University of Iowa
Campus Food Pantry
Operations and Development Proposal
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Our Mission

“"To alleviate food insecurity among University of Iowa students, faculty, and staff."”

- Create a safe space to provide and distribute safe, quality, and nutritious food to University of Iowa students, faculty and staff.
- Create and promote a space on campus dedicated to food donation and collection.
- Collect quality and nutritious food that otherwise go to waste to contribute to sustainability initiatives on campus.
- Raise awareness and advocate on issues relating to food insecurity, poverty, and health experienced at the University of Iowa.
- Encourage and promote student engagement, volunteerism and service to peers on campus and throughout the community.
The following is a proposal for an on campus food pantry to provide students, faculty and staff at the University of Iowa with provided healthy and nutritious food through a campus operated pantry. This proposal comes from a reaction to the growing trend and national issue of food insecurity in the United States and on college campuses.

The pantry will operate as a University of Iowa Student Organization. It will be advised and overseen staff from the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership, and they supervise two paid student interns. The student positions will act as Pantry Co-Directors who will manage the other directors as well as the volunteer staff.

The campus food pantry will publicize hours of operation and be open to the University of Iowa community during the academic year, and on reduced hours or on need basis throughout the non-academic calendar year and holidays.

The pantry will be located in 200-210 corridor of the Iowa Memorial Union, with access to the food pantry available when open during hours of operation or by arrangement with staff.
What is Food Insecurity?
To be food insecure, a person must lack reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. Unlike “hunger” which tends to focus on the individual, the concept of food insecurity examines the underlying structural issues that keep populations of people from receiving adequate nutrition.

4.6 million  The number of students Feeding America served in 2014
(Feeding America)

The percent of students nationally that must regularly choose between paying for food and covering educational costs

31%
(Fig. 1)
(Hunger in America 2014)
Food Insecurity and GPA: Data taken from the “Student Experience in the Research University,” (fig. 2) a yearly survey given to 18 research universities throughout the U.S., including the University of Iowa. This graph shows that as UI students’ concern about their debt goes up, their GPA suffers a responsive decrease. The causes behind this correlation include students attempting to save money by turning to poorer quality food or skipping meals.

Cost Burdened Housing: A cost burdened renter and homeowner is one whose 30% of their income goes directly to housing, and extreme cost burdened housing is 50%. Johnson County is the most cost burdened county in Iowa, with 36.9% of Johnson County renters and 55.6% of homeowners. The high cost of living further contributes to student poverty rates.
A student survey was conducted through the University of Iowa Qualtrics Survey. The survey questions were taken from the United State Department of Agriculture survey on food insecurity. Of the 1030 surveyed, the responses demonstrate students with food insecurity. This survey shows that there is a significant proportion of University of Iowa students who at some point has faced food insecurity.

(Fig. 3) In the past year, how often have you not eaten for day because of lack of affordable food?

(Fig. 4) In the past year, how often did you not eat because you were unable to afford food?

(Fig. 5) In the past year, how often has your classwork suffered due to lack of adequate food?

(Fig. 6) In the past year, have you experienced poor health or felt unwell due to lack of adequate food nutrition?

(2016 UI Student Food Insecurity Survey)
12 of the 14 Big Ten Schools have food pantries

Out of the fourteen Big Ten Universities, only two do not possess a student food pantry. Michigan State is the principle partner and found of CUFBA (College and University Food Bank Association).

In addition, Iowa State University, has a student food pantry since 2011.
The following are comments taken from the UI Food Insecurity Survey and demonstrate anecdotal information on students’ food insecurity. While varying to degree and objectivity, some responses surround students experiences are found below:

“Sometimes I just have to eat whatever is left over from my daughter’s meal so that she is fully fed.”

“I literally cannot afford food so I took up cigarettes because they are cheaper per week and curb my appetite”

“For most of the last year, up until recently, I was eating one meal a day.”

“In the past month there have been 6 days where I’ve gone completely without eating.”

“We rely on credit cards to eat.”

“Me and my kids are on food stamps because I’m a single parent. I’m commuting a long way to attend school and gas and car issues also make this difficult.”

“I survive on Food Stamps. It has been reduced from $200 to $70 ... so I buy things like an orange only once each month.”

“It was definitely unexpected. As a grad student, i thought i was making enough money but when reality hits and you have bills to pay, a medical emergency, food took a back seat.”

“I stock up on free leftovers from med school whenever possible.”
# Pantry Start-Up Budget

## ONE TIME PANTRY EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelving, bins, storage equipment</td>
<td>$900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office furniture</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigeration/freezer unit</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning supplies</td>
<td>$260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and software</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment repair/replacement fund</td>
<td>$480</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Start-Up Total: $3,040

## REOCCURRING SEMESTER OPERATING EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Food Bank Membership Fee</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food purchasing funds</td>
<td>$3,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid Pantry Intern(s) ($10.0/hour @ 20 hours a week for 15 weeks)</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning supplies:</td>
<td>$110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semester Total: $6,960

Total Start-Up Budget: $10,000
Organizational Chart

Advisory Committee
CSIL
Crisis Center of Johnson County

Executive Director
(Paid intern position)

Assistant Director
(Paid intern position)

Business Director

Marketing Director

Volunteer Director

Volunteer staff
Facility and Purchasing

Space Needs:

- 200 square feet or less
- Shelving and lighting
- Electrical outlets
- Internet access
- Secure access
- Handicap Accessible

Proposed Location — Rm. 207/209 IMU

<200 sq. ft.
Projected Use

Through examining universities with similar size and demographics as the University of Iowa, we can gain a rough estimation of how many clients, pounds of food, repeat visits, etc. that we can expect at our own food pantry.

(by enrollment)

University of Maryland:  
Enrollment 37,631  
Unique clients: 158/year  
Total visits: 338/year  

Iowa State University:  
Enrollment 34,732  
Total visits: 591/year  
Food distributed: 5,900 lbs.  

University of Iowa:  
Estimated unique clients (after 2 years): 200/year  
Estimated visits (after 2 years): 400/year  
Estimated distribution (after 2 years): 6,500 lbs.  

Indiana University-Purdue University:  
Enrollment 30,690  
Unique clients: 201/year  
Total visits: 530/year  
Food distributed: 6,922 lbs.  

University of Missouri-Kansas City:  
Enrollment 16,019  
Clients: 645/year  
Food distributed: 6814 lbs.
Partners

As a non-profit organization, having community partners willing to lend their time, effort and resources is an invaluable asset. Below is a list of university groups, clubs, and departments, as well as community organizations and businesses who have demonstrated their support for this pantry.

- University of Iowa Student Government
- The Crisis Center of Johnson County
- North Liberty Food Pantry
- University of Iowa Center for Student Involvement and Leadership
- University of Iowa Associated Residence Halls
- University of Iowa Office of Sustainability
- University of Iowa Dining
- FAITH (Food Access In The Heartland)
- Student United Way