Together, we can solve hunger.

Solving Hunger in Idaho: FISCAL YEAR 2023

Overview

8.2% of people in Idaho are facing food insecurity— the lack of access at times to enough food to support a healthy and active lifestyle (Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap report). This includes more than 40,000 kids.

When families and individuals are unable to access nutritious food, it can negatively affect their health and increase their risk of developing chronic diseases, including heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes. These health risks impact people and communities across the state. Nutrition at every age is critical for our health and well-being. We serve individuals and families in several ways, including school pantries, food boxes for seniors age 60 and older, and our Mobile Pantry Program.

Mobile Pantry Program

| 609 | mobile distributions statewide |
| 19,873 | people served (monthly average) |
| 68 | communities served |
| 5,010,748 | pounds of food for 4,212,037 meals distributed statewide |
| 16,325 | volunteer hours |

“It's a good resource for anybody that finds it challenging - so you can stretch it out a little bit longer until you get your paycheck.”

– Client, Mobile Pantry
Food insecurity exists in every county in Idaho. However, not all communities, particularly in rural areas, have brick-and-mortar pantries to address the needs in that community. The Mobile Pantry Program helps address these needs with monthly or quarterly food distributions.

In each Mobile Pantry community, The Idaho Foodbank staff work with local leaders to assess needs, coordinate logistics, and identify a suitable site for the Mobile Pantry food distribution to take place. The site is usually a senior center, church, or other building that is well-known in the community. We provide the food in a refrigerated truck and local volunteers help spread the word and staff the distributions.

The strategy that guides the program is summed up by “keep it local.” At all sites, the program depends on relationships within the community and among neighbors. Many people are more willing to access food assistance when they are approached by people they know. Mobile Pantry’s collaborative model allows the program to effectively reach people in need while preserving their dignity.

Our Mobile Pantry Program is a uniquely effective way to provide hunger relief for underserved communities that do not have a permanent food pantry, or where permanent pantries don’t have the capacity to meet the local need.

Providing food access across the entire state of Idaho is possible thanks to a strong network of Food Distribution Partners working to end hunger one community at a time. Through our network of 440+ Food Distribution Partners and direct service programs, The Idaho Foodbank provides food and resources into all of Idaho’s 44 counties.