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# 245 food pantries receive \$4.05 million in emergency funding from State of Colorado

*Aid purchase and distribution of Colorado-grown produce and nutrient-dense foods*

DENVER (June 6, 2023) – The Governor’s Office, Colorado Department of Human Services and Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger have come together to announce the distribution of \$4.05 million in emergency funding from the State of Colorado to a total of 245 food pantries. [View the full list of grant awards by region.](#)

Food pantries across Colorado are experiencing increased demand within their communities. In addition to the continued impacts of inflation, the recent reduction in benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – related to the end of the public health emergency – has led to more families and individuals turning to food pantries for food assistance and nutritional support.

Recognizing the ongoing need in Colorado communities, state lawmakers and Gov. Polis allocated additional funding for quick release to local organizations that directly provide access to food in their communities. The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) redirected \$14 million in supplemental state funding specifically for food banks and food pantries this year. The Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger (Blueprint), a collective impact organization focused on shifting power dynamics and building capacity in communities, is distributing \$4.05 million of those funds through its existing [Food Pantry Assistance Grant \(FPAG\)](#) program.

“This important support is part of our work to make sure Coloradans have access to healthy food in their communities and the resources and support they need to thrive,” said Gov. Polis.

The grant distribution program exists to support organizations working directly in Colorado communities so everyone can access healthy food options near where they live. Hunger Free

Colorado led its establishment in 2018, with support from its Colorado Food Pantry Network, the state legislature, and then-Governor Hickenlooper. In 2020, enacted legislation made CDHS the grant administrator and expanded market opportunities for Colorado's agricultural products.

Grant opportunities continue to be open to all food pantries in the state, with a focus on purchasing meat, dairy and fresh produce from local farmers, ranchers and producers. This current grant cycle also focuses on expanding access to culturally relevant and nutritionally appropriate foods.

"All of the food pantries awarded funding align with the program goals and our commitment to equity," shared Dana Wood, the Blueprint's Community Investment Manager. "By working with CDHS and the Governor's office to distribute these grants, we're moving closer towards our vision of a Colorado where everyone who lives here can access the food they choose, where they want it, and when they need it."

Nearly 300 food pantries across the state applied for FPAG funding, with the combined requests totaling more than \$9.8 million. Sixty-one current grantees, who sought the same grant award amount as 2022 - 2023, will receive funding immediately. The remaining 237 applications included new applicants for FPAG, past grantees and current grantees seeking more funds. Collectively, these food pantries sought nearly \$8.8 million in funding, with the average request amounting to \$37,675 per applicant.

[Find out more](#) about the Colorado Food Pantry Assistance Grant program and its grantees.

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