALLS  
RECEIVED THROUGH THE  
IOWA FOOD ASSISTANCE HOTLINE



The agricultural supply chain impact of COVID-19 was unprecedented. From biofuels to eggs, every agricultural product or commodity was affected. While the Task Force focused on supporting food security during the pandemic, many of the Task Force's bulk purchase and distribution programs also supported Iowa's farmers by giving their products alternative channels for distribution, sale, or donation when the normal economy was upended.

## SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTIONS

**40%**  
DECREASE IN  
PORK PROCESSING CAPACITY  
USDA ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE



**25% PRICE INCREASE FOR GROUND  
BEEF AND 26% PRICE INCREASE  
FOR PORK CHOPS**



LIQUID EGG PRICES  
**DECREASED BY 68%**

USDA ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE



**33%**  
DECREASE IN  
REVENUE FOR  
IOWA RESTAURANTS  
COMPARED TO 2019  
DES MOINES REGISTER

# STATEWIDE FEEDING IMPACTS

**1.3 MILLION**

POUNDS OF FOOD PURCHASED THROUGH BULK PURCHASE AND REPACKAGING PROGRAM



**1.75 MILLION**

SERVINGS OF PROTEIN FROM FEEDING IOWANS TASK FORCE CARES ACT INITIATIVES

**38,413,675**

ESTIMATED MEALS PROVIDED THROUGH CARES ACT TASK FORCE INITIATIVES

BEEF UP IOWA	450 K
PASS THE PORK	600 K
TURKEY TO TABLE	700 K
BULK REPACKAGE	1.66 M
FOOD BANK / FOOD PANTRY GRANTS	35.0 M



AREA AGENCIES ON AGING HOME DELIVERED MEALS INCREASED BY

**256%**



**\$77+ MILLION**

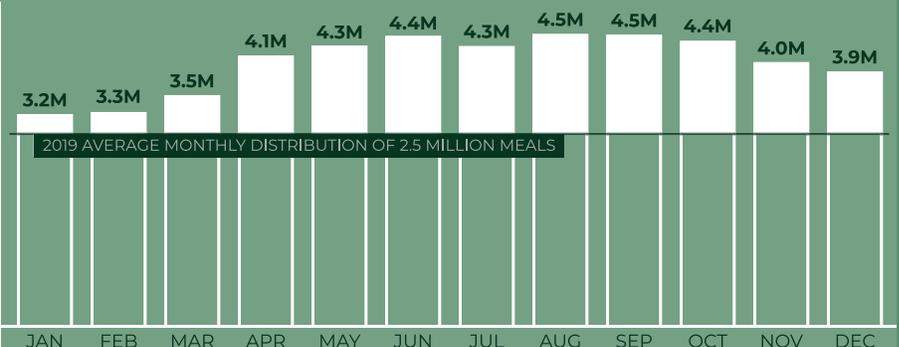
IN BENEFITS TO STUDENTS THROUGH THE PANDEMIC ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER PROGRAM

**\$20+ MILLION**

IN ADDITIONAL SNAP BENEFITS PER MONTH TO SNAP HOUSEHOLDS

IOWA FOOD BANKS DISTRIBUTED **25% MORE** FOOD IN 2020 THAN IN 2019

IOWA FOOD BANK ASSOCIATION



# CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND

## DISTRIBUTION OF CARES ACT FUNDS

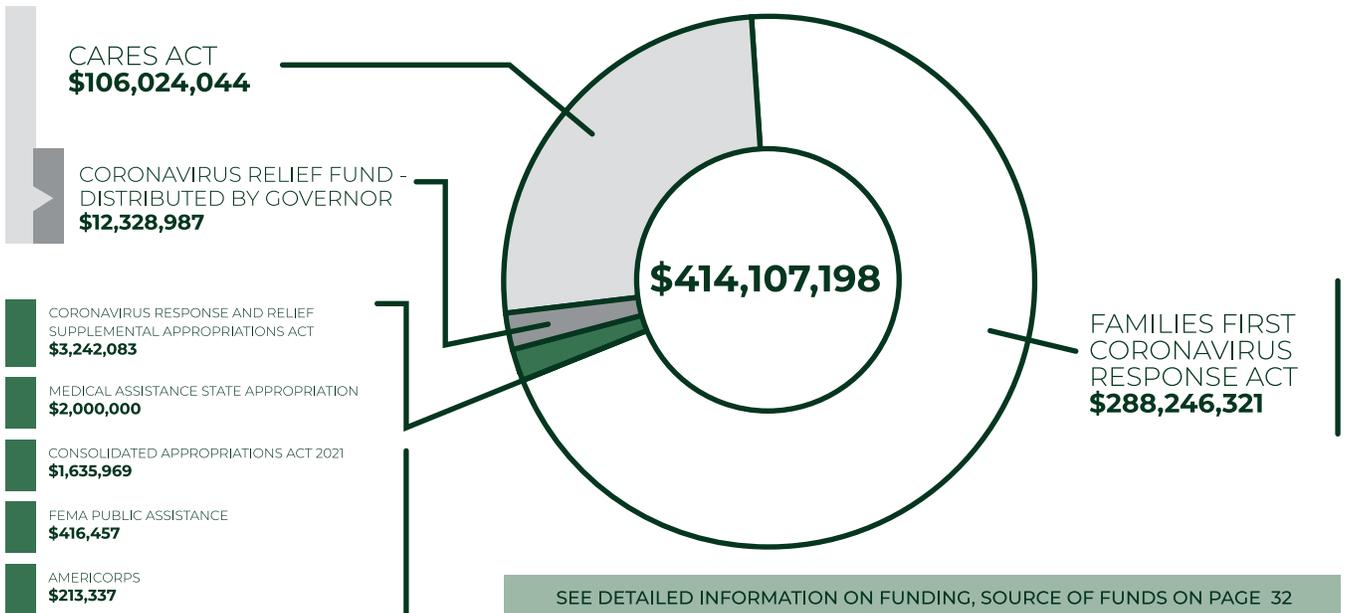
### PROGRAM

### TOTAL ALLOCATED

Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Beef Up Iowa	\$300,000
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Pack the Pantry	\$346,939
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Pass the Pork	\$300,000
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Turkey to table	\$300,000
Department of Human Services - Food Banks and Food Pantries	\$7,500,000
Healthiest State Initiative - Double Up Food Bucks	\$2,000,000
Homeland Security and Emergency Management - Bulk Purchasing and Repackaging	\$1,000,000
Iowa Department on Aging - Home Delivered Meal Equipment Needs	\$264,586
Volunteer Iowa - COVID AmeriCorps Recovery	\$317,462
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,328,987</b>

The Coronavirus Relief Fund administered by Governor Kim Reynolds is an allocation from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) distributed to all states

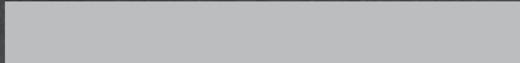
## STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS SUPPORTING FOOD INSECURITY

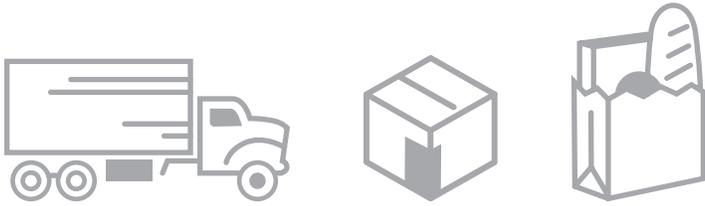


SEE DETAILED INFORMATION ON FUNDING, SOURCE OF FUNDS ON PAGE 32



# SOLUTIONS





# RECONNECTING THE SUPPLY CHAIN

Responding to the nation-wide supply disruption, the Task Force developed a mini supply chain employing Iowa's strengths – partnerships and community-focused solutions.

## IOWA NATIONAL GUARD

**19,000 +**  
BOXES OF  
FOOD



DISTRIBUTED  
**OVER 2,000 MILES**  
THROUGHOUT IOWA



The Iowa National Guard supported the IFBA member food banks in food distribution efforts across the state through essential transportation, distribution, and food box packaging during the peak impact months experienced in Iowa for food insecurity. More than 19,000 food boxes and nearly 2,000 miles were covered to distribute food to pantries and mobile sites.



## PASS THE PORK

**489 PIGS**  
DONATED  
BY IOWA FARMERS

**600,000 +**  
SERVINGS  
OF PROTEIN  
DISTRIBUTED



**\$300,000**  
CARES ACT  
FUNDS \*

COVID-19 posed substantial barriers to pork processing capacity at facilities across the country, including those in Iowa. Through “Pass the Pork,” the Task Force worked with the Iowa Pork Producers Association and IDALS to help Iowa pig farmers donate pigs to IFBA food banks for distribution to Iowans seeking food. Local meat processors extended their hours of operation to process and package the pork donations to help meet the growing demand for food bank and food pantry resources. Later, the Iowa State University (ISU) Meat Lab helped lead processing for the program. Iowa food banks and food pantries got the pork into the hands of those in need.

## BEEF UP IOWA

**450,000**  
SERVINGS  
OF PROTEIN  
DISTRIBUTED



**90 UNIQUE**  
DELIVERIES  
TO PANTRIES

**\$300,000**  
CARES ACT  
FUNDS \*

The Task Force launched the “Beef Up Iowa” program to connect Iowa beef producers with food insecure Iowans. The program was a partnership with IDALS, ISU, IFBA and Iowa’s beef producers.

Through Beef Up Iowa, students and staff at ISU processed cattle and trim from Iowa beef producers who had limited processing options due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meat was distributed through the IFBA food bank network to food pantries and feeding programs across the state. The initial cattle for Beef Up Iowa were sourced from Iowa 4-H and FFA members.



**PASS THE PORK**

PIG FARMERS FEEDING IOWANS

### PASS THE PORK PARTNERS

- Feeding Iowans Task Force
- Iowa Pork Producers Association
- Iowa-based meat lockers
- Iowa pig farmers
- Donations from businesses and individuals
- Iowa Food Bank Association
- Iowa food pantries
- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship



**BEEF UP IOWA**

### BEEF UP IOWA PARTNERS

- Feeding Iowans Task Force
- Iowa State University Meat Lab
- Iowa Cattleman’s Foundation
- Iowa Beef Industry Council
- Iowa beef producers
- Iowa Food Bank Association
- Donations from businesses and individuals
- Iowa food pantries
- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

**MEATS**  
**GROUND PORK**  
KEEP FROZEN  
**WRIGHT MEATS, INC.**  
EAGLE GROVE, IOWA 50533  
NET WT. 16 OZS. (1 LB.)

**MEATS**  
**GROUND PORK**  
KEEP FROZEN  
**LEWRIGHT MEATS, INC.**  
EAGLE GROVE, IOWA 50533  
NET WT. 16 OZS. (1 LB.)

IOWA  
SELECTED  
PASSED  
500

## TURKEY TO TABLE

**700,000 +**  
SERVINGS  
OF PROTEIN  
DISTRIBUTED



**345 UNIQUE**  
DELIVERIES  
TO PANTRIES

**\$300,000**  
CARES ACT  
FUNDS \*

Each year, Iowa turkey farmers raise about 12 million turkeys. Most of this protein is sold to major global restaurant chains for use in lunch meat and similar products. However, when the pandemic hit, orders at these restaurants plummeted — leaving hundreds of thousands of pounds of Iowa turkey without a buyer.

The Task Force, IDALS, and IFBA responded to this COVID-19 impact by setting up the partnership infrastructure and providing funding to reroute Iowa-raised turkey products to Iowans. IDALS facilitated \$300,000 in turkey purchases by IFBA, which then distributed Iowa-raised turkey products to all six food banks statewide. A total of 345 unique deliveries of turkey products were ultimately made from the various food banks to local pantries.



### TURKEY TO TABLE PARTNERS

- Feeding Iowans Task Force
- Iowa Food Bank Association
- West Liberty Foods
- Iowa Turkey Federation
- Iowa turkey farmers
- Iowa food pantries
- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

## IOWA GLEANING NETWORK

**HARVESTED 24,500 POUNDS**  
OF FRESH PRODUCE



**DISTRIBUTED TO**  
**20 COUNTIES**

REACHING  
**1,000 +**  
FAMILIES

The Iowa Gleaning Network was established in April by a working group of the Task Force to recover valuable fresh fruits and veggies left in the fields of local farms. Network member organizations harvested more than 24,500 pounds of nutritious produce valued at more than \$57,000 to fight hunger and build community. Food was distributed to more than 20 Iowa counties, reaching more than 1,000 families impacted by COVID-19.



## BULK FOOD PURCHASING & REPACKAGING

**1.1 MILLION MEALS**



**15,000+ VOLUNTEER HOURS**

**\$1 MILLION CARES ACT FUNDS \***



**AmeriCorps**

Shortages across the nation of single serving and family-sized serving food products made it extremely difficult to acquire key shelf-stable food that IFBA food banks and pantries typically rely on for families in Iowa. Basic items such as pasta, rice, oats, and alternative protein sources (ie. almonds) had dropped in quantity while the needs had increased significantly. The Task Force partnered with HSEMD, IFBA, and Volunteer Iowa to purchase hard-to-find food products in bulk and repackage them into single and family serving sizes. Community volunteers and a partnership with AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) supported the repackaging of 1.3 million pounds of food, equating to more than 1.1 million meals, and an excess of 15,000 volunteer hours with more taking place every day.





# CREATING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COVID-19 created a unique situation for food distribution. Food banks and food pantries saw a four-time increase in demand for food, while at the same time volunteer resources declined dramatically as the largest pool of volunteers – retirees – were at higher risk of contracting and becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. Volunteer Iowa, with guidance and assistance from the Task Force, stepped up to help fill the gaps at food banks and food pantries through targeted calls to lower risk volunteer groups, expansion of existing AmeriCorps programs and creation of new ones, and reassigning AmeriCorps members whose host sites had shut down.

## AMERICORPS IN IOWA

**272,149**  
POUNDS OF FOOD  
DISTRIBUTED BY  
DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

**12,634 HOURS**  
SERVED BY 350  
MEMBERS



In the first five months of the pandemic Volunteer Iowa reassigned over 350 AmeriCorps members as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These AmeriCorps members served a total of 12,634 hours in 36 service locations across the state, mainly supporting food-related activities at food banks, food pantries, and school “Grab and Go” locations. The AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team was given a mission assignment for deployment to foodbanks, resulting in 2,071 hours served for distribution and collection of 272,149 pounds of food.

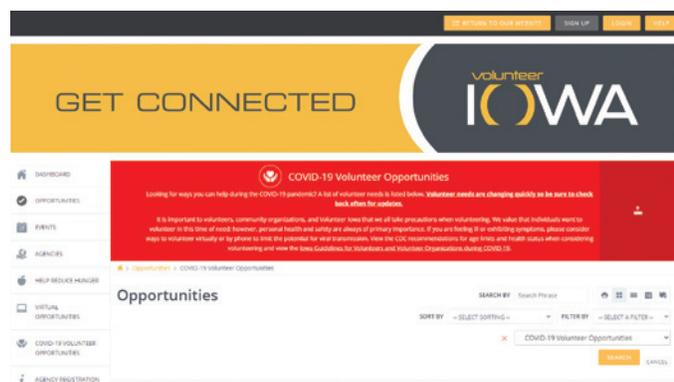
To address the ongoing response to the pandemic, Volunteer Iowa partnered with an additional 68 community organizations across the state to place VISTA and AmeriCorps state members in over 90 new full-time COVID-19 recovery related positions from summer 2020 onwards. The Iowa COVID-19 Recovery AmeriCorps program was created with the Iowa Economic Development Authority serving as an intermediary organization, coordinating placement of members throughout the state at host site agencies.

## YOUTH CALL TO ACTION

Volunteer Iowa connected with the FFA to share the call for volunteer assistance. FFA Chapters and members across the state answered the call, developing relationships with their local food pantries to be available as needed. The FFA Chapter in Charles City, for example, coordinated with their local pantry to unload the truck delivering food to the food pantry on a bi-weekly basis. A number of FFA Chapters developed and maintained garden plots, donating the produce raised to local food pantries.

## CENTRAL LOCATION FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

A single location to access food-related volunteer opportunities maximized information sharing and provided a centralized place for volunteers to look to get involved. Volunteer Iowa's statewide volunteer portal, Get Connected, provided a method for coordinating virtual and in-person volunteer opportunities pertaining to food programming. Partnering with a network of Volunteer Centers across the state, Volunteer Iowa promoted the opportunity to post food-related volunteer needs to nonprofits.



## BUILDING VOLUNTEER CAPACITY & VOLUNTEERING SAFELY

To bolster food-related nonprofit organizations experiencing staffing and volunteer capacity needs, a combination of resource development and awareness tactics were implemented statewide. A multi-faceted awareness campaign highlighted the ongoing need for volunteers, AmeriCorps opportunities, and food distribution programs was enacted. In order to support nonprofit and government organizations in safely continuing to engage volunteers, Volunteer Iowa developed and shared resources and webinars on how to successfully develop and manage virtual and remote volunteer opportunities. Additionally, working with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Volunteer Iowa enhanced the ability for older Iowans to volunteer safely. RSVP volunteers provided free produce to foodbanks with in community gardens, gleaning produce from farmers' markets producers and were essential in meal delivery services.







# RAISING AWARENESS OF FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

In every emergency, communication is the most important and most difficult task. Providing easy access to navigate the available food-related programs for those seeking information and assistance was an important focus area for the Task Force. Governor Kim Reynolds highlighted the Feeding Iowans Task Force at two of her COVID-update press conferences, bringing awareness of food security issues to a statewide audience.

## DIGITAL MEDIA/SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

A single resource location on the statewide COVID-19 website for food resource information was created, advertised, and promoted ceaselessly through social media, Public Service Announcements, agency/partner websites and social media, official press conferences, and local community organizations.

Some examples include:

- The hashtag **#FeedingIowans** was created to raise awareness of the activities of the Task Force and to connect the programs, volunteers, donors, and recipients to reach a unified goal to ensure all Iowans have access to food.
- Information and assistance to seniors through **Lifelong Links**, the state's Aging & Disability Resource Center, to connect older adults, caregivers, and adults with disabilities to services.
- **Multi-language COVID-19 food assistance infographics** enhanced information sharing, providing quick access to food assistance program contact information. Infographics were available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, and Vietnamese.
- Members of the Task Force participated in the **Iowa Stops Hunger** programming facilitated through the Business Publications Corporation to raise awareness and action to stop hunger in Iowa.



**Ressources  
alimentaires**  
PENDANT COVID-19

**WIC (Femmes, nourrissons et enfants)**

APPELER:  
800-532-1579  
515-281-6650  
SUR INTERNET:  
[WWW.SIGNUPWIC.COM](http://WWW.SIGNUPWIC.COM),  
Entrez votre code postal



Cette institution est un  
fournisseur d'égalité des  
chances

*Cette information vous est présentée en partenariat avec le Groupe de travail du  
Gouverneur pour l'alimentation des Iowans*



**BE THE GREATER GOOD. JOIN AMERICORPS.**

**A New Way to  
be Iowa Nice**

Help deliver leftover  
produce to those who  
need it with AmeriCorps

**Cultivation Corridor**  
@CultivationCorr

Iowans understand the importance of feeding others. Pack the Pantry allows food pantries to apply for a grant that provides funds to increase refrigeration capacity. Applications close July 17! Pantry coordinators can apply here: [bit.ly/PackThePantry](http://bit.ly/PackThePantry)... #FeedingIowans



**Healthiest State Initiative** @... · May 28, 2020

The Healthiest State Initiative is pleased to announce that the #DoubleUpFoodBucks program will receive \$1M from the CARES Act to expand access to nutritious food for Iowans in need while also supporting specialty crop farmers during this unprecedented time.



**Feed Iowa First**  
October 16 at 11:23 AM

This week, volunteers and our Gleaning Coordinator Jessie gleaned 750 lb of Acorn Squash! After a harvest, gleaning involves collecting the excess produce and distributing it to the community. Thank you to [Paul Farms](#) for their donation of these beautiful winter squash. Be sure to look at their page for some delicious recipes.



**COVID-19 AMERICORPS  
RECOVERY EFFORT**

Apply today for a paid summer position



**IOWA  
NEEDS YOU!**



LOOKING TO MAKE AN  
**IMPACT?**

Demands on nonprofits, including food banks and pantries, are higher than ever. Meanwhile, volunteering by our biggest volunteer group, high-risk seniors, has needed to decline due to COVID-19. By joining AmeriCorps you can help meet critical needs in your community.



**مصادر الطعام أثناء**

جائحة COVID-19

**برنامج خدمة الطعام الصيفي**

مكالمة

515-281-5356

للحصول على معلومات البرنامج  
للتثور على موقع

1-866-348-6479 or 2-1-1

TEXT: FOOD OR COMIDA

TO 877-877

عبر الانترنت

[www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids](http://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids)

هذه المؤسسة هي مزود تكافؤ الفرص





# PARTNERSHIP FACILITATION

Communication and coordination among businesses with food to donate, agencies distributing food, transportation businesses and officials, policy makers and the faith-based communities were key in assuring a healthy, food-secure future for affected populations.

## DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS

**OVER \$1M**  
DOUBLE UP BUCKS  
REDEEMED FOR  
FRUIT & VEGETABLES



**75,334**  
**IOWANS**  
BENEFITED

**\$2 MILLION**  
CARES ACT  
FUNDS \*



The Double Up Food Bucks program, administered by the Healthiest State Initiative in Iowa, expanded in 2020 to include 100+ new sites across 76 counties, including all Fareway grocery stores, select Hy-Vee stores, plus additional food co-ops and farmers markets. This expansion was made possible in part by \$2 million in funding from the CARES Act. Double Up Food Bucks is a SNAP incentive program in Iowa that matches food assistance dollars 1:1 on purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables at participating farmers markets and grocery stores.



## PACK THE PANTRY

**102**  
GRANT  
AWARDS



AVERAGE GRANT  
**\$3,603**

**\$346,938**  
CARES ACT  
FUNDS \*



**PACK THE PANTRY**

Iowa's major regional food banks serve over 2,000 local pantries in all 99 Iowa counties. Often, these pantries are volunteer-run on tight budgets year after year. Many pantries across Iowa came into the COVID-19 pandemic with a critical incapacity to meet the surge in demand for their services — especially for refrigerated food products like meat, eggs, dairy and produce.

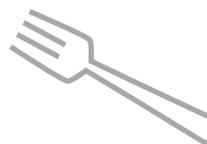
To help food pantries meet the increased local need for high-nutrition foods, the Task Force and IDALS launched the “Pack the Pantry” program that awarded grants of up to \$10,000 for pantries to upgrade their refrigeration units. In turn, pantries were able to not only serve more Iowans during the pandemic, but also accept more Iowa agriculture products like meat, dairy, eggs and produce from food banks and private donors. Several of the pantries that received grants also participated in other Task Force programs, such as Pass the Pork, Beef Up Iowa, and Turkey to Table. The added refrigeration made possible by this grant was a critical component of these pantries' participation in the other food programs.

Overall, 102 pantries received \$346,938 in grant funds to install new refrigeration. Pantries across the state received grants of up to \$10,000, with the average award of \$3,603.

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR OLDER IOWANS

**191,026**  
OLDER IOWANS  
SERVED

**1.48 MILLION**  
MEALS SERVED



**\$382,827**  
CARES ACT  
FUNDS

IDA contracted with IFBA to provide supplemental food items, senior food boxes, and food bags to Iowans age 60+ utilizing \$382,827 in CARES Act funds. As a result, 191,026 older Iowans received 1,775,118 pounds of food and 18,668.35 non-food items were purchased.

## FOOD TRUCK MEALS TO OLDER IOWANS

**13**  
LOCAL  
FOOD TRUCKS



**10,847 MEALS**  
FOR OLDER IOWANS

**\$49,714**  
CARES ACT  
FUNDS

During the summer and fall in 2020, IDA contracted with Central Iowa Shelter and Services to provide food truck meals to Iowans age 60+ utilizing \$49,714 in CARES Act funds. As a result, 10,847 meals were served to older Iowans from thirteen local Food Truck Restaurants in thirteen different locations in Des Moines, Iowa. These locations were strategically chosen to reach older Iowans with the highest needs. Participants were given high quality meal choices.





## THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE IOWA HUNGER SUMMIT

In a panel discussion at the Iowa Hunger Summit, the Task Force expounded on the collaborative methods used to address immediate and long-term feeding needs as well as mitigate the impact for Iowa's most at-risk populations and the recently unemployed during the pandemic.

## DHS PARTNERSHIP WITH FEEDING AMERICA FOOD BANKS SERVING IOWA

**3.1 MILLION POUNDS**  
OF FOOD RECEIVED THROUGH THE  
EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

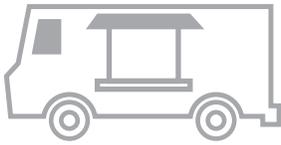


**35 MILLION  
MEALS**

**\$7.5 MILLION**  
CARES ACT  
FUNDS \*

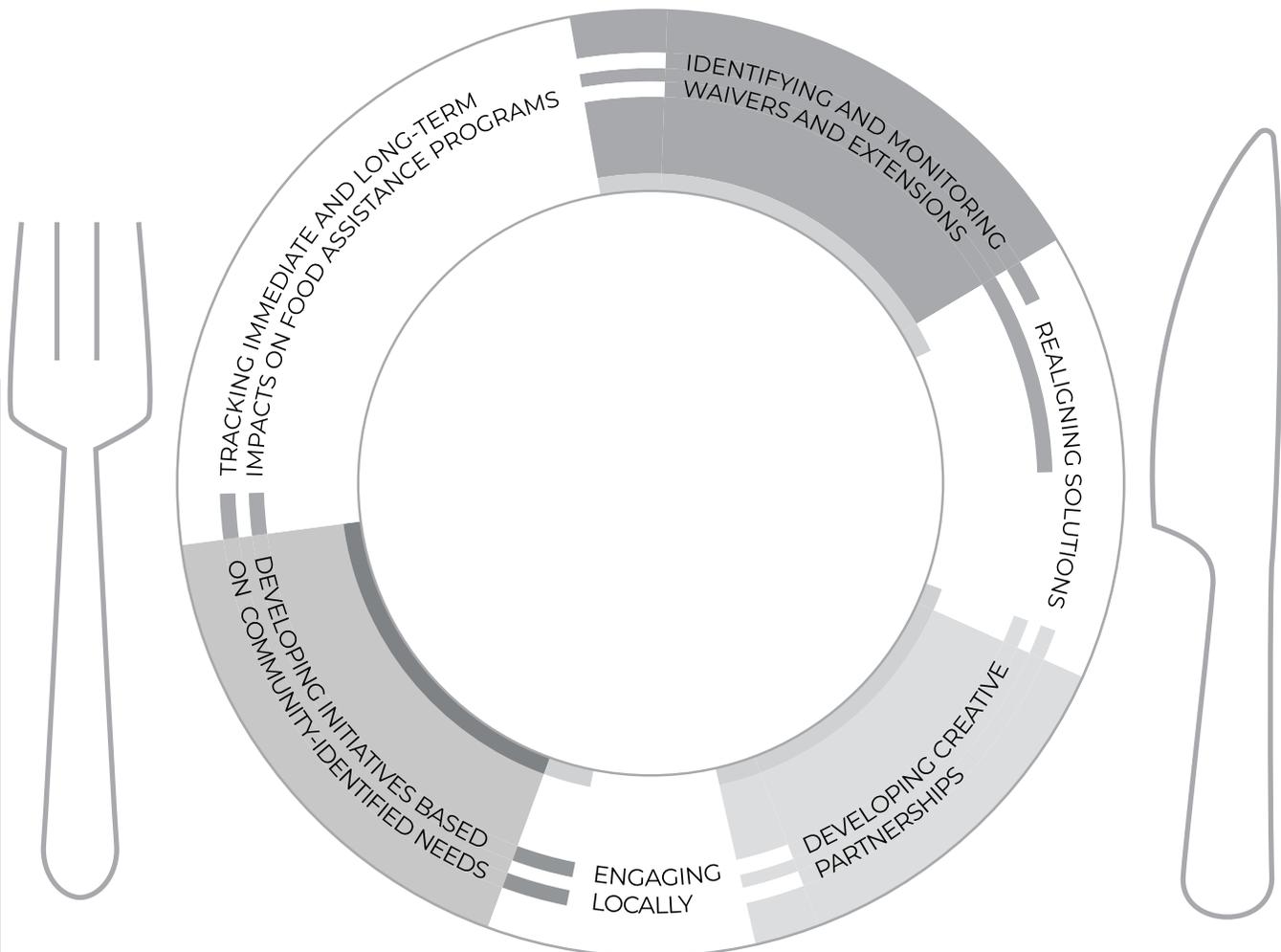
As part of the Feeding Iowans Task Force Initiatives, \$2 million in CARES Act funds were dispersed to the six Feeding America food banks that serve Iowa to be utilized for their specific needs. For some food banks, this meant food purchase, for others it was securing items that enhanced their service delivery, such as a mobile food truck, warehouse equipment or additional freezer space. The \$2 million in funds was the equivalent of providing 10 million meals. An additional \$5.5 million in CARES Act funds were recently awarded in 2021 by Governor Reynolds to the Iowa Food Bank Association to provide grants to partnering agencies to increase capacity due to the rise in need. This additional allocation is equivalent to 25 million meals.

Through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Iowa received over \$6.2 million in additional funding appropriated through both the CARES Act and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) towards the purchase and distribution of USDA foods. This additional funding allowed food banks to coordinate efforts with other funding received to ensure sufficient supply in each food category. Funding support continues through appropriations made in 2021. Through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), TEFAP received an additional \$3.2 million available towards the purchase and distribution of USDA food that will support food acquisition in 2021.



# TASK FORCE COLLABORATION

To ensure lowans could access the assistance they needed, the Task Force strengthened avenues for collaboration by identifying potential unmet needs and monitoring and proactively responding to changing food insecurity needs during this unprecedented time.



## IDENTIFYING/MONITORING WAIVERS AND EXTENSIONS

Ensuring participants of the WIC program were able to continue to receive food-related assistance in a virtual environment, the physical presence waiver was essential to complete appointments, provide referrals and nutrition education, and complete remote issuance of food benefits.



School nutrition programs ramped up in the spring to ensure students and families had access to healthy meals during unanticipated school closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. During these school closures, the United States Department of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program (USDA SFSP) was put into action to ensure children continued to receive the meals regularly served when school is in session. Over 1,000 meal sites were operated throughout Iowa. This was able to continue into the summer months, seeing an 82% increase in SFSP sponsors in comparison to the previous year. Overall more than 17 million meals and snacks were served through the USDA SFSP from March-August 2020.

Iowa City Community School District School Nutrition staff, like others across the state, provided curbside pickup of meals in rain and snow to ensure their families received the meals they needed.

TEFAP adjusted eligibility requirements by allowing verbal signatures, and increasing the income guideline to ensure families could access TEFAP through their local food pantry.



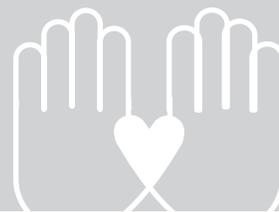
Cedar Rapids Community School District curbside meal distribution is pictured above. In addition, the Cedar Rapids Community School District Food and Nutrition team partnered with Food Corps and AmeriCorps members to assist with meal distribution.

## TRACKING IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM IMPACTS ON FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Governor’s Office awarded IDA \$264,586 towards the AAAs to support equipment changes needed to switch from congregate meals to home delivered meals. Items such as home delivered meal insulation bags, equipment to cook extra food, equipment and materials to convert congregate meals to home delivered meals, extra home delivered meal vehicles, and materials to make vehicles and meal sites safer supported more than 77,000 older Iowans.

## ENGAGING LOCALLY

Connecting with nutrition and agriculture programs such as ISU Extension and Outreach’s Growing Together, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), SNAP-Ed, and 4-H strengthened food and nutrition resources and partnerships across the state.





# DERECHO

On August 10, 2020 Iowa was impacted by a massive windstorm called a derecho with winds up to 140mph. The widespread destruction and impact resulted in loss of electricity, property and residential damage, and displaced lowans. Feeding organizations were again impacted, experiencing challenges without power, limited mobility due to debris, staffing affected, and 27 counties needing immediate assistance. Because of the initiatives and partnerships developed through the Task Force, communication and collaboration began immediately to alleviate suffering for those impacted.

## FOOD BANK EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Iowa Food Bank Association and the Feeding America food banks serving Iowa coordinated together to respond to an increased need in emergency food following the storm. Feeding America delivered semis of food (disaster boxes, dry food, and water) to impacted food banks and logistical support. Northeast Iowa Food Bank (Waterloo) provided food and vehicle support to HACAP Food Reservoir (Hiawatha) in addition to serving impacted lowans in Grundy, Tama and Poweshiek counties with additional mobile pantries.

Despite experiencing building damage from the derecho, loss of power, and generator failure, the HACAP Food Reservoir was quick to respond with support. Food and water distribution in hard hit neighborhoods, 659,705 meals to local Resource Centers, as well as food support to Benton and Cedar county emergency management offices resulted in a total of 1,316,921 meals across six eastern Iowa counties.

River Bend Food Bank (Davenport) and Food Bank of Iowa (Des Moines) also covered impacted counties with additional mobile pantries and local distributions. River Bend Food Bank distributed an average of 50,000 meals per week more than the year to date average and Food Bank of Iowa nearly 73,000 additional meals for the weeks and months following the derecho disaster.



## **DISASTER-SNAP/SNAP**

Responding to the widespread loss of power and spoiled food, DHS operated Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) in 11 counties. D-SNAP provided benefits to approximately 24,000 households totaling \$11 million while following COVID-19 mitigation strategies. DHS replaced over \$4.4M dollars in benefits lost due to power outages for SNAP households. Additionally, DHS obtained a waiver for Linn county D-SNAP and SNAP recipients to purchase hot foods with their EBT card.

## **WIC**

WIC is generally not considered a resource during an emergency but the state WIC office made a successful case to USDA and an exception was made for the situation. The Iowa WIC program was able to obtain an emergency waiver to reissue food benefits to 199 impacted families providing them with resources that they had lost.

## **HERITAGE AAA DERECHO PARTNERSHIP**

During the Derecho, Heritage AAA's provider lost all of their food supplies and home delivered meals for homebound older adults. The Task Force connected IDA and IFBA with HSEMD for assistance with emergency meals. As a result, a partnership was quickly formed to respond to the disaster and provide 30,000 emergency shelf stable meals to Heritage AAA. Heritage AAA partnered with Hawkeye Area Community Action Program food bank for storage and transportation. This coordination of organizations allowed for an immediate response to an emergency disaster that was compounded by the pandemic.

## **IOWA GLEANING NETWORK**

Working in partnership in the days after the derecho, Table to Table and Feed Iowa First, both Coordinator host sites, gleaned over 10,000 pounds of onions from Hoffman Produce Farms in Waterloo, Iowa. All organizations in the Network provided much-needed relief after the disaster to replenish fresh foods for thousands of people who lost valuable perishable food in the aftermath of the storm.

## **MEDICAID MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS**

Representatives of the Task Force coordinated with Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) to identify and prioritize outreach to high-risk members in affected areas. Members were provided with needed items and services, including non-refrigerated meals. Additionally, MCOs were able to donate dollars and shelf-stable meals to mobile pantry sites and response organizations.





# MOVING FORWARD

Key impacts of the Task Force included improved speed and responsiveness as members connect on common issues; breaking down silos among programs and agencies; and building trust across diverse sectors and activities. These impacts were especially evident when the Task Force was leveraged in response to the unexpected and devastating derecho storm, where food support was greatly improved because key relationships and connections across systems had already been developed.

The feeding activities and partnerships of the Task Force will continue in two ways:

## **Social Determinants of Health Work Group**

To keep these relationships and information flowing, members of the Task Force have joined the voluntary partnership of the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Workgroup, which includes a substantial focus on food insecurity. The SDOH Workgroup is facilitated through DHS. The purpose of the group is to reduce the impact of social determinants on health through cross-sector collaborative efforts, focused on sustainable, quality health care through a whole-person approach and enabling data supporting information to improve outcomes.

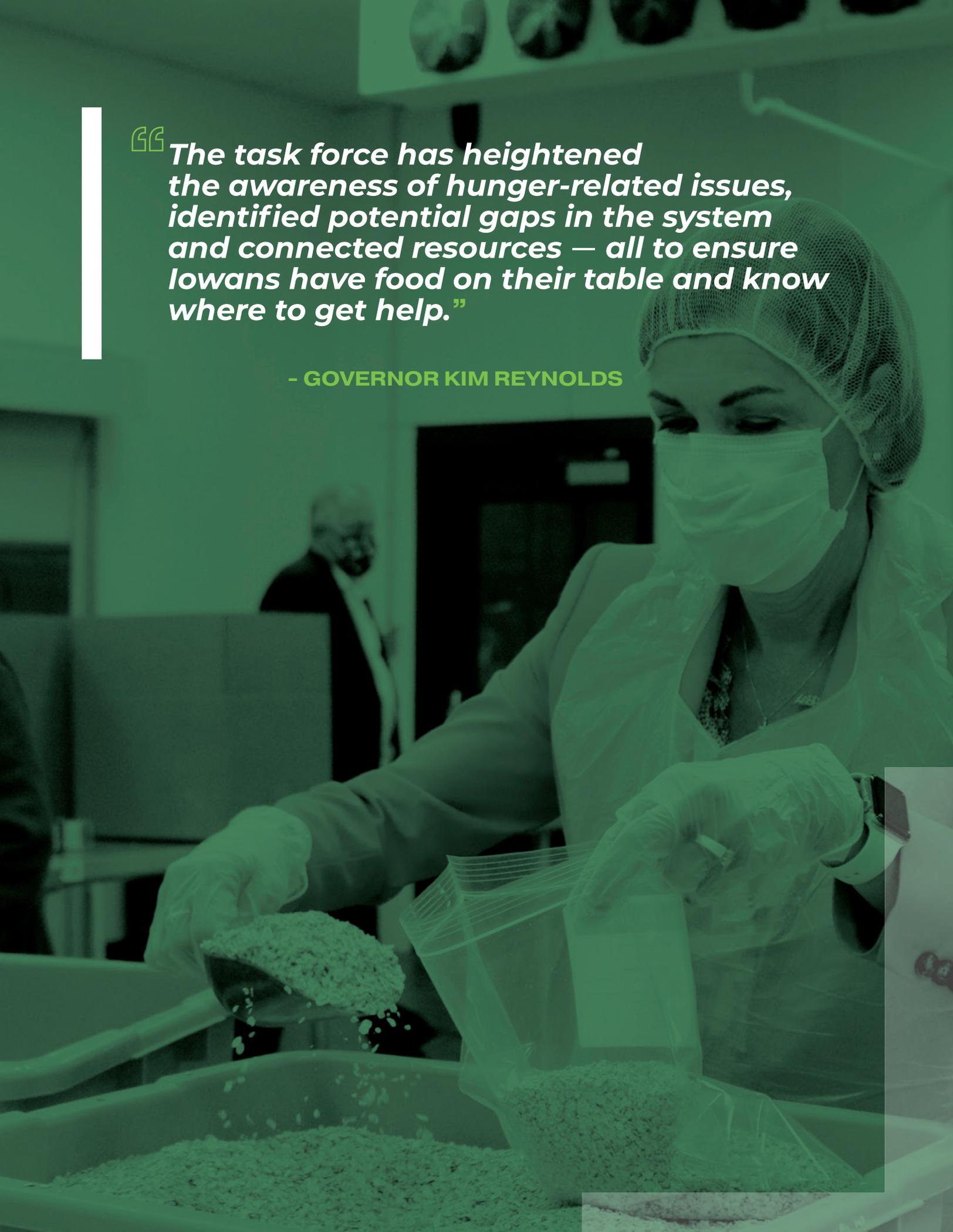
## **Emergency Support Function 6**

To maintain the advantages of quick response during disasters and emergencies, partnerships will also continue through the Iowa Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan Emergency Support Function 6 (ESF 6) activities. ESF 6 addresses Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services when activated during a disaster or emergency event. Mass Care includes feeding operations and was heavily used in the derecho response. ESF 6 is led by DHS as the primary agency and supplemented by various governmental and non-governmental support agencies. A feeding subgroup of the ESF6 will specifically focus on addressing food-related matters that arise during disasters across the state of Iowa.

# FOOD SECURITY FUNDING IN DETAIL

AGENCY - PROGRAM	TOTAL ALLOCATED
<b>CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND - DISTRIBUTED BY THE GOVERNOR</b>	
Iowa Department on Aging - Home Delivered Meal Equipment Needs	\$264,586
Iowa Economic Development Authority - COVID AmeriCorps Recovery	\$317,462
Iowa Department of Human Services - Healthiest State Initiative - Double Up Food Bucks	\$2,000,000
Iowa Department of Human Services - Food Banks	\$2,000,000
Iowa Department of Human Services - Food Pantries	\$5,500,000
Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship - Beef Up Iowa	\$300,000
Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship - Pack the Pantry	\$346,939
Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship - Pass the Pork	\$300,000
Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship - Turkey Purchases	\$300,000
Iowa Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management - Bulk Purchasing & Repackaging	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL Coronavirus Relief Fund</b>	<b>\$12,328,987</b>
<b>CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT (CARES ACT)</b>	
Iowa Department on Aging - CISS Partnership	\$49,714
Iowa Department on Aging - Food Bank Association Partnership	\$382,287
Iowa Department on Aging - Older Americans Act Title III-C Home Delivered Nutrition	\$4,232,686
Iowa Department of Human Services - The Emergency Food Assistance Program	\$3,289,148
Iowa Department of Education - USDA National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program	\$86,966,519
Iowa Department of Education - Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$11,103,690
<b>Total Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Funds</b>	<b>\$106,024,044</b>
<b>FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT</b>	
Iowa Department on Aging - Older Americans Act Title III-C Home Delivered & Congregate Nutrition	\$2,233,918
Iowa Department of Human Services - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	\$205,539,180
Iowa Department of Human Services - Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)	\$77,550,518
Iowa Department of Human Services - The Emergency Food Assistance Program	\$2,922,705
<b>Total Families First Coronavirus Response Act Funds</b>	<b>\$288,246,321</b>
<b>CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2021</b>	
Iowa Department on Aging - The Iowa Café	\$1,635,969
<b>Total Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 Funds</b>	<b>\$1,635,969</b>
<b>AMERICORPS</b>	
Iowa Economic Development Authority - COVID AmeriCorps Recovery	\$119,075
Iowa Economic Development Authority - VISTA Reassignment to Foodbank	\$94,262
<b>Total AmeriCorps Funding</b>	<b>\$213,337</b>
<b>FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE</b>	
Iowa Economic Development Authority - AmeriCorps Reassignment	\$60,234
Iowa Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management - Food Banks	\$356,223
<b>Total FEMA Public Assistance Funds</b>	<b>\$416,457</b>
<b>STATE APPROPRIATION CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	
Iowa Department of Human Services - Medicaid Home Delivered Meals (State/Fed combined)	\$2,000,000
<b>Total State Appropriation Contributions</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE &amp; RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT</b>	
Iowa Department of Human Services - The Emergency Food Assistance Program	\$3,242,083
<b>Total Coronavirus Response &amp; Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act Funds</b>	<b>\$3,242,083</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$414,107,198</b>

CARES Act figures referenced in this report with an \* are specifically from the Coronavirus Relief Fund administered by the Governor.



**“The task force has heightened the awareness of hunger-related issues, identified potential gaps in the system and connected resources — all to ensure lowans have food on their table and know where to get help.”**

**- GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS**



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