

Voices for Food

Nebraska Extension leads the Voices for Food (VFF) team in collaborating with local stakeholders and volunteers to address and reduce food insecurity in Dakota County. The Voices for Food project has worked to make food available in underserved communities and increase nutritional value of foods available in food pantries and agencies.

Participants Impacted



13,303 Pounds
of produce. From grant funded gardens or collected in the community and distributed to low-income families



4,853 Participants*
picked up produce at four pantry locations and other human service agencies.

*Number may not be unique as participants may have picked up produce at multiple locations.



596 Adults
Received nutrition education classes in the food system on handling, storing, and using fresh produce

Community Engagement:

Sixty-one volunteers committed over **2,230 volunteer** hours to make this project a success. Volunteers serve in the gardens, planting, harvesting, and delivering produce. They volunteer at the food pantry, getting food and fresh produce into the food system for people in need. The Community engagement in the Voices for food Program in Dakota County is second to none. The collaborative efforts of volunteers, agencies and stakeholders make Voices for Food the program what it is today.



How the community is engaged:

1,368 Hours of community volunteer service	862 Hours of Master Gardener volunteer service	58 Community Volunteers 3 Master Gardeners	2 Grant funded gardens raised 10,809 pounds of produce	1 Siouxland Community Health Center Collaboration with medical clients
--	--	---	---	--

I choose to volunteer because I want to give back to the community that I was raised in, that I am raising my children in and where I work. I look forward to volunteering with people who I now call friends. I feel like I am truly blessed to be able to help my community by volunteering.

Gina Anderson

Dakota County Impact 2022

\$25,143

Value of the produce distributed in Dakota County in 2022
\$1.89/pound

Year to Date - Impact

25,020

Participants

(7,052 households)

have had access to fresh food in the Dakota City Pantry, in the past seven years.



\$61,191

In-kind contribution.
Value of 2,230 hours of volunteer service to Dakota County in 2022
\$27.44/ Ext Master gardener rate

96,591

Pounds of produce made available in Dakota County in eight years.

Statewide Comparison:

Contributions	Dakota County	11 Other Counties	State Totals
Pounds Produce	13,303	19,077	32,381
Volunteer Hours	2,230	2,958	5,189
Volunteers	61	143	204

Dakota City Food Pantry: Coordinated and operated by the Voices for food project

The Dakota City Food pantry is a project, identified by the Voices for food council, to create food access in a community with no grocery store and limited public transportation. The implementation of this pantry was also an identified from community assessment to address the need for an evening food pantry.

Dakota City Food Pantry	Households	Individuals	Children
2022	1,144	4,333	1,851
7 Year Totals	7,052	25,020	*

Get Involved: with Dakota County Voices for Food Council- Contact Dakota County Extension office 402-987-2140

email: bsale2@unl.edu . Follow us on Facebook at: Dakota County Voices for Food

Funding information: The Voices for Food grant project is supported by the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grant no. 2012-01823 from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Sustainable Food Systems. SNAP-Ed: This material was funded in part by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

extension.unl.edu [unlextension211](https://www.facebook.com/unlextension211) [@unlextension](https://twitter.com/unlextension)