FOODBANK FOR THE HEARTLAND

FY 2026 MOBILE PANTRY PROGRAM REPORT

JULY 1, 2025–JUNE 30, 2026



> You have to have food, but that's what gets hit the most. This food is a lifeline. Every time I pull something out of my pantry, I thank God for the Food Bank.
>
> **—Mobile Pantry Participant, Ralston, 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 1.7 million meals across 386 Mobile Pantry events, distributing more than 67,000 household food kits in FY 2026. We could not provide this life-saving support 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 Pantry events 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.

> The help you guys provide, you can't be thanked enough.
>
> **—Brian, Mobile Pantry Participant, Council Bluffs, IA**

Making a Direct Impact

1 IN 7 INDIVIDUALS

IN OUR SERVICE AREA IS FACING HUNGER. THAT'S **282,220** PEOPLE, AND INCLUDES **1 IN 5** CHILDREN, **1 IN 3** HISPANIC INDIVIDUALS AND **1 IN 2** BLACK INDIVIDUALS.

386 MOBILE PANTRY EVENTS

HELD ACROSS THE FOOD BANK'S 93-COUNTY SERVICE AREA IN FY 2026.

1,705,474 MOBILE PANTY MEALS

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

39 COUNTIES

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

67,138 HOUSEHOLD FOOD KITS

—INCLUDING NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS, FRESH PRODUCE, & BREAD—DISTRIBUTED TO HEARTLAND NEIGHBORS.

$2,048,091

TOTAL COST OF MOBILE PANTRY FOOD IN FY 2026.



Communities in Need

According to the latest data from Feeding America, more than 282,000 individuals, including 97,410 children, 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 of 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 food-insecure 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. Food Bank for the Heartland mobiles are intended to step into that gap.

> **It really did take a lot for me to come here. It's okay to ask for help. Without this, we would be hungry.**
>
> **—Sarah, Mobile Pantry Participant, Shenandoah, IA**

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 fresh produce at each Mobile Pantry event.

In conjunction with our Mobile Pantry Program, the Food Bank also hosts "School-Based Mobile Pantries." In FY 2026, the Food Bank held 93 distributions across eight school districts during the school year to support Heartland families who have limited access to healthy food.

Food Distributed

The Food Bank distributed nearly 6 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to families across Nebraska and western Iowa in FY 2026, and the Mobile Pantry Program is an essential part of this effort. To ensure consistent access to healthy food, Mobile Pantry participants typically received a 10 lb. box of produce—consisting of hearty fruits and vegetables such as apples, potatoes, onions, cabbage, etc., as well as a community pack—a 12 lb. box of shelf stable items, including but not limited to peanut butter, canned protein, rice, canned vegetables, canned fruits, and pasta sauce. In addition, neighbors also received a fresh loaf of bread from Rotella's Italian Bakery, and from December 2025-June 2026, 3 lbs. of ground beef.

> **If I had the money to give back, I would, but right now I just don't. It would be really hard if I didn't have this help. With the economy now, you almost need three jobs to survive anymore.**
>
> **—Kristy, Mobile Pantry Participant, Council Bluffs, IA**



MOBILE PANTRY PROGRAM

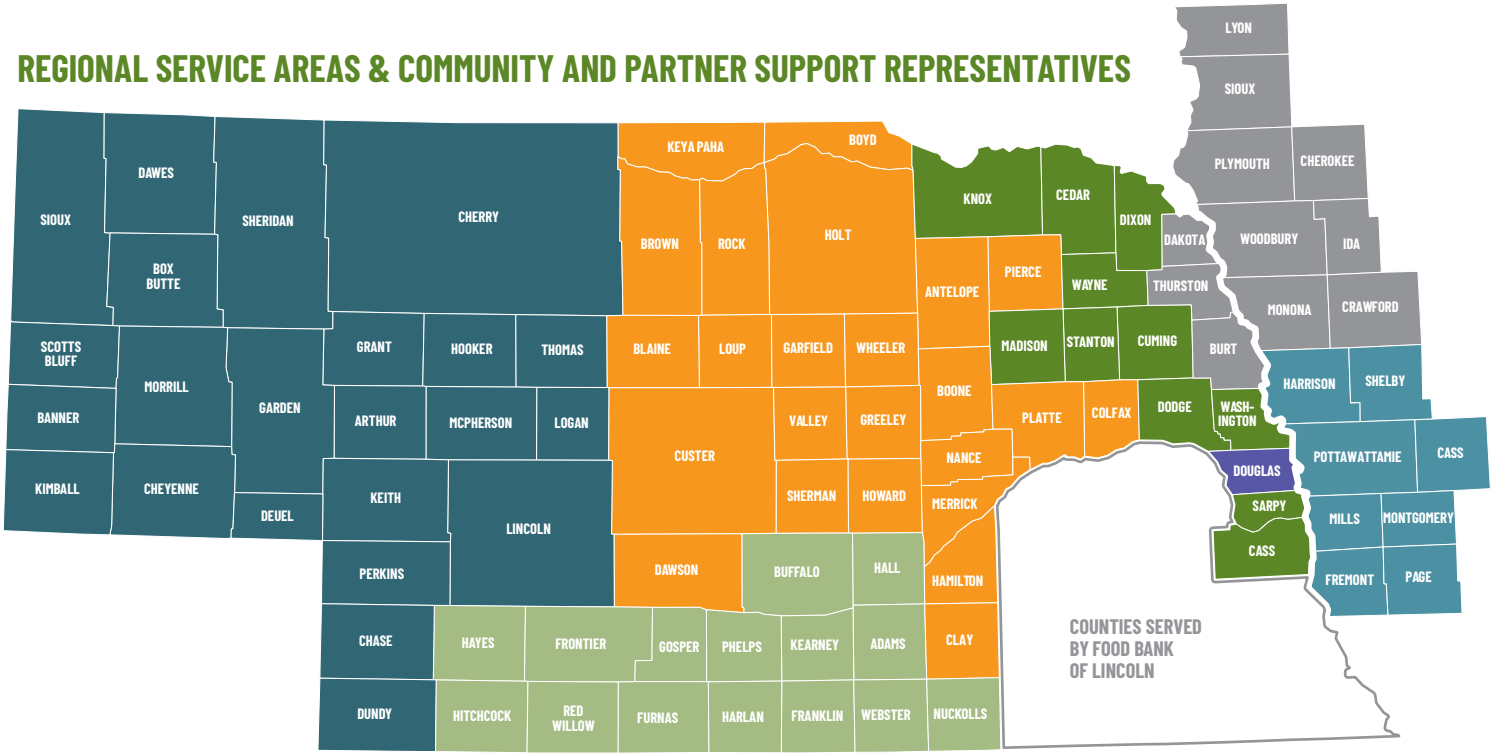
CHARITABLE SOURCES OF SUPPORT	FY '26
Foundations	$589,715
Corporations	$101,010

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.

REGIONAL SERVICE AREAS & COMMUNITY AND PARTNER SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES



REGION 1
ALEJANDRA & MELISSA
Omaha Metro Area





REGION 2
STEPHANIE
Eastern Nebraska
& Omaha Metro



REGION 3
BRIAN
North Central Nebraska





REGION 4
MARIA
South Central Nebraska



REGION 5
KERRY
Western Nebraska



REGION 6
ALLISON
Southwest Iowa
& Omaha Metro

FOOD BANK OF SIOUXLAND INC.

Counties supported by Food Bank of Siouxland, our Affiliate Food Bank

"

We've seen a really huge increase over the past few months of first-timers coming to the mobile pantry.

—Maggie, Mobile Pantry Coordinator, Council Bluffs, IA

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—employees help 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 Cedar County, Nebraska

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 for the Heartland volunteers are the lifeline of our mission, and they play a pivotal role in the Mobile Pantry Program. In FY 2026, 2,446 hours were dedicated to packing community packs of 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 neighbors. These volunteers are essential to ensuring each Mobile Pantry is safe and efficient for participants, and they help combat the stigma some may feel as a result of experiencing food insecurity.


Ralston Mobile Pantry


Mobile Pantry line at Wakonda Elementary in Omaha

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.

FOODBANK FOR THE HEARTLAND
PARTNER FOOD BANK OF FEEDING AMERICA
4645 S. 84th Street
Omaha, NE 68127
402.331.1213
FoodBankHeartland.org
10.16.26