



**Iowa Food Bank Association**

***Feeding Iowa***

**www.IowaFBA.org**

Contact: Cory Berkenes, Executive Director | cberkenes@iowafba.org | (515) 288-3234 | www.IowaFBA.org

## **Addressing Food Insecurity Through Food Assistance Outreach**

### **Iowa Food Bank Association Receives Funding for Increased Refrigeration and Freezer Capacity**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 4, 2016

DES MOINES, IA – Additional refrigeration and freezer capacity opportunities will be available to Iowa food banks and pantries thanks to an Iowa Department of Natural Resources Solid Waste Alternatives Program grant.

The Iowa Food Bank Association (IFBA) has been awarded \$40,800 from the Iowa DNR which will be matched by \$10,800 from the eight food banks serving Iowa. Iowa food pantries and community meal sites will be able to apply to receive up to \$1,000 towards storage equipment.

“We are thrilled to have this opportunity to boost the capacity in the state,” says Cory Berkenes, State Director of the IFBA. “With this generous opportunity provided by the Iowa DNR, we should be able to fund the purchase and installation of nearly 55 new freezers and coolers for Iowa feeding organizations.”

This grant follows a grant received at the end of 2014 that allowed the IFBA to provide refrigeration and freezer capacity to 27 feeding organizations throughout Iowa. “In 2015, the 27 awarded agencies experienced a 45% increase in perishable products distributed to struggling families,” continues Berkenes.

Food pantries and community meal sites who are partners of one of the eight Iowa Feeding America food banks will be able to apply for the funding through Friday, March 11. Recipients will then be chosen based on need by a committee made up of members of the IFBA and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center at the University of Northern Iowa. The recipients will receive funds to off-set the expenses of purchasing additional freezers or refrigerators. For more information and to receive an application, call the Iowa Food Bank Association at 515-288-3234 or by visiting <http://www.iowafba.org/iowa-agency-storage-capacity-grant>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Iowa Food Bank Association (IFBA) is a collaboration of the eight Feeding America food banks that serve all of Iowa's 99 counties. Together, the food banks serve over 1,000 non-profit organizations serving individuals in need. These organizations include food pantries, emergency meal sites, congregate meal sites, emergency shelters, and other sites that provide food to clients. The mission of IFBA is to facilitate efforts to alleviate hunger by supporting the Feeding America food banks that serve the state. Collaborative efforts will allow the food banks to become more efficient and effective in serving hungry Iowans.