



Johnson County Emergency Food and Housing Assistance Grant FY26 Request for Proposals

Overview

According to Feeding America, an estimated 11.5% of Johnson County residents, including over 14% of children, are food insecure and lack consistent access to adequate food. Roughly, 39% of our food insecure residents, including 46% of children, live in households that earn too much income to qualify for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Recent changes in SNAP eligibility have resulted in loss of benefits for many individuals and families while food prices continue to skyrocket. As a result, area food pantries and feeding programs have experienced record demand.

Food insecurity is linked to many risk factors including chronic illness, and physical and mental health issues for people of all ages. Lack of adequate and healthy food can negatively impact a child's growth and development and their ability to concentrate and learn in school.

Johnson County residents face the highest rental costs in the state of Iowa. More than 67% of renters in the County are housing cost burdened, paying more than 30% of their income on rent. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Johnson County has a deficit of 7,835 housing units that are affordable and accessible to the lowest income residents. A growing number of individuals and families are experiencing barriers to securing long-term, stable housing which is resulting in more unhoused residents.

Safe and stable housing brings a wide range of health, economic and social benefits for individuals, families and the community. Residents who have safe and stable housing have improved health outcomes, including reduction in stress and anxiety and improved management of chronic illness. Additionally, housing stability provides greater economic stability making it easier to find and maintain employment. Children demonstrate better educational outcomes and improved attendance when they have a place to call home.

Programs/Services

In FY26, the Johnson County Board of Supervisors allocated \$200,000 in one-time emergency funding for food and housing assistance programs. The intent of the funding is to help sustain existing services and/or build capacity to meet the growing demand for food and housing assistance. Proposals for new programs will not be funded through this grant opportunity.

Anticipated results of grant funded projects:

- Reduce food insecurity
- Improve access to healthy foods
- Improve housing stability
- Reduction in number of evictions

Grant Timeline:

October 1, 2025	Funding application released
October 24, 2025, 12:00 p.m. (noon)	Application due date
December 1, 2025- June 30, 2026,	Contract term

Eligibility

- Non-profit organizations
- Services provided in and for Johnson County residents

Priority will be given to proposals that:

- Demonstrate the greatest impact in meeting emergency housing and food assistance needs
- Use grant funds to purchase food for distribution
- Provide rental assistance on behalf of households experiencing homelessness or who are at-risk of homelessness
- Collaborate with other organizations to avoid duplication
- Serve underserved population or geographic areas
- Organizations with demonstrated experience in providing the proposed service or program

Contract Terms

Contracts will cover the period of December 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

Up to \$200,000 will be awarded under this RFP. No new programs will be funded.

RFP and Application format

The RFP and application link are available on the Johnson County webpage at <https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/bids-and-proposals>.

Applications must be submitted in electronic format through the eCivic platform at https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_6256?SA=SNA&FID=35028.

Questions regarding the proposals should be directed to Lynette Jacoby at 319-356-6090 or email at ljacoby@johnsoncountyiowa.gov.

The DUE DATE for this application is 12:00 p.m. (Noon) Friday, October 24, 2025.

Appeals

Appeals must be made in writing to, Lynette Jacoby at socialservices@johnsoncountyiowa.gov within five working days of receipt of the funding decision notice. Appeals must be based on a contention that the process violated state or federal law, that policies or rules did not provide adequate public notice or involved a conflict of interest by staff or review team members. The Grant Review Committee will review the appeal and make a recommendation to the Johnson County Board of Supervisors. The Johnson County Board of Supervisors will review the appeal and mail a notice to the appellant within five working days of the review.

The Johnson County Board of Supervisors reserves the right to award funding to proposals that best meet the goals and objectives of the Johnson County Emergency Grant Program and the purposes of this RFP rather than the highest scoring proposal/s.

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FY2026 Grant Instructions

Applications must be submitted utilizing the eCivis electronic format. Applicants must upload a Project Work Plan and Budget Form utilizing the forms provided.

FORM A: Cover Page

- Organization Tax ID Number
- Name of Organization
- Title of Grant/Program
- Contact Person, Address, Telephone, E-mail
- Amount of Request
- Program Start and End Dates
- Provide a 2-3 sentence description of the proposed project
- Authorized Signature, Title, and Date

FORM B:

Project Description

- Describe the program/project for which funding is requested.
- Explain the emergency need for funding.
- Describe the target populations this program serves including geographic location
- Does this program duplicate any other programs offered in Johnson County? If so, please explain how you collaborate with other providers to coordinate services, avoid duplication and ensure efficient and successful outcomes. Identify and explain the role of collaborating partners.

Program Impact

- Given that this is a one-time grant, short-term grant, what is the anticipated impact this grant will have on addressing food insecurity and/or safe and stable housing in Johnson County
 - output/quantity: number of activities/services provided and individuals/households served
 - outcomes: what is the overall impact of the program? How will people served be better off (performance measure)

Will this project be possible if only partially funded? Explain.

FORM C Budget Form

- Budget shall cover the period of December 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
- Complete and attach the budget form provided. Be sure to include and specify other sources of support for your program, e.g. grants, in-kind, etc.
- Provide a budget narrative that includes:
 - a. Budget justification including number of staffing hours and wages;
 - b. Amount for direct rental assistance or other housing fees and costs
 - c. Detail of supplies and/or equipment (food ect.)
 - d. Number of miles and mileage rate
 - e. Description of other sources of funding and support for the program