



ihn
2026 GRANT
PROGRAM FOR
FOOD PANTRIES

Infrastructure and Capacity Grant

Over the summer, Indy Hunger Network awarded \$250,000 in Infrastructure and Capacity Grants to seven local food pantries. Made possible through a multi-year grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., this funding will help strengthen pantry operations, expand food storage and refrigeration, improve facilities, and increase access to nutritious food for approximately 16,000 residents across 8,000 households.

These grants build on more than a decade of partnerships between Indy Hunger Network and local food pantries. By investing in the infrastructure that supports food assistance, IHN is helping its partners meet growing community needs while building a stronger, more sustainable hunger relief system.

“In my conversations with pantry leaders, I continue to hear how stretched their resources already are and how hard they’re working to meet the growing demand,” said Adam Meyer, Director of Food Assistance Programs at Indy Hunger Network. “These grants will make a real difference for the pantries receiving them, helping fund improvements to their spaces, storage, and equipment so they can better serve the neighbors counting on them.”

For many food pantries, having adequate space, reliable refrigeration, and efficient facilities is essential to providing consistent access to nutritious food. Investments in these areas help organizations improve daily operations, serve more households, and better meet the needs of their communities.

“As the need for food assistance in our community continues to rise, these investments in our local food pantries will help them scale up their operations to serve more people and offer more nutritious foods” said Kate Howe, Executive Director of Indy Hunger Network. “These grants allow our partners to modernize their operations, ensuring that nutritious food is treated as a vital component of long-term community health.”

This year’s Infrastructure and Capacity Grant recipients are:

- Iglesia Tierra Prometida
- Mid-North Food Pantry
- Pantry of Hope at Hope Worldwide Ltd.
- George T. Goodwin Community Center
- Jane Pauley Community Health Center
- Meals on Wheels of Central Indiana
- Sharing is Caring Pantry at Brightwood Community Center

Through these investments, Indy Hunger Network is continuing its commitment to supporting the organizations that serve our neighbors every day. Strengthening local food pantries helps build a more coordinated, accessible, and sustainable hunger relief system across Central Indiana, ensuring that more residents can access the nutritious food they need.



Partner Convenings and Events

Food Pantry Coalition Meetings



On September 30, Indy Hunger Network hosted our annual partner convening, bringing together community partners from across Central Indiana to reconnect, reflect, and look ahead. The gathering gave us an opportunity to celebrate the work we have accomplished together over the past year, share updates on IHN's ongoing efforts, and discuss what lies ahead for our organization.

Collaboration is at the heart of IHN's mission, and we are grateful for the partners who work alongside us to address hunger and strengthen Central Indiana's hunger relief system. Events like this provide valuable opportunities to share ideas, build relationships, and continue working toward our shared goals.

This year's convening featured a panel discussion with the entire IHN staff, giving each team member an opportunity to share updates on their current projects, discuss the future of their programs, and highlight ways our community partners can get involved. The discussion offered insight into the work happening across IHN and how our efforts contribute to a stronger, more connected hunger relief system.

The annual convening also provides an important space for partners to network and connect with organizations and individuals they may not encounter in their day-to-day work. By bringing people together to discuss the challenges facing Central Indiana's food assistance system and explore potential solutions, we can identify opportunities for greater collaboration and make progress toward addressing hunger in our community.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, and a special thanks to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana for hosting us. We appreciate our partners' continued collaboration and look forward to building on this work together in the year ahead!

2027 Food Pantry Summit

Planning for the 2027 IHN Food Pantry Summit is fully under way. The Summit is currently scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2027, and will once again bring together food pantry leaders and community partners for a day of timely topics and sessions designed to help pantry leaders better meet the growing needs within our community. Stay tuned for more details in the following months as it is sure to be an engaging experience that you will not want to miss.

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OPHS and Indiana Justice Project Partnerships

Indy Hunger Network partnered with the Indianapolis Office of Public Health (OPHS) and Indiana Justice Project to help Hoosiers understand upcoming changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Following the passage of House Resolution One in July 2025 and Indiana Senate Bill One in February 2026, the three organizations recognized the importance of providing clear, accessible information to those who may be affected by changes to SNAP eligibility.

After a collaborative brainstorming session, the partners agreed that short, easy to understand videos available in both English and Spanish would be the most effective way to reach as many people as possible. These videos explain upcoming eligibility changes and help current SNAP recipients understand what the changes may mean for them.

The videos also serve as a resource for individuals and families who may qualify for SNAP but have not yet enrolled. By increasing awareness of available food assistance, this effort helps connect eligible Hoosiers with benefits that can support their household budgets while bringing federal dollars back into the local economy.

Through this partnership, Indy Hunger Network and its collaborators are working to ensure that individuals and families have the information they need to navigate changes to food assistance programs and access the resources available to them.

For access to the SNAP videos in English please click [here](#). For the Spanish videos please click [here](#).

WORKING TOGETHER TO END HUNGER

Our mission is to address systemic hunger issues and eliminate disparities in the Greater Indianapolis hunger relief system through collaboration on programs, advocacy, and research.

Help further Indy Hunger Network's mission to ensure that anyone who is hungry can access the food they need by donating [HERE](#).