Currently, 2 million pounds of donated Idaho food is given to neighboring states’ food banks each year because we lack warehouse capacity.

Help us fix this.

Introducing the capital campaign for The Idaho Foodbank’s new hunger relief facility, distributing food statewide.
The problem: Not a shortage of food, but a lack of warehouse space

Generous donors can meet the growing demand for emergency food in Idaho. But a lack of warehouse capacity, especially for perishable goods, limits our ability to distribute food in a timely way to feed Idaho’s hungriest families, seniors and children.

The Idaho Foodbank is working to respond to a dramatic shift in food donations, from predominantly shelf-stable goods a few years ago to more than half of all donations today being fresh or frozen food, requiring more cooler and freezer capacity to avoid waste. Plus, with Idaho among the nation’s fastest-growing states, more working families and senior citizens are finding “rent eats first” and need help from our 400 partner agencies statewide as they struggle to put food on the table in the face of higher housing costs.

Lack of Warehouse Space

With Idaho’s population growth, IFB will need to distribute 29 million pounds of food annually, an increase of 9 million pounds over fiscal 2019.

Lack of Refrigeration

Warehouses, coolers and freezers are at capacity, limiting the variety and amount of food we can accept, store and distribute.

Lack of Teaching Space

“Teaching kitchen” space focuses on nutrition education, helping families learn how to use donated resources, minimizing waste.

Unfortunately, 2 million pounds of food donated by Idahoans for Idahoans each year is going to feed the hungry in other states, simply because there is not enough space to receive, store and distribute through The Idaho Foodbank facilities. It’s time to fix this.
The solution: Idaho’s new hunger relief facility

Thanks to a generous lead gift by an anonymous donor, IFB has agreed to purchase a 102,000 sq. ft. building in Meridian that will serve as the new IFB statewide food distribution facility.

Purchasing the new food distribution facility, along with the cost of renovations to add teaching kitchens, office space and a volunteer center total $13.2 million. With the lead gift of $1.88 million, and the proceeds from the sale of IFB’s current 28,000 sq. ft. warehouse in Boise, the goal of A Fresh Approach capital campaign is to raise $8.8 million in donations for the remaining cost of the project.

Initially, IFB will not need to use the entire footprint of the new facility and will lease 40,000 sq. ft. of space to a paying tenant, creating earned income until state population growth and need dictate complete utilization of the new space for free emergency food distribution needs.

“We must ensure that our Idaho Foodbank has the capacity to capture more Idaho-grown produce and distribute it more frequently to more Idahoans than ever before.”

- Campaign Chair Patricia Kempthorne, former Idaho First Lady and Founder, Twiga Foundation.

Idaho is a state of not only great bounty, but also tremendous generosity. Idahoans rank third in the U.S. for volunteering, and annually, the IFB benefits from more than 50,000 hours of donated time. Plus, more than 90% of all emergency food IFB distributes through partners statewide is donated.

90% of all food distributed is donated, not purchased.

Please join us in taking A Fresh Approach to accepting more food donations from Idahoans and distributing it to more hungry Idaho families from a new hunger relief facility.
The right approach to feeding Idaho families, children and seniors in their time of need

One in eight people in Idaho, including one in six Idaho children, have experienced a time of food insecurity.

Hunger is the hidden epidemic in many Idaho communities, depriving individuals, senior citizens and nearly 70,000 children in the state from living healthy, active and meaningful lives. Most of the people who need emergency food are “doing all the right things” – they have a job, many times two, and are committed to self-reliance. But unexpected medical bills, a dramatic jump in rent, or a family crisis can limit their ability to buy food. Over half of those going hungry in Idaho do not qualify for public assistance. The Idaho Foodbank, and our network of more than 400 schools, churches, nonprofits and other distributing organizations, provide a critical lifeline.

94% of all donations go to feeding the hungry

The Idaho Foodbank is the largest distributor of free emergency food in Idaho, with warehouses in Boise, Pocatello and Lewistown providing enough food for more than one million meals each month. One of Idaho’s most-trusted charities, IFB has been providing hunger relief for 35 years and is grateful for the generous contributions we receive from individuals (47%), corporations and businesses (23%), foundations and trusts (21%), federal grants (6%) and other sources (3%).

To learn more about A Fresh Approach Capital Campaign and recognition opportunities, or to schedule a donor’s tour of the new Idaho hunger relief facility, contact Adrienne Swain Smith at adsmith@idahofoodbank.org or (208)340-7891.