

# Food Storage Capacity Expansion Grant Application

**Application Date:** April 15, 2022

**Applicant:** New Visions Homeless Services (NVHS)

**Contact Name:** Brandy Wallar

**Contact Telephone:** 712-256-3940

**Contact Email:** bwallar@newvisionshs.org

**Applicant Address** 1435 N 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

**Mailing Address (if different):** N/A

**Project Purpose:** New Visions Homeless Services is respectfully requesting funding in the amount of \$8,000 to support the purchase of an Energy Star-rated walk-in freezer, which will hold donated food items that will be distributed to individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

**Project Service Area:** Omaha/Council Bluffs metropolitan area

**Address Location of Cold Storage Unit(s) and/or Shelving** 1435 N 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

**Number of Years Distributing Donated Food** 27

**Funding Amount Requested:** 8,000

**Cost Share Amount:** 948.76  
(not required but encouraged)

**Total Project Cost:** 8,948.76

## Evaluation Criteria

Proposal review and project merits will be based on the proposal's narrative addressing the following criteria. There is a limit of 3,000 characters per evaluation criteria response.

**Project Need Description:** Describe why additional storage/cold storage is needed by your organization.

New Visions Homeless Services is respectfully requesting funding in the amount of \$8,000 to support the purchase of an Energy Star-rated walk-in freezer that will be used to store perishable food items. With the addition of the new freezer, the organization will be able to store an increased amount of perishable food that can later be distributed to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Homelessness is a serious social issue in our community. According to U.S. Census data, 13.9% of Council Bluffs residents live in poverty, compared to the state of Iowa's rate of 10.7%. Over 1,400 individuals are experiencing homelessness each night in the Omaha/Council Bluffs metropolitan area. Our community is facing a significant shortage of affordable housing, making targeted efforts and knowledge of services key to helping individuals secure safe housing. Over the last five years, research suggests that emergency shelters in the Council Bluffs area have averaged occupancy rates of 117 percent.

COVID-19 has only exacerbated problems faced by individuals who are homeless, as well as homeless service providers. Local health departments and the Center for Disease Control have identified emergency homeless shelters as most susceptible to COVID-19, both in confirmed cases and community spread. Like many other nonprofits and businesses, NVHS has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and forced to modify its existing methods of delivering emergency food to the public. Many of these individuals who are homeless do not know where they will get their next meal for themselves or their children. Data from Feeding America indicates that 9.2 percent of those living in Pottawattamie County, Iowa are facing food insecurity. New Visions Homeless Services provides food to individuals through NVHS's community meal site and pantry programs. Food is also given out through mobile food giveaways, which reaches into the community where people reside and focuses on areas that are in a food desert.

New Visions Homeless Services is in need of additional perishable food storage capacity. The organization receives many large donations of perishable food and, often, bulk donations of meat. With limited space, New Visions is not able to accept all donations of perishable food. This decreases operational efficiency and the amount of perishable food that is able to be distributed to individuals who are facing homelessness. With grant funding, New Visions will be able to purchase a walk-in freezer that will be used to increase its storage capacity. In turn, this will also decrease the amount of spoilage of perishable food.

**Project Goals:** Identify up to three main goal(s) for the proposed project and steps to achieve these goals.

1. Distribute an increased number of pounds of perishable food to individuals experiencing homelessness.
2. Accept an increased number of perishable food item donations due to increased storage capacity.
3. Minimize the spoilage of perishable food items donated to the organization.

**Measuring Goals:** Describe how meeting project goals will be measured.

New Visions Homeless Services will determine that it has met its project goals if it has distributed an increased number of pounds of perishable food, accepted an increased number of pounds of perishable food, and minimized the spoilage of perishable food items that have been donated. New Visions tracks the amount of food it gives away in meals and pounds and will be able to report on both of these items. Once the number of additional pounds of food accepted and distributed is calculated, New Visions will be able to calculate the impact on operational efficiency. This will be done by calculating an estimated cost

per pound of donated food and multiplying the number of additional pounds of food accepted by the cost per pound of donated food.

**Impact on Number of People Served, Pounds of Food Distributed and Operations Efficiencies:** Describe how and extent to which the project will impact the number of people served, food accepted and distributed and organization operations.

New Visions Homeless Services estimates that it will be able to provide an additional 3,500 pounds of perishable food for its clients. Around a pound of protein currently costs New Visions \$4.00. The new walk-in freezer will provide the organization with at least \$14,000 in additional perishable food. Though the organization currently distributes over 600,000 pounds of food each year, much of this is non-perishable food, and the cost of purchasing protein for clients is high. The need to accept protein donations remains critical. Grant funds will allow New Visions the opportunity to distribute an increased 3,500 pounds of protein each year.

Number of People Served	11,225
Pounds of Food Distributed	600,000
Goal of Additional Pounds of Food Accepted	3,500
Operational Efficiency Impact	\$14,000

**Milestones**

List Project Tasks or Activities planned:

Task or Activity	Planned Begin Date	Planned End Date	Responsible Party
Enter into grant agreement with DNR.	7/1/2022	7/1/2022	Brandy Wallar, Interim CEO
Purchase walk-in freezer.	7/15/2022	7/15/2022	Brandy Wallar, Interim CEO
Submit grant expense sheet to DNR.	7/20/2022	7/20/2022	Ann Maxwell, CFO
Set up and prepare walk-in freezer within the facility.	8/1/2022	8/1/2022	Delivery personnel and NVHS program staff
Notify staff of increased space for perishable food donations.	8/1/2022	8/1/2022	Brandy Wallar, Interim CEO, program leadership
Begin accepting perishable food donations.	8/1/2022	8/1/2022	New Visions Homeless Services staff
Distribute perishable food items to individuals experiencing homelessness.	On-going	On	New Visions Homeless Services program staff
Submit final report to the DNR.	To be determined by DNR	To be determined by DNR	Brandy Wallar, Interim CEO

**Estimated date project to be fully operational:** 7/1/2022



## Minority Impact Statement

Pursuant to 2008 Iowa Acts, HF 2393, Iowa Code Section 8.11, all grant applications submitted to the State of Iowa which are due beginning January 1, 2009 shall include a Minority Impact Statement. This is the state's mechanism to require grant applicants to consider the potential impact of the grant project's proposed programs or policies on minority groups.

**Please choose the statement(s) that pertains to this grant application. Complete all the information requested for the chosen statement(s).**

- The proposed grant project programs or policies could have a disproportionate or unique **positive** impact on minority persons.

Describe the positive impact expected from this project.

New Visions Homeless Services serves a diverse population. Approximately 26% of those served identify as African American, 10% as Hispanic or Latino, 2% as American Indian/Alaska Native, 56% as Caucasian, and 3% as one or more ethnicities. New Visions has several staff and volunteers who speak multiple languages. Surveys taken by clients indicate that 33% of those served have a disability, with at least 12% of those individuals experiencing a developmental disability. All (100%) of clients are low-to-moderate income. This grant project will allow New Visions Homeless Services to provide an increased amount of perishable food to individuals who are from underserved or underrepresented communities and experiencing homelessness. New Visions anticipates that most perishable food preserved through this grant will be meat, allowing for the organization to have an increased amount of protein options when preparing meals for clients. With almost 50 percent of New Visions clientele identifying from an ethnic minority group and over one third experiencing a disability, this grant will directly positively impact a large number of underserved or disadvantaged individuals.

Indicate which group is impacted:

- Women
- Persons with a Disability
- Blacks
- Latinos
- Asians
- Pacific Islanders
- American Indians
- Alaskan Native Americans
- Other

- The proposed grant project programs or policies could have a disproportionate or unique **negative** impact on minority persons.

Describe the negative impact expected from this project.

Present the rationale for the existence of the proposed program or policy.

Provide evidence of consultation of representatives of the minority groups impacted.

Indicate which group is impacted:

- Women

- \_\_\_\_\_ Persons with a
- \_\_\_\_\_ Blacks
- \_\_\_\_\_ Latinos
- \_\_\_\_\_ Asians
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pacific Islanders
- \_\_\_\_\_ American Indians
- \_\_\_\_\_ Alaskan Native
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

The proposed grant project programs or policies are **not expected to have** a disproportionate or unique impact on minority persons. Present the rationale for determining no impact.

I hereby certify that the information on this form is complete and accurate, to the best of my knowledge:

Name: Brandy Wallar

Title Interim Chief Executive Officer

### **Definitions**

“Minority Persons”, as defined in Iowa Code Section 8.11, mean individuals who are women, persons with a disability, Blacks, Latinos, Asians or Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaskan Native Americans.

“Disability”, as defined in Iowa Code Section 15.102, subsection 5, paragraph “b”, subparagraph (1):

*b.* As used in this subsection:

(1) *"Disability"* means, with respect to an individual, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual, a record of physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual, or being regarded as an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual.

*"Disability"* does not include any of the following:

- (a) Homosexuality or bisexuality.
- (b) Transvestism, transsexualism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism, gender identity disorders not resulting from physical impairments or other sexual behavior disorders.
- (c) Compulsive gambling, kleptomania, or pyromania.
- (d) Psychoactive substance abuse disorders resulting from current illegal use of drugs.

“State Agency”, as defined in Iowa Code Section 8.11, means a department, board, bureau, commission, or other agency or authority of the State of Iowa.

## Applicant Disclosure

The Applicant must provide the following information. This is a continuing disclosure requirement from application submittal through agreement end date (if funding is awarded).

1. During the last three (3) years, has the Applicant received written notification from a state agency that a debt is owed to a state agency or a debt is being enforced through the Income Offset Program (including the state child support recovery unit if the Applicant is an individual) that will in any way impact receipt of monies awarded through this program?

Yes     No

If yes, provide the date by which the Applicant will or has satisfied debts owed to or being collected by the state.

N/A

2. During the last three (3) years, has the Applicant had a contract for goods and/or services terminated for any reason, or has the Applicant received a notice of breach, notice of default, or similar notice?

Yes     No

If yes, provide full details related to the termination or notice.

N/A

3. During the last three (3) years, describe any damages or penalties or settlements pertaining to contract disputes under any of the Applicant's existing or past contracts as it relates to goods and/or services performed that are similar to the goods and/or services contemplated by this application. If so, indicate the reason for the penalty, damages or exchange of property, goods, or services and the estimated amount of the cost of that incident to the Applicant.

N/A

4. During the last three (3) years, list and summarize all litigation, threatened litigation, administrative or regulatory proceedings, or similar matters to which the Applicant or its officers have been a party. Any such matter commencing after submission of an application, and with respect to the successful Applicant after the execution of a contract, must be disclosed in a timely manner in a written statement to the Department's contract officer.

N/A

I hereby certify that the information on this form is complete and accurate, to the best of my knowledge:

Name: Brandy Wallar

Title Interim Chief Executive Officer