

Testimony from Nichole Robillard
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Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry (CCFP) is based in Arapahoe County serving those facing food insecurity since 1995. By participating in the first Food Pantry Assistance grant, CCFP was able to purchase more of the nutritious items our clients request including protein (meat, eggs), dairy, and fresh produce. Families are always eager to select the Colorado Proud fresh, quality products. Our organization was able to establish relationships with local suppliers and utilize the funds to purchase items that normally would not be affordable with our budget. CCFP remains interested in applying for funds that can be used year-round and particularly during the prime Colorado harvest season. We would also like to see the marketplace for connecting local producers and pantries be expanded and accessible online. The value of strong local food systems is even more critical during the COVID-19 pandemic as all pantries have been placed in the predicament of historical sources being depleted while facing increased demand for services.

On behalf of the communities we serve and food justice, CCFP urges support for HB20-1422, which will continue and fund the Colorado Food Pantry Assistance Grant.