



Support HB22-1364

Continue the Colorado Food Pantry Assistance Grant Program

Colorado's Food Pantry Assistance Grant program connects and supports Colorado's emergency food providers around the state with Colorado-grown fruits, vegetables, dairy and meat products from local producers. The program has helped emergency food providers serve hundreds of thousands of Coloradans over the past two years. Sadly, food pantries continue to report two to six times the number of community members coming to them for assistance. *This legislation continues to fund the program at a level to serve the high need for two years and authorizes funding for the program over the next five years. We need long term plans to continue to respond to the long-term food insecurity needs Colorado faces.*

Goals of the Legislation:

- **Support emergency food providers across the state.** These organizations uniquely understand the needs of their local communities and have been on the front lines helping Colorado families get through the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts. More than 150 organizations in almost every county in Colorado have participated in the program.
- **Support Colorado's local farmers and ranchers.** More than 60 Colorado farms have participated in the program. For many of Colorado's small farmers, this program is a new opportunity to support and sustain their business at a time when they have lost significant revenue.
- **Invest in Colorado's rural communities.** Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, nearly one in three Coloradans report being concerned about the cost of food. This bill will help Coloradans get nutritious food from their own local food pantry.¹
- **Build relationships between Colorado's agricultural community and emergency food providers.** As COVID-19 has shown us, community coming together is vital. This program has created relationships between producers and providers and will continue to result in long-term partnerships that benefit Colorado's rural economies and reduce hunger throughout the state.
- **Ensure more Colorado families have access to healthy and full-meal options.** Food pantry participants report they have been able to get fresh food because of this program, which has supported Coloradans' health and well-being through the pandemic.

What the Legislation does:

- Continues and authorizes funding for the Food Pantry Assistance Grant for five years.
 - \$5 million for 2022-2023 to respond to pandemic food insecurity levels
 - \$3.5 million for 2023-2024 to respond to pandemic food insecurity levels
 - \$6 million over 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027
- In the final three years of the program 100% of the funding for food must be used to purchase from local farmers and ranchers.
- Aligns the grant timelines with Colorado's crop growing season.
- Allows up to 20% of the grants to food banks and food pantries to cover the costs of transporting food, food storage and refrigeration needs, as well as respond to staffing shortages.
- Creates a small technical assistance program to help food pantries, food banks, Colorado ranchers and Colorado farmers connect and contract to purchase food for Coloradans experiencing food insecurity.

Read the Denver Post Story on the Food Pantry Assistance Program: denverpost.com/colorado-food-insecurity-farms-produce

Watch a video about the program's impact: hungerfreecolorado.org/colorado-food-pantry-assistance-grant-program

To learn more contact Karen Wick at karen@swift-strategies.com or 720-435-3885.

¹ Healthier Colorado Survey, "Coronavirus Survey Response." <https://healthiercolorado.org/covid-19-survey-results/>

Supporters

5 Loaves Pantry
A Cup Of Faith DBA Tin Shed
Backpack Society
Benefits in Action
BENSA Bacon Lovers Society
BGOLDN
Boulder County AIDS Project (BCAP)
Broomfield FISH Food Bank and Family Resource Center
Brothers Redevelopment, Inc.
Caring & Sharing Community Resources and Transformation Center
Children's Farms in Action
Christ Executive Officer Inc
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition
Commún
Community Food Bank (Grand Junction)
Community Outreach Service Center (COSC)
Compound of Compassion
Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry
Custer County Community Sharing Center
CSU-Pueblo Pack Pantry
Denver Food Rescue
Denver Indian Center, Inc.
Denver Inner City Parish
Denver South High Giving Grocery
Denver Urban Gardens
Eagle Valley Community Foundation
East Denver Food Hub
Ecumenical Church of Pueblo West Food Pantry
Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA)
Engaged Latino Parents Advancing Students Outcomes (ELPASO)
Evergreen Christian Outreach
Family & Intercultural Resource Center
Fresh Start Center
FrontLine Farming
Full Force Ministries SOG
GoFarm
Good Food Collective
Grow Local Colorado
The GrowHaus
Growing Home
Gunnison Country Food Pantry
Halo's Community Outreach
Hilltop
Homeward Alliance
House of Neighborly Service
Hunger Free Colorado
Indivisible CD7
Integrated Family Community Services (IFCS)
Jeffco Action Center
Jovial Concepts
Kaizen Food Rescue
Kinship Church
Lifespan Local
LIFT-UP
Living Water Ministry Outreach
Longmont Food Rescue
Memorial Regional Health - Craig, Colorado
Mental Health Center of Denver
Mile High United Way
Montbello Organizing Committee
MontbelloWalks
Mountain Family Center: Grand and Jackson Counties
Mountain Roots Food Project
Movement 5280
NAACP Denver
National Young Farmers Coalition
Nourish Colorado
Now Faith Church
Parkhill Food Pantry
PlatteForum
Prairie Family Center
Prefare
Project Protect Food Systems
Pueblo Food Project
Project VOYCE
Rancho Durazno
Regis University
Restoration Outreach Programs
Rising Up
The Salvation Army
San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition
SECORCares
The Senior Hub
Silver Key Senior Services
Sister Carmen Community Center
Small Town Project
Smart Bellies
Solid Rock Community Development Corporation
Sparrow House Ministries
Sprout City Farms
Tri-County Health Network
Twin Parishes Food Bank
UpRoot Colorado
Village Exchange Center, Inc.
We Don't Waste
West End Family Link Center