



FY 2025 MOBILE PANTRY PROGRAM REPORT

JULY 1, 2024–JUNE 30, 2025



It takes a little bit of the pressure off because I work 60 hours a week, and even working 60 hours a week, it's not enough to pay all my bills and go get groceries. It's ridiculous how much food costs now.

—Wynona, Mobile Pantry Recipient, Weeping Water, NE

Grateful for You

Food Bank for the Heartland is grateful for the outpouring of support from our community to combat hunger across the 93 counties we serve in Nebraska and western Iowa. It is only through your compassion that our Mobile Pantry Program delivered more than 2.3 million meals across 403 Mobile Pantry events serving nearly 78,000 households in FY 2025. We could not provide this life changing work without your generosity. Thank you!

Program History

We know—now more than ever—that hunger knows no boundaries. It is a reality for thousands of our neighbors living in urban, suburban, and rural communities. Food Bank for the Heartland recognizes their plight and collaborates with partners to offer Mobile Pantries and conveniently distribute healthy food for neighbors in need.

Founded in 2012, the Food Bank's Mobile Pantry Program delivers food directly to communities that have a high need but limited food resources. These one-day distributions are free and include a variety of shelf-stable and perishable products, including fresh produce and bakery items. No identification is required to obtain food.



Being a single father, I am so thankful for this helpful program. And I must admit, I really wasn't sure what we were going to do without this great food. Thank you.

—Charlie, Mobile Pantry Recipient, Mondamin, IA

Making a Direct Impact

1 IN 7 INDIVIDUALS

IN OUR SERVICE AREA IS FACING HUNGER. THAT INCLUDES 1 IN 5 CHILDREN, 1 IN 4 HISPANIC INDIVIDUALS AND 1 IN 3 BLACK INDIVIDUALS.

403 MOBILE PANTRY EVENTS

HELD ACROSS THE FOOD BANK'S 93-COUNTY SERVICE AREA IN FY 2025.

2,302,785 MEALS

DISTRIBUTED TO NEIGHBORS, HELPING THEM TO FOCUS, LIVE, AND THRIVE.

40 COUNTIES

THROUGHOUT NEBRASKA AND WESTERN IOWA PARTICIPATE IN THE MOBILE PANTRY PROGRAM.

77,599 HEARTLAND HOUSEHOLDS

RECEIVED A COMMUNITY PACK, FRESH PRODUCE, AND BREAD.

\$2,067,557

TOTAL COST OF MOBILE PANTRY FOOD IN FY 2025.



Communities in Need

According to the latest data from Feeding America, nearly 260,000 individuals in our service area are experiencing food insecurity. Many do not know where their next meal is coming from. They are regularly faced with agonizing choices—such as paying for rent, utilities, childcare, medicine and other essentials or paying for food. Despite being employed, many families struggle to earn enough money to cover their basic expenses.

Skyrocketing costs on food and fuel have added extra stress to already strained budgets. Over 60% of mobile distributions occur in rural counties where access to grocery stores is limited. Partners have shared that it is common for individuals attending Mobile Pantry distributions to drive over 60 miles round trip to have access to fresh produce—creating devastating barriers for families in need. These food deserts, where access to food is limited, presents unique challenges across our service area.



There's a huge need in rural Nebraska as a whole. Even over the five years it seems like the need has gotten bigger and the need has become wider, and there's a lot of people who need that extra help.

— Mobile Pantry Coordinator, Weeping Water, NE

In addition to the mental and emotional anxieties of food insecurity, the physical adverse health effects of a poor diet are clear. Individuals facing hunger are at higher risk for developing diet-related chronic illnesses such as type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease. To help mitigate these debilitating health risks, the Food Bank's Mobile Pantry Program reinforces the importance of nutritious options with an emphasis on fresh produce, providing a pre-packed box of produce items at each Mobile Pantry event.

In conjunction with our Mobile Pantry Program, the Food Bank also hosts "School-Based Mobile Pantries." In FY 2025, the Food Bank held 77 distributions across seven school districts during the school year to support Heartland families who have limited access to healthy food.

Food Distributed

The Food Bank distributed 6.9 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to families across Nebraska and western Iowa in FY 2025 and the Mobile Pantry Program is an essential part of this effort.. To ensure consistent access to healthy food, Mobile Pantry recipients received a 15 lb. box of produce—consisting of hearty fruits and vegetables such as apples, potatoes, onions, cabbage, etc., as well as a community pack—a 15 lb. box of shelf stable items, including but not limited to rice, canned vegetables, canned fruits, canned protein, and pasta sauce. In addition, recipients also received a fresh loaf of bread from Rotella's Italian Bakery.



My family and I are so appreciative of this food offering—it's been such a great help this summer when my hours and paycheck are cut in half.

—Rachel, Mobile Pantry Recipient, Mondamin, IA



MOBILE PANTRY PROGRAM

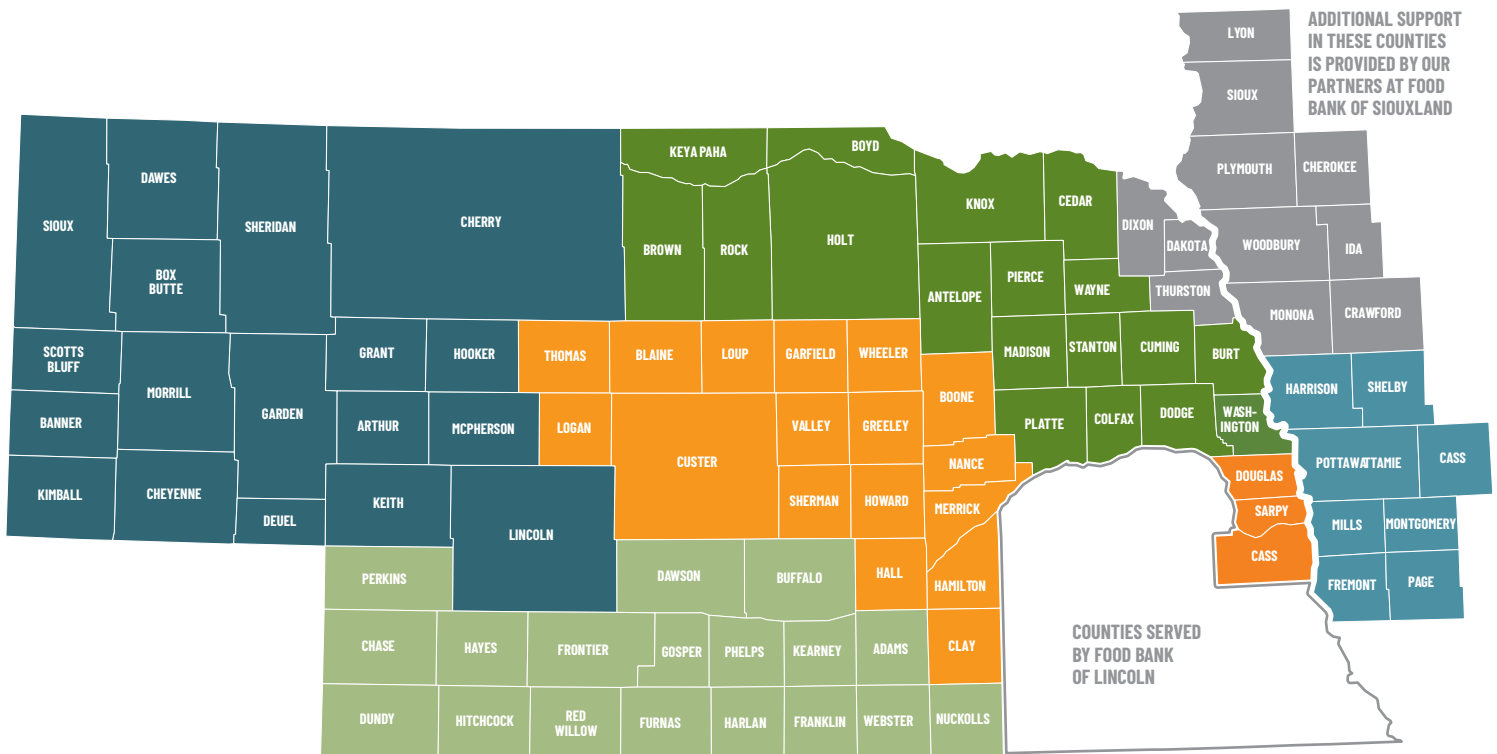
CHARITABLE SOURCES OF REVENUE

Foundations	\$412,500
Corporations	\$90,944
Individuals	\$391

Relationship-Driven Partnerships

In alignment with our mission of eliminating hunger in the Heartland by ensuring consistent access to healthy foods through community partnerships, Food Bank for the Heartland offers a “Regional Service Approach” to better provide our Network Partners with equitable distribution and creative solutions to food insecurity at the local level.

Food Bank for the Heartland’s 93-county service area is split into separate regions, with each region represented by dedicated Food Bank employees who understand the unique needs of those specific communities. These employees are known as Community Service Representatives—or CSRs. They serve as the main liaison for all Mobile Pantries—including communication, scheduling, and monitoring of all distributions—and provide consistent support and guidance to Mobile Pantry Partners.



We serve an average of 80-90 families per month. They are really grateful to the Food Bank and I know they look forward to it. I think it’s a great opportunity that we have here. Being able to help our families in need is great.

—Jessica, Mobile Pantry Coordinator, Omaha, NE

Program Supporter Spotlight

The Food Bank is grateful for the support we receive from individuals, foundations, and corporate partners. Farm Credit Services of America is just one example of a dedicated supporter in the fight against hunger. For the last decade, FCSA has sponsored various Mobile Pantries in rural communities across the Food Bank's service area—helping distribute food to thousands of Heartland neighbors, while also providing financial support to the Food Bank to purchase the food that is distributed.



An FCSA-sponsored Mobile Pantry held in Ponca, NE



If it weren't for the Food Bank, and the food they send us, we would be in trouble. We're able to give our community the food they really need, dairy, eggs and protein.

— Brad, Mobile Pantry Coordinator, Atlantic, IA

Helping Hands

Food Bank volunteers are the lifeline of our mission, and they play a pivotal role in the Mobile Pantry Program. In FY 2025, 3,044 hours were dedicated to packing community packs and shelf-stable items, which are distributed to Mobile Pantries across Nebraska and western Iowa. We are beyond grateful for their time, talent, and unending support in the fight against hunger.

The Food Bank's pantry partners also rely heavily on volunteers to help with the coordination of each Mobile Pantry. Volunteers assist with the flow of distribution, place boxes into each vehicle, and create a positive experience for recipients. These volunteers are essential to ensuring each Mobile Pantry is safe and efficient for recipients, and they help combat the stigma some recipients may feel as a result of experiencing food insecurity.



The price of food, not having enough money to get it, and being able to have resources that can help, it just means a lot.

— Otis, Mobile Pantry Recipient, Omaha, NE



Conclusion

Thanks to you, the Mobile Pantry Program meets an important need across Food Bank for the Heartland's 93-county service area. Mobile Pantries are a flexible tool in addressing hunger. As food costs continue to rise, children, families, seniors, and veterans desperately need your help. With support from our generous community, we're making progress toward improving the mental and physical health of families across the Heartland.



Before 2/2/26 | After 2/2/26
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