

# Food Storage Capacity Expansion

## Grant Application

<b>Application Date:</b>	July 2024
<b>Applicant:</b>	Des Moines Public Library (DMPL) – Forest Avenue Branch
<b>Contact Name:</b>	Ashlan Lippert
<b>Contact Telephone:</b>	515-201-9823
<b>Contact Email:</b>	AELippert@dmpl.org
<b>Applicant Address</b>	1326 Forest Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50314
<b>Mailing Address (if different):</b>	Same as above Same as above
<b>Project Purpose:</b>	Community Fridge and Pantry at the Forest Avenue Library to combat food insecurity within in the community.
<b>Project Service Area:</b>	Forest Avenue Library
<b>Address Location of Cold Storage Unit(s) and/or Shelving</b>	DMPL – Forest Avenue Branch 1326 Forest Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50314
<b>Number of Years Distributing Donated Food</b>	Approximately 1 month
<b>Funding Amount Requested:</b>	\$5436.53
<b>Cost Share Amount:</b> (not required but encouraged)	\$0
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	\$5436.53

## 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.

### Introduction

Des Moines, Iowa, faces significant challenges regarding food insecurity among its residents. Our public library patrons and other community members are particularly affected, necessitating a comprehensive approach to mitigate hunger and improve food access. This project addresses the pressing need for additional storage and cold storage facilities to enhance food recovery efforts, reduce food waste, and support the community's most vulnerable populations.

### Food Insecurity in the City of Des Moines

Food insecurity remains a critical issue in Des Moines. According to recent data, a substantial portion of the city's population struggles to access sufficient and nutritious food. Factors contributing to food insecurity include economic disparities, unemployment, and the rising cost of living. Public libraries, often serving as community hubs, encounter patrons who rely on their resources for education, information, and basic needs, including food.

### The Role of Public Libraries

Public libraries in Des Moines have increasingly become safe spaces for individuals experiencing food insecurity. These institutions provide various support services, from educational programs to internet access, essential for community well-being. However, the growing demand for food assistance at libraries highlights a significant gap in current infrastructure – the lack of adequate storage and cold storage facilities to manage and distribute food efficiently.

### Need for Additional Storage/Cold Storage

1. **Food Recovery Efforts:** Enhancing storage capabilities would improve food recovery efforts. Many organizations and businesses are willing to donate surplus food, but resources go to waste without proper storage. Additional storage facilities would enable libraries and community centers to collect, store, and distribute recovered food more effectively, ensuring that edible food does not end up in landfills.
2. **Reduction of Food Waste:** Food waste is a major environmental and economic issue. In Polk County, significant amounts of food are discarded due to the lack of appropriate storage solutions. By investing in cold storage, the community can extend the shelf life of perishable items, thus reducing the volume of food waste and promoting sustainability. This aligns with broader environmental goals and supports the county's commitment to reducing landfill use.
3. **Support for Vulnerable Populations:** The additional storage facilities will significantly benefit the at-risk patrons of the Forest Avenue Library, many of whom fall under the federal poverty guidelines. The library serves numerous Des Moines residents, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable youth who often spend their after-school hours in this safe environment. By ensuring a reliable source of nutritious food, the Forest Avenue Library can enhance the health and well-being of youth and families facing economic challenges. This initiative will also help distribute the responsibility more evenly across community resources.
4. **Educational Opportunities:** Incorporating food storage facilities within public libraries opens new avenues for educational programs focused on nutrition, food preparation, and sustainability. These programs can empower community members with knowledge and skills to make healthier food choices and reduce food waste at the household level.

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

**Goal 1: Enhance Food Recovery and Storage Capacity**

**Steps to Achieve Goal 1:**

1. **Assess Current Storage Capacity:**
  - Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current storage facilities at Forest Avenue Library to determine current capacity and identify gaps.
  - Analyze the types and volumes of food donations received to understand storage needs.
2. **Upgrade and Expand Storage Facilities:**
  - Invest in additional storage units for Forest Avenue Library to accommodate a broader range of food items.
  - Ensure the necessary infrastructure, such as temperature control systems, shelving, and safety features.
3. **Develop Partnerships for Food Donations:**
  - Establish partnerships with food operations surrounding Forest Avenue Library to secure donations of surplus food.
4. **Training and Capacity Building:**
  - Train Forest Avenue staff on best practices for food storage, handling, and safety protocols.

**Goal 2: Reduce Food Waste and Environmental Impact**

**Steps to Achieve Goal 2:**

1. **Implement Food Waste Reduction Programs:**
  - Develop literature to educate the community about food waste reduction and the importance of sustainable practices.
2. **Optimize Food Distribution Channels:**
  - Work with existing food recovery systems to efficiently distribute recovered food to those in need, ensuring minimal waste for Forest Avenue's patrons and community members.
3. **Promote Community Involvement:**
  - Engage community members through volunteer opportunities in food recovery and distribution efforts.
  - Create educational literature highlighting the environmental benefits of reducing food waste and how individuals can contribute.
4. **Monitor and Evaluate Environmental Impact:**
  - Develop metrics to measure the reduction in food waste and its impact on landfill usage.
  - Regularly review data to assess the effectiveness of the waste reduction programs and make necessary adjustments.

**Goal 3: Improve Food Security and Access to Nutritious Food**

**Steps to Achieve Goal 3:**

1. **Increase Availability of Nutritious Food:**
  - To offer recipients a balanced diet, prioritize the recovery and distribution of fresh produce, dairy products, and proteins.
  - Collaborate with local food rescue organizations to help with food items.
2. **Food Distribution for Youth:**
  - Continue and increase food recovery for food distribution during academic breaks and after-school hours.
  - The expansion of food access through Forest Avenue Library will provide available nutritious food sources for youth during their academic breaks and after school. This initiative helps address food insecurity by allowing young individuals to access food by reducing barriers, ensuring their basic needs are met promptly and consistently.
3. **Develop Supportive Programs and Resources:**
  - Provide resources to help recipients make the most of the food they receive.
4. **Foster a Supportive Community Network:**

- Encourage collaboration among community stakeholders to address the root causes of food insecurity.

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

To ensure the success of the community fridges and pantries project at the Forest Avenue Library in Des Moines, we will employ a comprehensive measurement framework to evaluate the achievement of our project goals. This framework will include quantitative and qualitative metrics, regular monitoring, and community feedback.

#### **Quantitative Metrics**

##### **1. Food Distribution Volume**

- **Tracking Quantity and Type:** We will record the amount of donations, the number of donors, and fresh versus pantry items on a voluntary basis. We will ask donors to record on a tracking sheet when they donate and whether it is fresh or pantry foods.
- **Increase Over Time:** Comparing monthly distribution volumes to baseline data collected before the implementation of enhanced storage will help us measure growth and identify trends.

##### **2. Waste Reduction**

- **Spoilage Rates:** By monitoring the percentage of food discarded due to spoilage, we can assess the effectiveness of our cold storage in reducing waste. A decrease in spoilage rates over time will indicate success.

##### **3. Donation Quantities**

- **Frequency of Donations:** We will log the frequency of food donations, particularly noting increases in donations that require refrigeration.
- **Donor Diversity:** Voluntarily tracking the number and types of donors (individuals, businesses, farms) will help gauge community engagement and support.

##### **4. Community Utilization**

- **Visitor Counts:** Voluntarily recording the number of community members utilizing the fridges and pantries will provide insight into their reach and impact.

#### **Qualitative Metrics**

##### **1. Community Feedback**

- **Surveys and Questionnaires:** Regular surveys and questionnaires distributed to users and donors will gather qualitative data on satisfaction, needs, and areas for improvement.

##### **2. Volunteer Experiences**

- **Volunteer Surveys:** Collecting feedback from volunteers regarding their efficiency, challenges, and satisfaction will help us understand the operational impact of the enhanced storage.

#### **Regular Monitoring and Reporting**

##### **1. Quarterly Reports**

- **Data Compilation:** Compiling quarterly reports, including quantitative and qualitative data, will allow for ongoing assessment and timely adjustments.
- **Comparative Analysis:** Comparing current data to historical data will help track progress towards goals.

##### **2. Annual Evaluations**

- **Comprehensive Review:** Conducting an annual review of the program's impact, including a thorough analysis of all collected data, will provide a clear picture of long-term success.
- **Goal Adjustment:** Based on the annual review, goals and strategies can be adjusted to meet community needs better and improve efficiency.

## Community Engagement

### 1. Advisory Committees

- **Community Involvement:** We will participate in and collaborate with advisory committees working on food insecurity within the community.

### 2. Public Meetings

- **Transparency and Feedback:** We will invite donors and users of the community fridge to participate in regular, anonymous, and optional surveys.

**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.

	Current	Goal
Number of People Served (monthly)	40	80
Pounds of Food Distributed (monthly)	80	160

Operational efficiency Impact: Describe efficiencies in operations resulting from the addition of storage and cold storage.

## Operational Efficiency Impact

### 1. Extended Shelf Life and Reduced Waste

- **Cold Storage Capabilities:** By introducing a community fridge, perishable items such as dairy, fresh produce, and meat can be stored safely for longer periods, reducing spoilage and waste. This ensures that high-quality, nutritious food remains available to the community.
- **Efficient Inventory Management:** Enhanced storage facilities allow for better stock rotation practices, ensuring that items nearing their expiration date are distributed first, minimizing waste.

### 2. Increased Donation Acceptance

- **Capacity for More Donations:** Expanded storage capabilities enable the acceptance of larger quantities of food donations, including those requiring refrigeration. This helps accommodate seasonal surpluses and bulk donations from local businesses and farms.
- **Diverse Food Options:** By storing a wider variety of food items, community fridges, and pantries can offer more balanced and diverse food options, catering to different dietary needs and preferences.

### 3. Streamlined Distribution

- **Centralized Storage:** Enhanced storage facilities can serve as central hubs for food distribution, allowing for more organized and timely restocking of community fridges and pantries across multiple library branches. This centralization can lead to more efficient resource allocation and better volunteer coordination.
- **Pre-packaging and Sorting:** Adequate storage space allows for pre-packaging and sorting of food items, expediting the distribution process. Volunteers can prepare food parcels in advance, ensuring quick and easy access for community members.

### 4. Improved Volunteer Efficiency

- **Organized Workflows:** With sufficient storage and cold storage, volunteers can work more efficiently, spending less time on logistics and more on direct service. Clearly organized storage areas reduce the time spent searching for and sorting items.
- **Enhanced Safety and Hygiene:** Proper cold storage ensures that perishable items are stored at safe temperatures, reducing the risk of foodborne illnesses and enhancing overall food safety standards.

### 5. Cost Savings

- **Bulk Purchasing:** Libraries can take advantage of bulk purchasing opportunities, buying larger quantities of food at reduced prices and storing them appropriately. This leads to cost savings and the ability to stretch limited budgets further.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Modern cold storage units are designed to be energy-efficient, reducing operational costs associated with electricity usage. Additionally, centralized cold storage minimizes the need for multiple smaller refrigeration units, further reducing energy consumption.

#### **6. Community Engagement and Education**

- **Educational Programs:** We will add and pair community resources within the community fridge and pantry area to educate and connect Forest Avenue Library patrons to available resources and services.
- **Enhanced Trust and Participation:** Reliable access to fresh and varied food can build trust within the community, encouraging more people to participate in the program and potentially increasing volunteer involvement.

## Milestones

### List Project Tasks or Activities planned:

Task or Activity	Planned Begin Date	Planned End Date	Responsible Party
Purchase and installation of community fridge and dry storage shelving	September 2, 2024	September 9, 2024	Ashlan Lippert
Increase access to food for vulnerable populations in the community	September 9, 2024	No end date planned	Ashlan Lippert
Establish relationships with potential donors in the area – public and private opportunities	September 9, 2024	No end date planned	Ashlan Lippert
Implement and issue quantitative and qualitative measuring	September 9, 2024	Will review and assess metrics quarterly	Ashlan Lippert
Build volunteer capacity	September 9, 2024	No end date planned	Ashlan Lippert

### Estimated date project to be fully operational:

September 1, 2024

## Budget

Budget Item & Quantity	Request Amount	Cost Share (not required)	Total Cost
Fridge	\$3563.04	0	\$3563.04
Dry storage shelving	\$128.35	0	\$128.35
Dry storage bins	\$354.73	0	\$354.73
Food Containers	\$1390.41	0	\$1390.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5436.53</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$5436.53</b>

## Budget Narrative

Detail each budget item for which funding assistance is requested, why this item(s) was chosen and its role in the proposed project.

### Community Fridge

**Fridge (\$3227.14) + freight (\$110.00) + tax (\$225.90) = Total fridge cost \$3563.04**

The fridge we have been quoted is described below. With the specifics it has, it fits the needs for cold storage we need at the Forest Avenue Library for food for community members. It has a vital role in food rescue and access for our programming:

- Atosa USA, Inc. Model No. MCF8709GR; bottom-mount, self-contained refrigeration. (2) self-closing sliding glass doors, digital temperature control, temperature range, (8) adjustable shelves, LED interior lighting, automatic evaporation, air defrost, stainless steel interior and exterior, galvanized steel back. 2-year labor & parts warranty, 5-years warranty on compressor
- Delivery fee for fridge, necessary to get the cold storage unit to the Forest Avenue Library
- Iowa sales tax on goods

### Dry Storage Shelving

The following shelving has been chosen for the community fridge and pantry area to efficiently organize and maximize storage space for both perishable and non-perishable food items. This will ensure easy access and

systematic distribution of food to vulnerable populations, maintaining a clean and orderly environment that enhances the overall efficiency of the program.

**Shelving \$119.95 + Tax \$8.40 = Total \$128.35**

6-Tier Wire Shelving (1) @ \$37.99

5-Tier Utility Shelving Unit (1) \$59.97

Stackable Shelves (2) @ \$29.99

**Dry Storage Bins**

The storage bins that follow have been selected for the community fridge and pantry area to ensure food items are stored safely, hygienically, and in an organized manner. These bins help preserve food quality, prevent cross-contamination, and facilitate the efficient sorting and distribution of both perishable and non-perishable goods to the community.

**Bins \$331.52 + Tax \$23.21 = Total \$354.73**

8 Pack Food Storage Organizer Bins (1) @ \$24.48

16 Refrigerator Organizer Bins (1) @ \$36.99

2 Set Pantry Organizer Bins (1) @ \$29.99

12 Pack Storage Baskets (1) @ \$21.59

6 Pack Plastic Storage Bins (1) @ \$18.99

Bamboo Pantry Storage Bins (1) @ \$43.99

Can Rack Organizer (2) @ \$23.87

4-Tier Stackable Bins (1) @ \$33.99

Bamboo Storage Bin (2) @ \$36.88

**Food Containers – Eco Quality <https://ecoqualityinc.com/cart>**

We selected these food storage containers and bags for the community fridge and pantry area to ensure stored items remain fresh, safe, and well-organized. These containers and bags help preserve food quality, prevent contamination, and streamline the distribution of both perishable and non-perishable foods, including surplus food rescued from catered events that would otherwise end up in landfills. This approach not only aids those in need but also enhances environmental sustainability by reducing food waste.

**Containers \$1053.75 + Shipping \$336.66 = Total \$1390.41**

Eco Friendly Clamshell Container size 8x8x3 pack of 600 (2) @ \$183.95

28oz Microwavable Food Storage Container pack of 600 (2) @ \$211.95

7"x5" Resealable 150 Sandwich Bags pack of 48 @ \$261.95

**Signature**

I affirm the information provided on this Application is true, and that I will provide all other information requested for further substantiation. I agree that if awarded financial assistance for a project(s), I will execute the contract the DNR provides for conveying those funds, which will include but not be limited to conditions for expending those funds, and for making reasonable accounting of those expenditures.

In order to determine funding eligibility, the Department reserves the right to verify any information presented in the application and to determine the applicant's compliance status with applicable Local, State and Federal statutes and regulations. If an applicant is selected to receive financial assistance, an offer of financial assistance may be rescinded if the applicant is determined to be out of compliance with applicable Local, State and Federal regulations.

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Signature, Title

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Date



**Note:** Applications must be signed by a person authorized to commit applicant to proposed project.

## 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. The Forest Avenue Library's location in the King Irving neighborhood positions it as an indispensable community resource hub and safe space that supports individuals of all ages. It is a gateway to social services to bridge the gap in public services, especially for underserved populations. Creating a space for a community fridge and pantry is vital to ensuring they can maintain and expand their pivotal role in this community.

Indicate which group is impacted:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Women  
\_\_\_\_\_ Persons with a Disability  
\_\_\_\_\_ Blacks  
\_\_\_\_\_ Latinos  
\_\_\_\_\_ Asians  
\_\_\_\_\_ Pacific Islanders  
\_\_\_\_\_ American Indians  
\_\_\_\_\_ Alaskan Native Americans  
  
X \_\_\_\_\_ Other – all vulnerable populations & individuals under the federal poverty guideline.

- ☐ 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

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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: Ashlan Lippert, LMSW

Title Community Resource Specialist

### **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.

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.

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: Ashlan Lippert, LMSW

Title Community Resource Specialist