

# Iowa Food and Nutrition Security State Profile

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## Purpose

The purpose of the Food and Nutrition Security Profile (Profile) is to provide an overview of state and regional efforts and infrastructure to advance food and nutrition security. Although not exhaustive, the Profile serves as a resource to support greater collaboration across disciplines and sectors to improve equitable access to food. The intended audience includes public health practitioners, food policy councils, community-based organizations, food banks and pantries, school district wellness councils, food sovereignty organizations including Indigenous groups and coalitions, and others with a mission to improve food and nutrition security.

The Profile serves as a companion to the [National Food and Nutrition Security Profile](#) and will be reviewed and updated biennially. If you have any questions or comments about your Profile, please contact the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities at [CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org](mailto:CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org).

## Food Banks, Pantries, and Feeding Programs

The [Iowa Food Bank Association](#) supports collaboration between Feeding America food banks and affiliates that serve Iowa. The following are members of Feeding America's [network](#).

- [Food Bank for the Heartland](#)
  - View the [programs offered](#).
  - View the [counties served](#).
  - View the [partner agencies](#).
  
- [Food Bank of Iowa](#)
  - View the [programs offered](#).
  - View the [counties served](#).
  - View the [partner agencies](#).
  
- [Food Bank of Siouxland](#)
  - View the [programs offered](#).
  - Serves Cherokee, Crawford, Ida, Lyon, Monona, Plymouth, Sioux and Woodbury Counties in the Siouxland region of Iowa.
  - View the [partner agencies](#).
  
- [HACAP Food Reservoir](#)
  - View the [programs offered](#).
  - Serves Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Washington Counties.
  - View the [partner agencies](#).

- [Northeast Iowa Food Bank](#)
  - View the [programs offered](#).
  - View the [counties served](#).
  - View [partner agencies](#).
  
- [River Bend Food Bank](#)
  - View the [programs offered](#).
  - View the [counties served](#).
  - View the [partner agencies](#).

For a list of food banks in your state that operate independently from Feeding America, see [listing](#) compiled by Food Bank News.

## Select Food and Nutrition Security Programs

### **Food Is Medicine Programs**

- Find the [Double Up Food Bucks](#) program in your state.
- Locate the [Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program \(GusNIP\)](#) grantees in your state:
  - *Current Produce Prescription Funding:*
    - [Iowa Healthiest State Initiative](#) (2022-2025)
  - *Current Nutrition Incentive Funding:*
    - [Iowa Healthiest State Initiative](#) (2021-2025)

### **Community Nutrition Education Programs**

- [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) (EFNEP)
  - The implementing agency is Iowa State University.
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education](#) (SNAP-Ed)
  - The Iowa Department of Human Services is the state agency responsible for SNAP-Ed. The implementing agency is Iowa State University.
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP)
  - [Iowa SNAP Directory](#)

### **Senior Nutrition Programs**

- [Elderly Nutrition Program](#) led by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.
- [Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#) led by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

### **Child Nutrition Programs**

[United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Child Nutrition Programs](#) contacts for implementing agencies of programs listed below:

- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Special Milk Program
- SUN Meals (Summer Food Service Program)
- USDA Foods in Schools



## Emergency Food Response

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service [State COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibilities](#)
- [Iowa Comprehensive Emergency Plan](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Contact](#) – Region 7
- [Emergency Food Assistance Program \(TEFAP\) Contacts](#)

## Food (Policy) Coalitions and Councils

- View [list of food policy councils](#) in each state through the John Hopkins Center for Livable Future's 2021 Food Policy Network Map.
- [Iowa Food System Coalition](#)

## Other Collaborators to Consider

- [Iowa Farm to School & Early Care Network](#) increases access to locally grown food and food education for children and families by building cross-sector partnerships to advance programs and policies in schools, early care settings, and the food system.
- [Iowa Food Hub](#) offers weekly deliveries of local food from small and mid-sized farms.
- [Iowa Food Hub Directory](#) lists businesses/organizations that actively manage the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-identified food products.
- [Iowa Food System Coalition](#) was formed to create a thriving, sustainable, and equitable food system in Iowa.
- [Iowa Hunger Coalition](#) is an association of organizations and individuals committed to ending hunger in Iowa.
- [Meskwaki Food Sovereignty Initiative](#) secures food sovereignty by seeding, growing, and harvesting Meskwaki Indigenous knowledge and life-ways.
- [National Farm to School Network - Iowa](#) increases access to local food and nutrition education to improve children's health, strengthen family farms, and cultivate vibrant communities.
- [Table To Table](#) keeps wholesome, edible food from going to waste by collecting it from donors and distributing to agencies that serve those in need.
- [USDA Local Food Directories](#)

## Data Sources and Resources

- [Iowa Profile of Hunger, Poverty and Federal Nutrition Programs](#) – Food Research and Action Center
- [Iowa SNAP-Ed State Impact Reports](#) – Iowa State University
- [Food Security in the U.S.](#) – USDA
- [Child Nutrition Programs Dashboard](#) – USDA
- [Food Environment Atlas](#) – USDA
- [Map the Meal Gap](#) – Feeding America

## Public Health Contacts for Food & Nutrition Security

### Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Jill Lange, Nutrition and Physical Activity Administrator  
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### Women, Infants, and Children Program

Brandy Benedict, State WIC Director  
[brandy.benedict@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:brandy.benedict@idph.iowa.gov)

### Maternal and Child Health Program

Marcus Johnson-Miller, Title V Director  
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### **Food and Nutrition Security Contact**

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For additional information or questions about this Profile, please contact the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities at [CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org](mailto:CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org).

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The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) and its more than 7,000 Members seek to strengthen state-based leadership and expertise for chronic disease prevention and control in states and nationally. For more information, visit [chronicdisease.org](http://chronicdisease.org).