

2026 HFI FUNDING REQUEST

REQUESTING ORGANIZATION

HOOSIERS FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Address: 4490A State Road 327, Garrett, IN 46738

Phone: 260-233-1444

SIGNATORY

Suzie Jordan

MISSION STATEMENT

Obtain donations of livestock, deer, and funds to provide processed meat to Indiana food banks, food pantries, and related organizations.

PROJECT:

While food banks and pantries often receive donations of non-perishable items like pasta, rice, and canned goods, these alone are not enough to create well-rounded, nutritious meals. Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, offers a unique solution by connecting community resources—from farm & field to freezer & fork—to provide high-quality, protein-rich meat to organizations addressing food insecurity. Through generous donations from Indiana farmers, 4-H members, hunters, businesses, and individuals, livestock and deer are processed by participating meat processors into one-pound packages of ground meat. We cover all processing fees and coordinate with food banks, pantries, soup kitchens, and other agencies to ensure this meat reaches those in need. This particular request is focused on serving agencies within DeKalb County through our Meat4Forks (livestock) program.

TARGET POPULATION:

Our agency currently serves 10 nonprofit agencies serving the food insecure of Dekalb County. The age range of these individuals is anywhere from prenatal to senior citizen. According to the latest Feeding America Map the Meal Gap report published in May 2024, over 5,500 residents of Dekalb County Indiana experience food insecurity with an estimated 59% of these residents earning above the threshold to qualify for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly known as Food Stamps. This is our target demographic and primarily consists of low-income residents of the county who are either consistently in the low-income demographic or who have experienced a personal crisis or catastrophic situation to cause them to need assistance.

OUTCOMES:

Our program tracks the type and quantity of meat distributed, the total pounds of finished ground meat processed, and the number and type of recipient agencies. Our goal is to provide a minimum of 3,500 pounds of ground meat to at least eight agencies serving residents in need throughout DeKalb County.

HEALTH EQUITY STATEMENT:

Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry is committed to advancing health equity by addressing key social determinants of health—particularly food security—for underinsured and underserved populations in DeKalb County. Access to nutritious food is a critical component of health and well-being, yet many individuals and families face multiple barriers that limit their ability to maintain a healthy diet. Through our targeted efforts, we are removing several common public health barriers that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations.

- 1. Financial Barriers to Healthy Food** Low-income households often face limited access to high-quality protein due to cost. Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry provides ground meat, a high-protein, versatile food source, free of charge to food pantries. This directly increases access to nutrient-dense food for those who might otherwise rely on low-cost, less nutritious options, thereby reducing the risk of diet-related chronic illnesses.
- 2. Geographic and Transportation Barriers** Many underserved individuals face challenges related to transportation, which can prevent them from accessing centralized food distribution points. By supplying meat to multiple food pantries across DeKalb County, we enable residents to receive services closer to home. This decentralization removes the transportation barrier and ensures that help is available within reach for those most in need.
- 3. Time Constraints Among Working Adults** Many working adults struggle to prepare nutritious meals due to demanding schedules and limited time. The ground meat we provide is quick and easy to incorporate into meals, making it a practical solution for time-strapped households. This convenience increases the likelihood of healthier eating patterns, even among those with limited time to cook.
- 4. Dietary Restrictions and Allergies** Protein sources commonly found in food pantries—such as peanut butter and nuts—pose allergy risks for some individuals. By offering ground meat, we provide a hypoallergenic alternative that accommodates a broader range of dietary needs. This ensures that more individuals, including those with food allergies, have access to safe, nutritious protein options.

By addressing these barriers—cost, transportation, time, and dietary restrictions—Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry is advancing health equity and improving food access for underserved populations. Our efforts support public health by reducing disparities in nutrition and helping to build a healthier, more resilient community.

BUDGET REQUEST:

\$7,500.00

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION:

We are requesting \$7,500 to support the costs of processing livestock for our program in Dekalb County and program staff support in Dekalb County.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN:

Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry will sustain our program beyond the grant by continuing to pursue diverse grant opportunities, maintaining successful fundraising events, and introducing new fundraisers to expand support. If livestock donations or processing funds become limited, our strong partnership with the Indiana DNR ensures our venison program can help meet demand. We will also continuously evaluate our operations to identify cost-saving strategies and more efficient ways to provide meat, ensuring the program remains impactful and sustainable long-term.

DIGITAL SIGNATURE:

Katie DeForest