



**Farmington Food Pantry
Final Grant Report**

**Solid Waste Alternatives Program
Food Storage Capacity Grant
Agreement Number: 25-G550-326FSC**

**Submitted by:
Farmington Food Pantry
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Farmington Food Pantry

Since 2009

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Grant Summary

With the support of the State Department of Natural Resources grant, the Farmington Food Pantry was able to purchase a new commercial-grade refrigerator and freezer, replacing older, less efficient units. The new equipment, which was installed in our pantry on July 22, provides a 36% increase in refrigerated capacity (48 cu. ft. vs 35 cu. ft.) and a 40% increase in freezer capacity (49 cu. ft. vs. 35 cu. ft.), all within the same footprint which is key to our limited space. This expansion has allowed us to increase food storage, reduce spoilage, and accept more perishable donations.

In August, the first full month of use, our pantry served 55 families (144 individuals), consistent with the prior month of July. However, the increased storage capacity allowed us to boost food distribution from 30 pounds per person in July to 43 pounds per person in August. The new units enabled us to diversify offerings with more dairy, meat, and baked foods, improving both the quantity and quality of food provided.

A key development tied to this grant is our new partnership with Dollar General, through which we are reclaiming surplus inventory that would otherwise go to waste. In August alone, this partnership contributed 713 pounds of recovered food: 487 lbs. of dairy, 175 lbs. of meat/frozen products, and 51 lbs. of baked goods. This initiative not only strengthens our ability to feed our community but also supports environmental sustainability by reducing food waste.

We are very satisfied with the outcome of this project and the quality of the equipment purchased with the grant funds. The contractor completed installation efficiently and professionally, and the units have been operating without issue since day one. We were also able to deduct the sales tax from the final cost due to our tax-exempt status.

This expanded storage capacity has allowed us to confidently accept and safely store recovered food items, particularly perishable goods such as dairy, meat, and baked

products. This has been especially important in building our new partnership with Dollar General to reclaim surplus inventory. Without the additional refrigeration and freezer space, these items could not have been accepted or distributed.

The newly purchased refrigerator and freezer are Energy Star-rated units, designed to operate with greater efficiency compared to our older residential-grade equipment. This rating ensures that the appliances reduce electricity consumption, lower operating costs, and contribute to environmental sustainability. By upgrading to Energy Star models, the pantry not only benefits from increased storage capacity within the same footprint but also demonstrates responsible stewardship of both financial and natural resources.

As a result, we are now able to provide a greater variety of nutritious foods to food-insecure lowans, reduce food waste, and strengthen the overall resilience of our pantry operations, The ability to safely handle recovered foods has already proven to be one of the most significant benefits of this project, ensuring that the grant investment will continue to generate positive impact well into the future. We are deeply grateful to the DNR for providing funding that made this project possible for us.



**Maxx Cold 48 cu ft Refrigerator
Energy Star Rated**



**Maxx Cold 49 cu ft Freezer
Energy Star Rated**