

2025 HOUSE AGRICULTURE

HB 1143

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture Committee Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1143
1/16/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food distribution facility grant program.

2:00 p.m. Chairman Beltz opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Beltz, Vice Chairman Hauck, Representatives Anderson, Dobervich, Holle, Hoverson, Kiefert, Nehring, Olson, Rios, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, Vollmer

Members Absent: Representatives Henderson

Discussion Topics:

- Located in Fargo and Bismarck
- Infrastructure bill
- Access to needed resources
- Find, recover and purchase food
- 2024 15.8 million pounds food distributed
- Most basic need
- New building
- Green field sight
- Unmet needs
- Food distribution programs
- Rural area transportation challenges
- Sustainability issue
- Food insecurities
- Volunteer experience/engagement

2:01 p.m. Representative Brandy Pyle, District 22, Casselton, ND, introduced and submitted testimony #29299.

2:07 p.m. Representative Steve Swiontek, District 10, Fargo, ND, testified in favor.

2:10 p.m. Melissa Sobolik, CEO, Great Plains Food Bank, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29284, #29285, and #29286.

2:36 p.m. John Schneider, Business Marketing and Information Division Director, ND Department of Agriculture, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29314

2:39 p.m. Matt Perdue, Government Relations Director, ND Farmers Union, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29466.

2:41 p.m. Stacy Ackerman, Great Plains Food Bank board of directors, testified in favor.

2:55 p.m. Jim Barnhardt, Founder & Executive Director, Dream Center, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29204.

3:01 p.m. Scharlie Kilzer, Director, AMEN Food Pantry, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29274.

3:05 p.m. Amy L. Mazigian, Senior Vice President of Western ND, Gate City Bank, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29023.

Additional Written Testimony:

Cody J. Sand, Owner, Sand Ranch/Prairie Soul Meats, submitted testimony in favor #29211.
Faye Seidler, Suicide Prevention Advocate, Moorhead, MN, submitted testimony in favor #29444.

Landis Larson, President, ND AFL-CIO, submitted testimony in favor #29490.

3:10 p.m. Chairman Beltz closed the hearing.

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

TESTIMONY BY AMY MAZIGIAN IN FAVOR OF HB1143 TO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE (Hearing Date: January 16, 2025)

Good afternoon. My name is Amy Mazigian, and I serve as Gate City Bank's Senior Vice President of Western North Dakota. For over 25 years, Gate City Bank has proudly partnered with the Great Plains Food Bank, supporting its bold mission to end hunger across North Dakota. Our bank has a long-standing history of giving back to the places where we live and work, driven by our commitment to creating a better way of life. Through charitable donations, team member volunteerism and in-kind gifts, we are honored to stand alongside the Great Plains Food Bank in helping those in need.

Today, I am here to share Gate City Bank's support of House Bill 1143, which calls for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food distribution facility grant program. This one-time investment by the North Dakota Legislature represents a meaningful step forward, fostering hope and expanding opportunities for hunger relief efforts through increased volunteer engagement. Ending hunger is a shared responsibility, and we are honored to support the Great Plains Food Bank mission through this important partnership.

For nonprofits, volunteers serve as the backbone of their operations – bolstering the organization's capacity to fulfill its purpose. This certainly is the case for the Great Plains Food Bank. Annually, more than 5,000 individuals of all ages from the faith, education, civic and business community share more than 15,200 hours of their time (valued at \$506,768¹ – or the equivalent of 7.3 fulltime employees) preparing millions of pounds of surplus food for statewide distribution. Gate City Bank is proud to be a part of this vital work, contributing over 1,700 total volunteer hours at the current Great Plains Food Bank statewide distribution facility in Fargo, their regional service center operations in Bismarck and in dozens of communities statewide aiding in their community food distribution efforts.

Gate City Bank team members help repack bulk food items received from their food industry partners, fill backpacks with child-friendly foods that are sent home with kids on Friday ensuring they have food to eat over the weekend, assemble mobile food pantry boxes that are delivered into underserved communities, build senior food pack boxes provided to income-eligible seniors and help distribute this food off the back of the Great Plains Food Bank semi directly to families living with food insecurity when the truck rolls into their town.

In September, at the Gate City Bank West Region Leadership Meeting, we concluded the day with a group volunteer session at Great Plains Food Bank in Bismarck. Many leaders expressed that it was the most rewarding volunteer event they had ever experienced. Some shared how fulfilling it is to make a difference, describing the pride they feel in supporting their neighbors and helping provide hope through something as essential as food. They also spoke of the camaraderie built during these volunteer efforts and the sense of purpose that comes from knowing their time directly contributes to a brighter future for their communities. One Gate City Bank volunteer remarked, "Great Plains Food Bank is truly an inspiration to our team members and others. We are deeply grateful for their dedication to feeding our communities." Indeed, our gratitude is immense. It takes the collective efforts of legislators, volunteers, business leaders, and many more to ensure that we continue to support those in need across our state.

¹ <https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>

If passed, HB1143 will enable the Great Plains Food Bank to expand and enhance these efforts. The Great Plains Food Bank will invest dollars in the volunteer experience, supporting their operations to bring more food to more people, more often. Dollars will be allocated toward their volunteer engagement center, which will provide increased space for up to 100 volunteers at a time – doubling the existing capacity. It will provide an elevated experience for volunteers with the addition of a welcome center, lockers and comfort stations. And it will provide for an allergen repack room, expanding the types and quantities of food available to be repacked for statewide distribution. Without this investment in vital volunteer force, hunger relief efforts across North Dakota will be stifled.

In closing, Gate City Bank and our team members are honored to volunteer alongside the Great Plains Food Bank in the shared mission to end hunger for our neighbors in need. We respectfully ask for your support and to vote DO PASS on HB1143.



Dream Center Bismarck
1805 Park Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58504

January 16, 2025

Chairman Beltz & House Agriculture Committee:

My name is Jim Barnhardt. I am the Founder and Executive Director of Dream Center Bismarck. I am a full-time volunteer at the Dream Center and also own a main street Bismarck, small business. My story with Dream Center Bismarck started with a vision God gave me on May 29, 2016. The vision was for a meal ministry surrounded by free services to help those in need. In March of 2019, we were sanctioned as a Dream Center. By June of 2019, in collaboration with Bismarck Public Schools and Great Plains Food Bank, we started our Adopt-a-Block mobile grocery distribution in the parking lots of South Central High School and Jeannette Myhre School. When COVID came along in March/April of 2020, we once again collaborated with Great Plains Food Bank and the Bismarck and Mandan Public Schools and expanded our mobile grocery distribution to six days a week. In April of 2022, Dream Center Bismarck opened our new 24,300 square foot facility at 1805 Park Avenue in Bismarck. Site selection was helped with input from Bismarck Public Schools and once again, Great Plains Food Bank was there.

Due to the need in our community, the Dream Center has grown rapidly and was responsible for 1.1 million meals in our community this last year, and the need is growing. In addition to all those meals, we work with entities like Northland Health, Bismarck/Burleigh Public Health, CHI, NDSU Extension, Job Service ND, Bridging the Dental Gap, Celebrate Recovery, Narcotic Anonymous, Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People and many others to bring in free services that help our low-income or homeless clients get to a better place in life. As we say "it's all about the food." Food breaks down barriers to opportunities. Whether you're a kid in school or an adult trying to work - it's hard to function if you are hungry.

Last year, through Great Plains Food Bank, we received over one million pounds of grocery product. Roughly half of that came from the Great Plains Food Bank warehouse in Fargo. Most of the other 50% of product we receive comes from food rescue initiative, a program coordinated by Great Plains Food Bank in which we pick up food product from stores like Costco, Cash Wise, Family Fare and others. Over a million pounds of food. And that's just the Dream Center. Great Plains Food Bank serves over 180 food pantries.

Continued on Page 2



Since opening less than three years, ago, the Dream Center has seen the needs grow, not just for ourselves, but for other entities serving those needing assistance. As the only food bank in the state, Great Plains Food Bank has a big job. If it wouldn't be for Great Plains Food Bank, it would have been nearly impossible for Dream Center Bismarck to distribute those one million meals last year. Our partnership is simply that important.

Dream Center Bismarck is just one of over 180 entities served by Great Plains Food Bank. Passage of House Bill #1143 is critical to the future of our state. Many families with children, seniors and the vulnerable would simply not be able to make it without those 180 entities served by Great Plains Food Bank. Food is a basic need. Whether it's a family with children, our seniors, or anyone else, they should not have to worry about where their next meal will come from. North Dakota is a prosperous and growing state. Let's not let the low-income and marginalized struggle with food insecurity. The need is growing, and our efforts need to too. Please, consider passing House Bill #1143 so Great Plains Food Bank can expand and continue to serve the over 180 entities across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Barnhardt'.

Jim Barnhardt
Founder & Executive Director
Dream Center Bismarck
701-955-2150

Testimony for HB 1143**Date Hearing: January 16, 2024**

Chairman Beltz and House Agriculture Committee Members,

My name is Cody Sand. My wife, Deanna, and I own and operate Sand Ranch, a 3000-acre cattle ranch in South Central North Dakota. Our ranch is all grass located in the Coteau Hills that focuses on environmentally friendly grazing practices.

A few years ago, seeing a need for more locally sourced foods, we decided to get out of the conventional cattle market and directly sell our own home raised beef. Our mission was to provide locally raised, healthy beef to customers in North Dakota. We decided to focus on person-to-person deliveries and selling via farmers markets. We chose not to ship beef all over the United States, but to keep a more local, let our customers know us producer, and share access to high quality protein right here in our state.

Prairie Soul Meats was opened in 2018. People can come to our ranch to pick up orders. We also hand deliver orders to mostly the Fargo and Bismarck areas and directly sell beef cuts at farmers markets.

Previously I served on my church council, we administered a local food pantry through our church. Ordering things from a mysterious (to me) food bank in Fargo. I didn't know anything about this food bank until partnering with them about 2 ½ years ago via a USDA grant that helped provide local foods through the Great Plains Food Bank feeding network. After working with them for the last couple of years and learning what they do, I am amazed on the impact they have on the lives of people throughout our state. I can only say they are incredible. Their distribution service is top notch and something that not only our state needs, but also local producers, like myself, are blessed to have access to. It would be impossible for us as small business owners and ranchers to impact so many people throughout our state alone.

Communication with Great Plains Food Bank employees and drop off of our beef products has been a pleasant experience. It is truly an amazing place.

I write all of this to urge your support of House Bill 1143. The passage of this bill will help enhance Great Plains Food Bank in their ability to help provide food to people all over North Dakota. Great

Plains Food Bank is crucial for continuing the fight against hunger and providing local producers with a way to provide food to so many families and communities throughout the state.

Thank you for your time,

Cody Sand

Ashley, ND

Testimony for HB 1143**Date Hearing: January 16, 2024**

Hello Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture Committee,

My name is Scharlie Kilzer, and I am the Director of the AMEN Food Pantry in Dickinson.

The AMEN Food Pantry mission is to implement a unified community approach to providing food and emergency services to families in Dickinson and the surrounding areas. The AMEN Food Pantry has been successfully serving neighbors for 40 years.

Several years ago, I went through a very needed but difficult transition from a full-time successful manager at a local Dickinson business, living in a 5-bedroom house, to an unemployed single mother looking for a home and food for my children in the matter of days. I went to the AMEN Food Pantry trying to hide my face and my identity because I was so ashamed to be there. A volunteer at the pantry came to me and told me not to be ashamed. She comforted me with a hug as I cried and assured me that there was no shame in being in need. The help we received not only got us through that difficult time but uplifted us spiritually as well. Years later, I saw that AMEN was in need of a director. I instantly knew that I had the passion to help our neighbors, and their families go through their own situations. Today, I am honored to be going into my 5th year as their director.

AMEN's partnership with the Great Plains Food Bank is vital to the AMEN Food Pantry and our mission. Without their support, we would not be able to continue our quarterly Mobile Food Pop-Up, provide children with a full week of healthy meals throughout the summer, and offer our Backpack Program to children during the school months. All of this is in addition to the neighbors we serve monthly at the pantry through open distribution days.

Over the years, I have watched the number of families impacted by food insecurity more than double in our community. HB 114 approval is vital to the AMEN Food pantry to continue and expand many of our successful programs and meet the ever-increasing needs of our surrounding area while supporting and purchasing from our rural and local retailers. It's more than just a statewide distribution center or a facility, it's an opportunity to meet those needs that I see in Dickinson and the surrounding area.

I ask you today to be a crucial part in our mission by acting as a Hunger Hero for your state and approving HB 1143.

Respectfully,

Scharlie Kilzer



**GREAT PLAINS
FOOD BANK**



DeShawn and her granddaughter, Elena

ENDING HUNGER TOGETHER IN YOUR COMMUNITY

For over 40 years, the Great Plains Food Bank has been a **lifeline for families** and individuals facing hunger as the **only food bank** serving all of North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota. Our unique position allows us to evaluate, serve, and respond to the evolving needs of communities across the entire region. With a statewide reach and a deep understanding of **local solutions**, we are committed to **ending hunger today, tomorrow and for good.**

GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK OUR PARTNERS

VOLUNTEERS

15,000 hours are shared.
5000 people of all ages sort, re-pack, label, build food boxes, and help distribute this food statewide.

FINANCIAL DONORS

Food for 20 meals is provided for every \$10 gifted. Individuals, businesses, churches, foundations, and government entities invest their resources.

FOOD INDUSTRY

15 million pounds of food are sourced and rescued.
Growers, processors, manufacturers and retailers donate food that would otherwise go to waste.

PARTNER NETWORK

Nutritious food supplied by the Great Plains Food Bank is then distributed by 185 food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens operating in 105 communities.

NEIGHBORS

The 1 in 6 neighbors facing food insecurity are at the center of our work.

LOCAL IMPACT



Norma

Today, the GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK provides food for

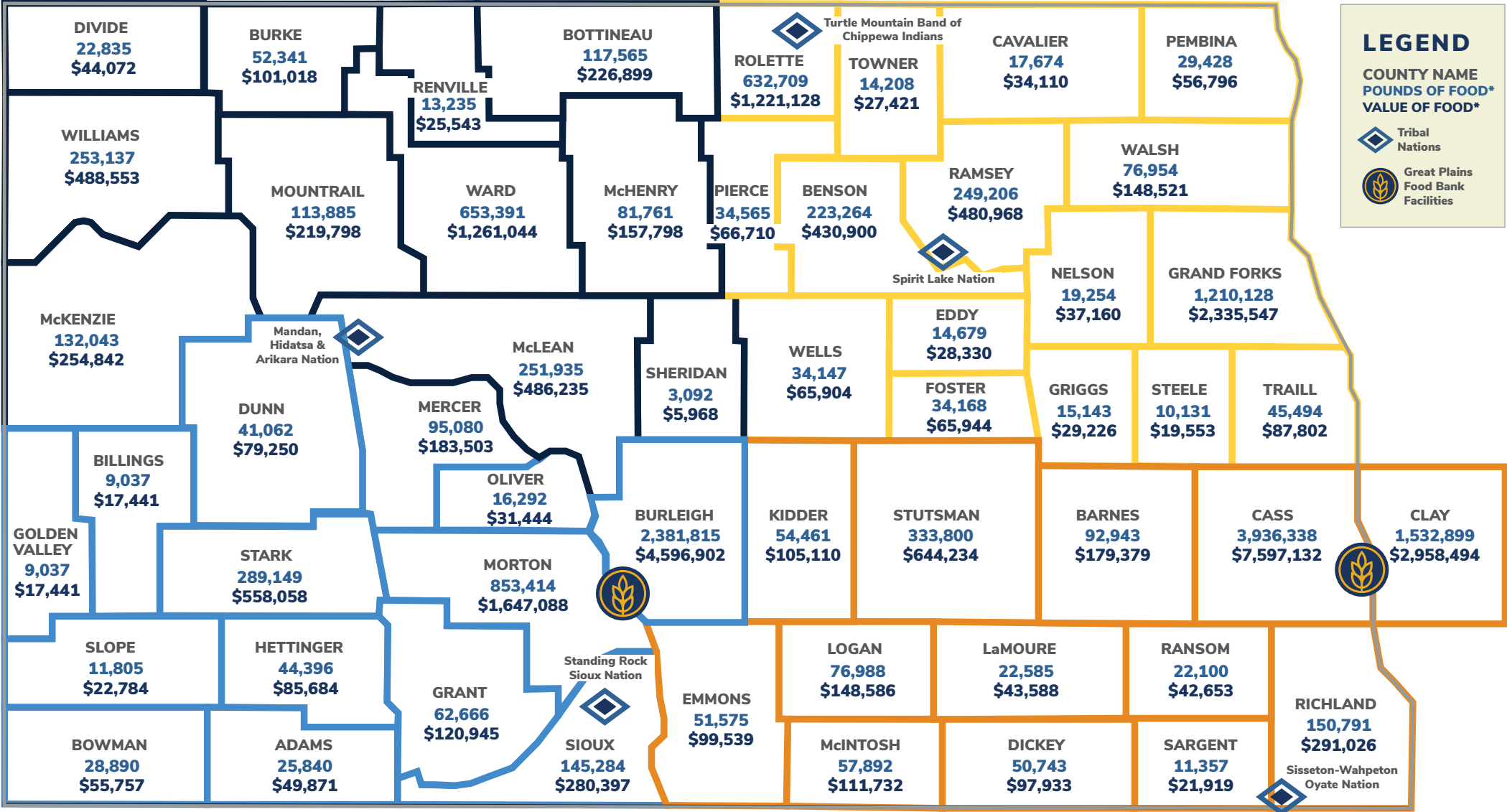
**12.8 MILLION
MEALS ANNUALLY**

185
GREAT PLAINS
FOOD BANK
partner agencies
operating in
105
communities



88%
of all food that moves through
the statewide partner agency
network is sourced and/
or facilitated by the GREAT
PLAINS FOOD BANK

GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK SERVICE AREA



LEGEND

COUNTY NAME
POUNDS OF FOOD*
VALUE OF FOOD*



GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK DIRECT SERVICE PROGRAMS

	SW	NW	NE	SE
BackPack Program	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Youth Summer Meals	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
School Pantries	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Mobile Food Pantry	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Senior Food Pack Program	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Wellness Pantries	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Kitchen Coalition	🍏			🍏
SNAP Outreach	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Cultural Food Pop-Up Distributions	🍏			🍏
Disaster Response	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Tribal Elder Nourishment Box Program - Coming Soon				

*Total pounds of fresh and shelf-stable food sourced and directly delivered by the Great Plains Food Bank to food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens operating within the county. Reporting period: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.

*Calculation based on the estimated total wholesale value of Feeding America product donations at an average price of \$1.93 per gross pound for 29 product categories that comprise the donations. The Great Plains Food Bank is a partner food bank of Feeding America.

To learn more about these programs in your community, visit GreatPlainsFoodBank.org.

OUR NEIGHBORS

145,409 INDIVIDUALS SERVED

35%
CHILDREN



15%
SENIORS



14%
VETERANS



13%
SINGLE
CAREGIVERS



1 IN 6
PEOPLE



1 IN 4
CHILDREN



75%
reported
experiencing at
least one chronic
health condition.



41%
attended college,
trade school or hold
an advanced degree.



1 IN 3
do not have access to a
WORKING VEHICLE.



Native American,
American Indian and
Alaska Native neighbors
face hunger at
7X THE RATE
of other communities.

Data gleaned as part of *Hunger on the Plains 2023*, a study conducted by the Great Plains Food Bank. The full report and executive study can be found at GreatPlainsFoodBank.org/HOTP.

John and his
daughter, Riley



The Harvesting Hope campaign has a bold \$30.5 million goal to build the infrastructure, expand statewide programs, and develop the long-term sustainability needed to end hunger today, tomorrow and for good.

This campaign will enable us to **more than double** the amount of food distributed per year and **expand** and **strengthen** hunger-relief programs and services in **more communities**.

Hunger is a problem we can - and must - fix.
You are an important part of the solution.

Your support will bring more than food to your neighbors, you will **harvest hope** for a brighter future where children, older adults and families **thrive. Join us!**

For more information, contact:
Marcia Paulson
Chief Development Officer
701.476.9101
mpaulson@greatplainsfoodbank.org

Scan for Harvesting Hope
campaign updates and
opportunities to give.



GREATPLAINSFOODBANK.ORG

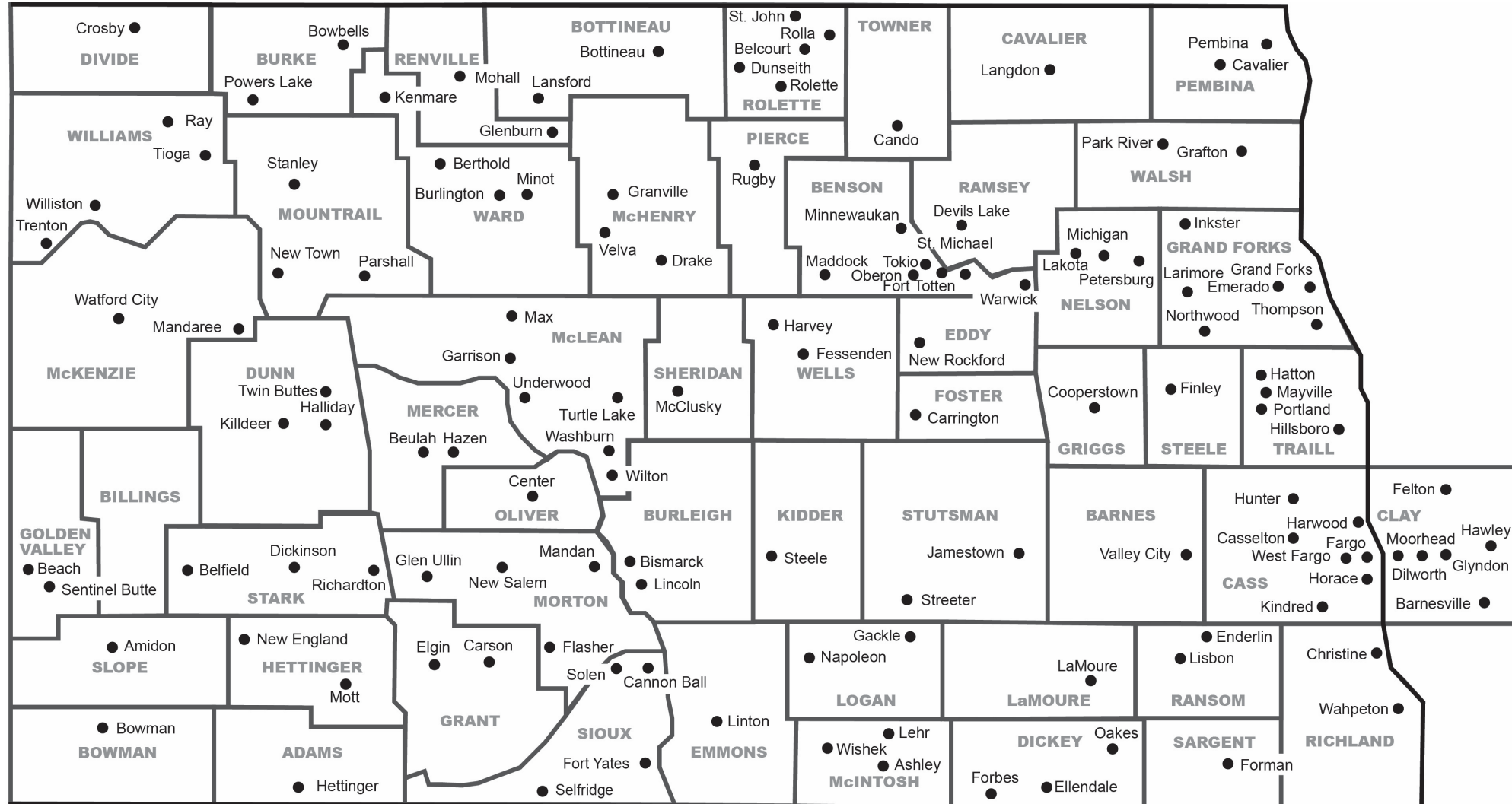


**GREAT PLAINS
FOOD BANK**

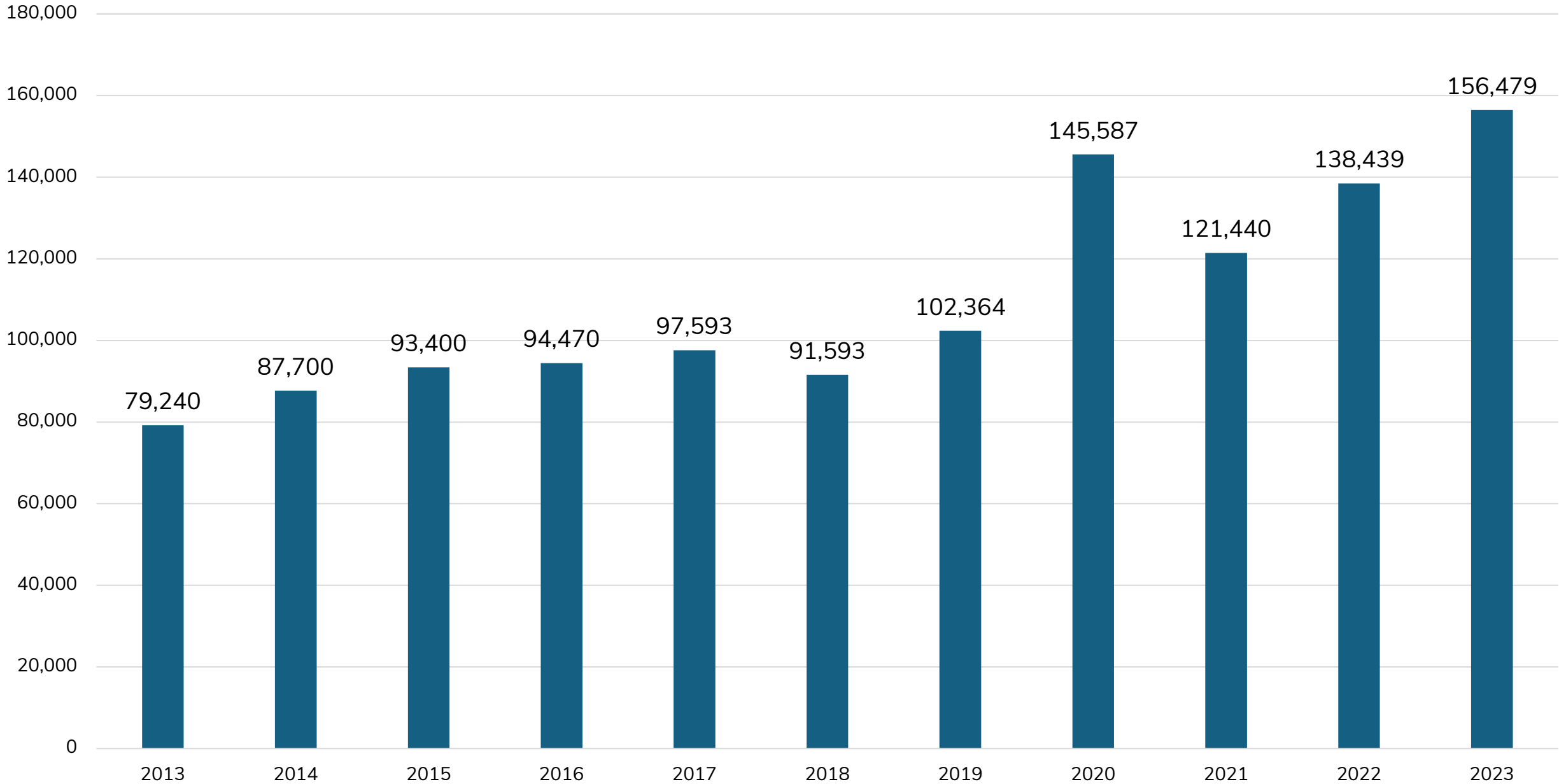
Melissa Sobolik
CEO



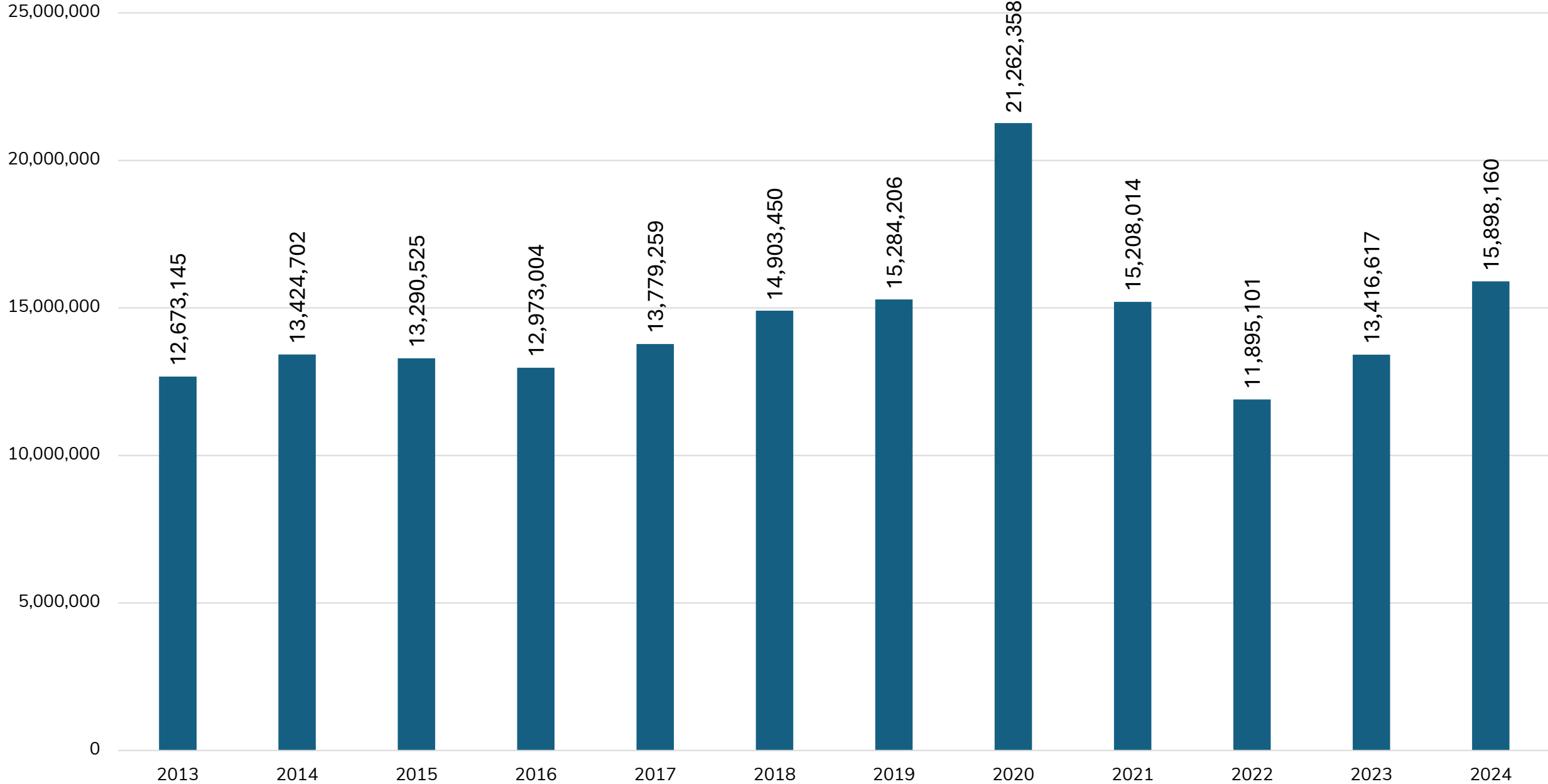
Service Map



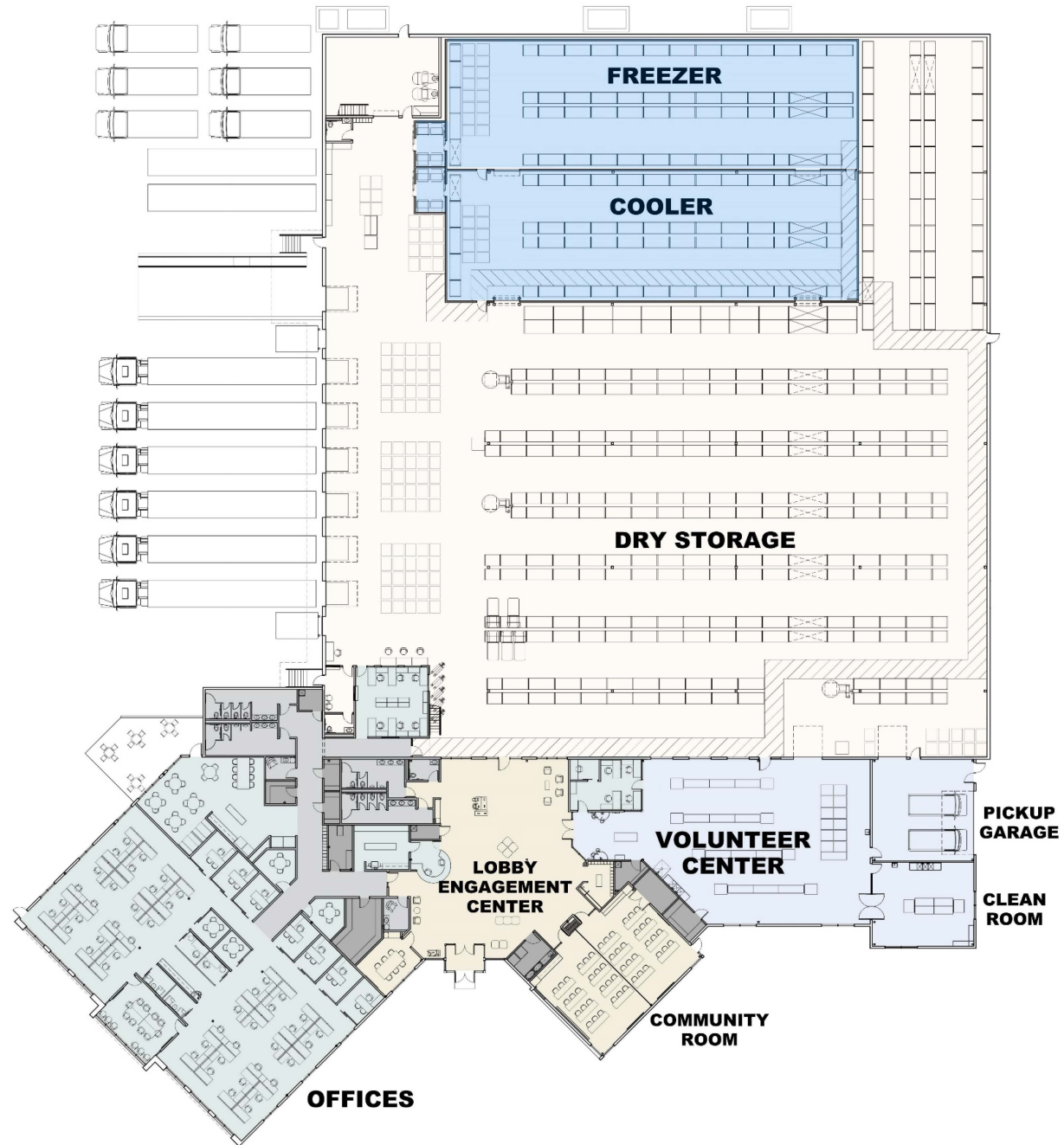
Individuals Served



Pounds Distributed





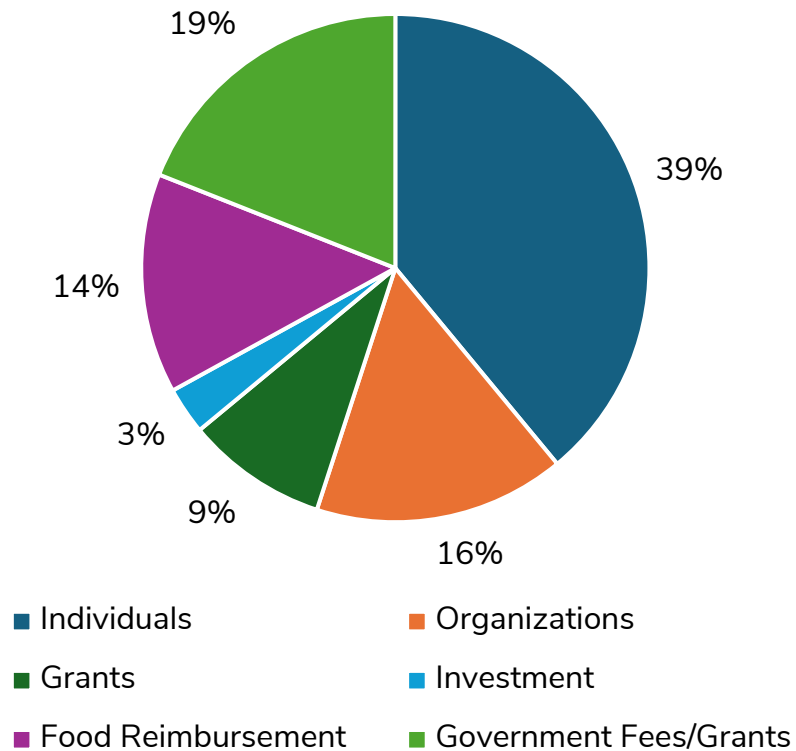




Revenue



Annual Support



Total Cost New Facility **\$30,500,000**

Revenue	\$10,911,413
Private Contributions	936,413
CDBG-CV Grant	2,000,000
GPFB Reserves	900,000
Building Sale*	2,500,000
New Markets Tax Credits*	4,575,000
Remaining	\$19,588,587



January 16, 2024

HB1143: Food distribution facility grant program

Melissa Sobolik, CEO, Great Plains Food Bank

Chairman Beltz and House Ag Committee Members,

I am Melissa Sobolik, the CEO of the Great Plains Food Bank and it is my pleasure to offer testimony and support for House Bill 1143.

ND prides itself on growing food to feed the world, yet last year alone more than 156,000 North Dakotans visited a food pantry or soup kitchen. That's one in five of our neighbors and one in three children. We and the state's charitable feeding network responded and were able to distribute more than 15 million pounds of food to them.

The Great Plains Food Bank proudly serves as North Dakota's only food bank and its largest hunger relief organization. We, like all food banks across the nation, are set up to recover surplus food that would otherwise go to waste and get it into the hands of those who need it. Over the past 41 years we have recovered and distributed 294 million pounds of food to neighbors in every county across North Dakota. We have built strong relationships with growers, producers, ranchers, retailers, manufacturers and the food industry to find, recover and in some cases, purchase, food. We bring that product into either our statewide distribution center in Fargo or regional service center in Bismarck, where it is inventoried and safely stored prior to distribution. Every item is entered into an online inventory software, and our partner network of nearly 200 food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters place their order, much like any online shopping, and then we pick their order, load it onto one of our semi-trucks and deliver it directly to their door monthly. They are then able to stock their shelves, make their meals, and serve those in need in their respective communities. They are a cornerstone of the charitable hunger relief network, as are our food and financial donors and volunteers. Ending hunger is a shared responsibility and are honored to work alongside them to make North Dakota hunger-free.

We also offer an array of direct service programs to fill gaps, reduce barriers and increase access, like our Mobile Food Pantry, Backpack Program, Senior Food Pack Program, Youth Summer Meals, Wellness Pantries, and more.

Our mission is to END HUNGER TOGETHER and we do this by focusing our energy and resources on ending hunger TODAY, TOMORROW, and FOR GOOD. We aim to work ourselves out of a job, but unfortunately, we aren't there yet.

In the past 10 years, we have watched the need for food assistance grow. From 2013 to 2023, there was a 97% increase in the number of people seeking food assistance. Reaching a record high of 156,479 individuals in 2023.

Which correlates with an increase in food distributed. In 2024, we distributed nearly 16 million pounds of food. Each month 1.3 million pounds of food is going out of our statewide distribution center. Sixty-one percent of that product is donated, 25% is from USDA in the form of federal commodities, less than 1% comes from food drives, and 14% of it is purchased. We accept all types of product, including shelf stable products, fresh produce, dairy, bakery items, meat/protein and even non-grocery items like diapers, pet food and paper products.

Food is the most basic human need. It has the power to transform lives; it is medicine and is the foundation upon which strong families are built and communities flourish. There is enough food produced to feed everyone in our great state, yet not all have access to it. As the need for our services grows and evolve, so must we as an organization. As we continue to grow, innovate and bring new programs, services and ideas to end hunger, we have reached our capacity facility-wise.

Our current statewide distribution center in Fargo consists of 3.1 acres, a 45,000 square foot warehouse that holds 59 semi-loads of product, commercial freezer and cooler, 3 loading docks, a volunteer center, houses 45 team members, and is home to our 4 straight trucks, 6 semi-trailers and 3 tractors.

In October 2022, after months of paying for offsite storage, using semi-trailers for food storage instead of transportation, having our HVAC system fail, filling holes or draining water from our parking lot, and a leaky warehouse roof, we embarked on a comprehensive assessment into the quality, maintenance needs and capacity of our facility. We quickly learned that our site and facility had a number of issues and challenges.

Structurally, we are built on a former landfill, and the uncontrolled fill would mean extensive site work for any building. Our ballasted EPDM roof is nearing the need a full replacement. Our exterior warehouse walls have no insulation. There are numerous code issues regarding ADA compliance, including no elevator access to the second floor. The ventilation system lacks current outside air requirements. The warehouse heaters exhaust combustion air back into the warehouse. All ductwork is housed underneath the building. The electrical system is at the end of its life and replacement parts are not readily available. The HVAC system for the office has reached its life cycle and needs full system replacement.

On top of that, the current site doesn't allow for any expansion or growth of warehouse, office space, loading docks or parking lot. Even if we overcame all the challenges and issues identified, we would completely outgrow this facility in 5-8 years.

At the direction of our board of directors, we began researching what a new statewide distribution center would need to include to be effective, efficient, and evolve with our mission, and ultimately what it would cost. We engaged an architect and realtor to work with an internal building committee made up of staff and board members. Together, we toured other food banks, warehouses, office buildings and after several scaled back iterations, determined the right size and design for our current and future needs.

We focused on designing intentionally for food banking and enhancing operational efficiencies. We needed to meet current and projected demands, while having ample growth opportunity and flexible spaces. We needed it to be accessible, durable and prudent.

Ultimately, we landed on a 70,500 square foot space that would:

- Grow our warehouse space by 57%
- Increase pallet racking space by 97%
- Create 6 loading docks for shipping and receiving
- Expand freezer and cooler capacity by 128%
- More than double volunteer capacity to accept groups up to 100
- Add an allergen free repacking room
- Create various workstations and offices for our growing team
- Feature a multi-use community room for events, trainings, meetings
- Allow for workforce development and training programs

We then completed a fundraising feasibility study to gather input and advice from key financial donors on their appetite for a capital project. Throughout the summer of 2023, we learned that there was overwhelming support for a new statewide distribution center and the donors felt that raising \$20 million was feasible.

As we searched for land, we did evaluate whether Fargo was still the right location for our statewide distribution center. Because we rely heavily on food donations, being at the intersection of both I-29 and I-94 not only makes receiving product easier, it actually precipitates truckloads of food donations. We have ample retailers and food industry warehouses that partner with us and a strong financial and volunteer base.

We tasked our realtor with finding a parcel of land that was close to both interstates, was on or near a public transit route, while staying in the central part of the city. Our realtor identified a parcel of land in the heart of the city, meeting all our requirements, plus it qualified for New Markets Tax Credits. We were able to purchase and close on nearly 9 acres of land in October 2024, in large part due to a Community Development Block Grant – Covid (CDBG-CV) administered through the North Dakota Department of Commerce for \$2 million. Our board of directors allocated the remaining purchase cost out of board-directed reserves.

Once we completed designing for this site, the space allowed for separate truck and car entrances and parking lots, 130+ car parking spaces and ample room for building expansion for all function areas. The estimated cost for all construction and associated expenses to expand services, including a construction inflation rate of around 5%, was \$30.5 million.

Great Plains Food Bank staff and board have been building a strong, 3 year fundraising plan. We officially started fundraising in July 2024 and have raised \$936,413 in private contributions so far. On top of that, the \$2 million CDBG-CV grant and the \$900,000 allocated from reserves puts our revenue at \$3,836,413. We plan to sell our current facility, which we own out-right, for an estimated \$2.5 million. The new site also qualifies for New Markets Tax Credits, which should bring in an estimated \$4.5 million. That revenue plan totals \$10,911,413, leaving us with \$19,588,587 to raise.

HB1143 would provide a one-time appropriation of \$10 million to build a larger, more efficient statewide distribution center that would increase the capacity of our entire state's charitable hunger relief efforts. With a larger facility, we can recover, store and safely transport MORE food, to MORE people, in MORE communities, MORE often.

While it's a one-time appropriation, the investment stands to last for decades. The facility is designed to support our mission for the next 40 to 50 years. The bill proposes a dollar-for-dollar match between state funds and privately raised dollars, showing a true public/private partnership. HB1143 is an INCREDIBLE return on the state's investment in our neighbors living with food insecurity in every county across our great state.

HB1143 is about so much more than just a statewide distribution center or a facility. It's about what this statewide distribution center will enable us to do. It'll be a springboard for ending hunger for good. It will allow us to transform, expand and innovate new ways to tackle food insecurity and hunger to meet the growing and changing needs of our neighbors. It sends a message to anyone needing our services that as long as hunger exists, so will we. It provides reassurance that North Dakota children don't go to bed without dinner. It provides relief and hope to seniors who won't have to forgo their medication in order to put a meal on their table. We work towards a future where neighbors are nourished, communities are strong and systems ensure no one is left behind.

On behalf of the 156,479 North Dakotans we proudly serve, the tens of thousands of food and financial donors, charitable hunger relief network, volunteers, staff and board, we ask for your support on HB1143. Hunger hides in plain sight. It is a problem we can, and must, fix. We hope you'll join us and be a part of the solution. This is an opportunity to take a giant leap forward in ending hunger and we appreciate your support and consideration.

Thank you so much and I'd be happy to answer any questions you have.



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Brandy Pyle

District 22
P.O. Box 337
Casselton, ND 58012-0337
bpyle@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations

HB 1143

1.16.2025

House Agriculture

Good afternoon, Chair Beltz and members of the House Agriculture Committee.

Today, I am proud to introduce an infrastructure bill that may not look like the typical proposals we consider—roads, bridges, and buildings. But I firmly believe that this bill is just as essential to the fabric of our state.

This bill represents an infrastructure investment that will serve as the backbone to every county in our state. It's a piece of the larger puzzle that, when properly placed, connects the fundamental needs of our citizens to one of the most basic human requirements: food.

What is truly remarkable about this initiative is the work that has already been done by the Great Plains Food Bank (GPFB). Since its founding 41 years ago, GPFB has grown exponentially with its reach and impact, largely without state involvement. Today, semi-trucks carrying food and supplies have logged over 190,000 miles, crisscrossing our state and reaching all 53 counties. They have partnered with nearly 200 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and tribal nations in North Dakota, ensuring that people from both rural and urban areas have access to the resources they need.

The mobile pantry program has become a lifeline, ensuring that food isn't just available in large urban centers but also in rural and underserved areas. This bill seeks to build on that success by expanding the infrastructure that allows food to be distributed more efficiently and to even more people across our state.

This isn't just about logistics; it's about creating a stronger, more connected state—where access to food is guaranteed for everyone, no matter where they live. It's about building systems that are responsive and resilient, so we can continue to feed our citizens in an effective and timely manner.

As an appropriator for our state who closely watches our bottom line and as a farmer's wife, I have been deeply impressed with the work of the Great Plains Food Bank over the last 41 years. Their current facility, which has been in use for the past 24 years, has been stretched to its limits. They've done what we often do with our equipment and buildings—we make them last. I call it "farmer engineering"—holding things together and making them work well beyond their expected lifespan.

Now is the time for us to make a critical infrastructure investment. By investing in the infrastructure of our only food bank in North Dakota, we ensure that the Great Plains Food Bank can continue the vital work that our citizens rely on every single day.

Behind me, there are individuals who will provide more details about the building situation, the needs of their clients, and answer any other questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to working together to support this essential infrastructure project for the good of all North Dakotans.

Brandy L. Pyle

COMMISSIONER
DOUG GOEHRING



ndda@nd.gov
www.ndda.nd.gov

NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE CAPITOL
600 E. BOULEVARD AVE. – DEPT. 602
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0020

Testimony of John Schneider
Business, Marketing, and Information Division Director
House Agriculture
Room 327C
January 16, 2025

Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am John Schneider, Business, Marketing, and Information Division director here on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here today in support of HB 1143, which provides a 10 million dollar appropriation for a grant program for food distribution facilities.

During the last biennium, Commissioner administered two grant programs from state and federal funds. Statewide Food distribution program purchased over \$380,000 worth of food through 12 local vendors and was distributed to 164 food pantry sites. The Local foods purchase cooperative agreement program sourced products from 28 local vendors and was distributed to 213 local food pantries in 50 counties to 145,000 plus individuals.

Chairman Beltz and committee members, thank you for your time. I urge a do pass on HB 1143. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Agriculture Commissioner
Doug Goehring

STATEWIDE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

The State Food Distribution Program is a program using \$1 million from the general fund for a food distribution grant program to be used for the purchase of food and equipment and any distribution costs associated with assisting local food banks to provide food to individuals in the state. It was funded through the 68th Legislative Session, SB 2009 and expires June 30, 2025.

Funding may be used for:

- Purchase of food
 - Competitively priced, good quality food products
- Purchase of equipment
 - To extend the life of perishable foods
 - Refrigerators
 - Coolers
 - Freezers
 - Vacuum sealers
 - Equipment may also be purchased in conjunction with other North Dakota food banks
 - Equipment associated with the transportation of food
- Distribution costs
 - Cardboard boxes
 - Bags and packaging materials

Distribution through 9/30/24:

- Purchased \$380,577.44 worth of food utilizing 12 local vendors
- Food distributed to 164 food pantry sites

More information:

For more information, call John Schneider at 701-319-6958 or email jfschneider@nd.gov.



Agriculture Commissioner
Doug Goehring

LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAMS

The purpose of the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program was to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency. It was a way to support local and socially disadvantaged farmers and producers, and provide that food to underserved communities in North Dakota.

Goals

The program had three main goals:

1. Provide an opportunity for states and tribal governments to strengthen their local and regional food system.
2. Help to support local and socially disadvantaged farmers/producers through building and expanding economic opportunities.
3. Establish and broaden partnerships with farmers/producers and the food distribution community, and local food networks, including non-profits to ensure distribution of fresh and nutritious foods in rural, remote, or underserved communities.

Programs / Results

Two agreements were signed with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service:

1. Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) - \$420,000
2. Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program Plus (LFPA+) - \$678,228

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture partnered with the Great Plains Food Bank to procure and distribute the food to communities for both agreements. Food, including meat and produce, was sourced from 28 local producers and vendors and was distributed to 213 locations in 50 counties.

More information:

For more information, call John Schneider at 701-319-6958 or email jfschneider@nd.gov.

**House Agriculture Committee
Jan 16th, 2025 HB 1143
Testimony in Support**

Dear Chair Beltz and the members of the House Agriculture Committee,

I urge a “Do Pass” on HB 1143

Food insecurity is one of the biggest risk factors for suicide. One study shows veterans with food insecurity had nearly four times higher suicidal ideation one year later compared to veterans not reporting food insecurity (39% vs 10%). ([study](#))

We as a state have raised the alarm for food security across the last two years

- [Oct 16th, 2023: Area food drives offering only bare essentials compared to 2 years ago](#)
- [Jan 5th, 2024: Food deserts remain an issue in North Dakota, but efforts are ongoing to address them](#)
- [March 28th, 2024: With demand at an all-time high, Instacart now an option for donating to Great Plains Food Bank](#)
- [August 27th, 2024 - Tribal food assistance program in shambles after USDA warehouse consolidation](#)
- [Oct 23rd, 2024: Youthworks in Fargo asks for food and clothing donations](#)
- [Dec 12th, 2024: NDSU study finds food insecurity is up in North Dakota, leaders call for 'all hands on deck'](#)

As many stories exist about the tremendous work of our food pantries, volunteers, and the work of the Great Plains Food Bank. Yet, the research indicates these entities need more help to meet the demand of today as we still recover from a Covid 19 emergency.

As a suicide prevention advocate, I know there is little we can do in the world of mental health to help a kid who is starving. Food security doesn't just create good outcomes downstream across every factor we measure, it is essential for there to be a downstream to even look at. In whatever way is possible, I urge funding to feed our state and a passage of HB 1143 to support that dream

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,
Faye Seidler



Contact:
Matt Perdue, Lobbyist
mperdue@ndfu.org | 701.641.3303

**Testimony of
Matt Perdue
North Dakota Farmers Union
Before the
House Agriculture Committee
January 16, 2025**

Chairman Beltz and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1143. My name is Matt Perdue, and I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Farmers Union's members. NDFU supports HB 1143.

HB 1143 provides \$10 million to match private and non-state contributions for the construction of food distribution facility. Our members are proud of their work to provide food, fiber and fuel for our country. We also feel an obligation "to support our neighbors who are hungry, many of whom are in rural communities as well as urban."

The Great Plains Food Bank is the only food bank in North Dakota. Eight-eight percent of all the food that passes through our state's charitable food network is sourced or purchased by Great Plains Food Bank. They support every community in the state, from Grafton to Golve. NDFU is a strong supporter of Great Plains Food Bank and has partnered with them through food and financial contributions and to provide locally-sourced foods to communities.

Supporting a new food distribution facility will provide the Great Plains Food Bank to increase the amount of food distributed throughout the state. This will allow them to serve more people and more communities.

We encourage a "Do Pass" recommendation on HB 1143. We look forward to collaborating with you and the Great Plains Food Bank to address food insecurity in our state. I will stand for any questions.

**Testimony of Landis Larson, ND AFL-CIO President
In Support of HB 1143
January 16, 2025**

Chairperson:

My name is Landis Larson, President of the North Dakota AFL-CIO. The North Dakota AFL-CIO is the federation of labor unions in North Dakota, representing the interests of all working people in our state.

I am testifying on behalf of the North Dakota AFL-CIO in support of House Bill 1143.

During hard economic times, the workers are always the first to really feel it: first in their wallets, then in their stomachs. That's why our unions, labor councils and state federations have a history of donating our time, energy and resources, humble as they may be, to hunger relief organizations like the Great Plains Food Bank and our local community food shelves.

In the over 100 year history of representing working families in the state of North Dakota, our workers have seen some ups and some downs, sometimes due market changes, sometimes due to outsourcing, plant closures, layoffs, and lockouts; but working families were able to make it through because of hunger relief programs like those provided by the Great Plains Food Bank.

We know that right now, many workers in our economy are being left behind and are struggling to afford to put food on the table. Without the vital service provided by Great Plains Food Bank and their community partners, the suffering that working families would experience due to hunger would be even greater.

We also know that in some of our rural manufacturing communities, uncertain economic times are on the horizon: corporate outsourcing resulting in mass layoffs is a very likely reality for many workers. The Great Plains Food Bank network may be an actual lifeline for these families until they can get back on their feet.

We are proud to stand with the Great Plains Food Bank and their partners in their mission to END HUNGER TOGETHER and encourage the state of North Dakota to invest in expanding the Great Plains Food Bank's capacity to meet the increasing needs of working families in our state.

Thank you to the bill sponsors for bringing the legislature into such an important discussion facing our working families in North Dakota.

The North Dakota AFL-CIO fully supports House Bill 1143.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture Committee Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1143
1/31/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food distribution facility grant program.

11:05 a.m. Chairman Beltz opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Beltz, Vice Chairman Hauck, Representatives Anderson, Dobervich, Henderson, Holle, Hoverson, Kiefert, Nehring, Olson, Rios, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, Vollmer

Discussion Topics:

- 10 mil to 5 mil
- Minnesota financial ask
- 1 in 3 children
- Inflation

11:05 a.m. Representative Hauck moved a Do Pass.

11:05 a.m. Representative Dobervich seconded the motion.

11:06 a.m. Representative Vollmer moved Adopt Amendment to change 10 million to 5 million.

11:07 a.m. Representative Olson seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	N
Representative Karen A. Anderson	AB
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	N
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	N
Representative Jeff Hoverson	N
Representative Dwight Kiefert	N
Representative Dennis Nehring	Y
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Nico Rios	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	AB
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Daniel R. Vollmer	Y

Motion passed 7-5-2.

11:18 a.m. Representative Vollmer moved Do Pass as amended.

11:18 a.m. Representative Hauck seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Karen A. Anderson	AB
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Donna Henderson	N
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Jeff Hoverson	N
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Dennis Nehring	N
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Nico Rios	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	AB
Representative Bill Tveit	N
Representative Daniel R. Vollmer	Y

Motion passed 8-4-2.

11:20 a.m. Representative Keifert will carry the bill.

11:20 a.m. Chairman Beltz closed the meeting.

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

Further action was taken on HB 1143 on 1/31/25 3:25 p.m.

January 31, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1143

Introduced by

Representatives Pyle, Brandenburg, Davis, McLeod, Mitskog, Swiontek, Hauck

Senators Boschee, Lee, Roers, Barta, Dever

*JB 1-31-25
1 of 1*

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food
2 distribution facility grant program.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS**

5 **FUND - AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER - FOOD DISTRIBUTION FACILITY GRANT**

6 **PROGRAM - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the strategic
7 investment and improvements fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
8 ~~\$10,000,000~~ \$5,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the agriculture
9 commissioner for the purpose of providing a food distribution facility grant program, for the
10 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. Grant funds may be used only to
11 pay for site acquisition, architectural costs, engineering costs, labor, equipment, and materials
12 related to the construction of a statewide charitable food distribution and logistics facility. A grant
13 recipient must provide one dollar of matching funds from nonstate sources for each dollar
14 provided by the agriculture commissioner. Entities receiving funding under this section shall
15 report to the agriculture commissioner annually regarding the use and effectiveness of the
16 funding. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time funding item.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture Committee
Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1143
1/31/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food distribution facility grant program.

3:25 p.m. Chairman Beltz called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Beltz, Vice Chairman Hauck, Representatives Anderson, Dobervich, Henderson, Holle, Hoverson, Kiefert, Nehring, Olson, Rios, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, Vollmer

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

3:25 p.m. Representative Dobervich moved to re-refer to appropriations

3:25 p.m. Rep Kiefert seconded

Voice vote.

Motion passed.

3:26 p.m. Chairman Beltz closed the meeting.

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1143**

Agriculture Committee (Rep. Beltz, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0709.02001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (8 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1143 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

2025 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1143

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1143
2/18/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food distribution facility grant program.

3:34 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Anderson, Bosch, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner
Members absent: Representatives Berg, Brandenburg, Meier

Discussion Topics:

- Strategic Investment Improvement Fund
- Great Plains Food Bank
- New site construction
- New site costs

3:34 p.m. Representative Beltz introduced the bill.

3:41 p.m. Melissa Sobolik, Chief Executive Officer, Great Plains Food Bank, provided information to the committee, #37969.

3:44 p.m. Representative Swiontek moved a Do Pass.

3:44 p.m. Representative Mitskog seconded the motion.

3:47 p.m. Roll call vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	N
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	AB
Representative Glen Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	AB
Representative Jay Fisher	N
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	AB
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	Y

Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

3:47 p.m. Motion passed 18-2-3

Representative Kiefert is the bill carrier.

3:47 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the hearing.

Mary Brucker, Committee Clerk, for Sierra Schartz, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1143 ([25.0709.03000](#))**

Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (18 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 3 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1143 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

HARVESTING HOPE

Ending Hunger Together: Today, Tomorrow, and for Good.

The abundance of the heartland feeds people around the world. Yet so many neighbors here at home go hungry. You can change that.

Here in the Great Plains, we pride ourselves on growing food to feed the world. The most basic of needs, food has the power to transform lives, it is medicine, and it is the foundation upon which strong families and communities flourish. Yet too many neighbors do not have enough to eat.

Hunger diminishes lives in so many ways. Children go to school hungry and can't learn, parents feel they have failed, seniors see their health decline. **Many feel hopeless. You can fix this.**



You are an important part of the solution.

The largest hunger-relief organization in the state, for more than 40 years, the Great Plains Food Bank has built a strong, diverse network to help neighbors during difficult times. We distribute food to every county in North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota, alongside our food industry partners, donors, volunteers, and charitable feeding network. Together, we are building strong families and communities. As the need continues to rise and evolve, so too must our work and efforts.

The Harvesting Hope campaign has a bold \$30.5 million, 3-year fundraising goal to build the infrastructure, expand statewide programs, and develop the long-term sustainability needed to end hunger today, tomorrow and for good.



**GREAT PLAINS
FOOD BANK**

HUNGER IS A PROBLEM WE CAN—AND MUST—FIX.

With three interconnected objectives, Harvesting Hope will create the capacity needed to achieve this bold goal.

BUILD ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

\$28.8 MILLION

With more people turning to our statewide feeding network than ever before, the Great Plains Food Bank must have the physical capacity to keep up and grow. This state-of-the-art statewide distribution center will greatly increase our ability to accept, store and distribute food, and enable us to further expand in the future. A specialized space to convene, innovate and serve, it is foundational to our ability to truly end hunger.

EXPAND PROGRAMS AND REACH

\$1.30 MILLION

The new facility will allow us to fulfill our goals by strengthening our foundational, core food banking work and advancing innovative, transformational solutions.

With the ability to store and distribute more food, we will purchase two new semi tractor-trailers for our statewide fleet, a critical way to expand our reach, and with specialized spaces to convene and collaborate with partners this facility will be a catalyst for creative solutions designed to go beyond food to end hunger.

FUND THE FUTURE

\$400,000

We will grow our endowment fund to ensure the lasting sustainability of the nutritious food supplies and hunger-fighting programs so many of our neighbors need. To support our goal of ending hunger for good, this fund will create a legacy for good and ensure long-term sustainability to support our critical work.

You will bring more than food to your community—you will bring strength, optimism and a better future.

With Harvesting Hope, our combined impact will deepen as—together—we work towards a future where neighbors are nourished, communities are strong, and systems ensure no one is left behind.

We believe that no one should go hungry. Together, we will end hunger in the heartland—today, tomorrow and for good. Join us.

For more information, contact:

Marcia Paulson
Chief Development Officer
701.476.9101
mpaulson@greatplainsfoodbank.org

GREATPLAINSFOODBANK.ORG

Scan for Harvesting Hope Campaign updates and learn how your gift is ending hunger today, tomorrow and for good.





**GREAT PLAINS
FOOD BANK**



DeShawn and her granddaughter, Elena

ENDING HUNGER TOGETHER IN YOUR COMMUNITY

For over 40 years, the Great Plains Food Bank has been a **lifeline for families** and individuals facing hunger as the **only food bank** serving all of North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota. Our unique position allows us to evaluate, serve, and respond to the evolving needs of communities across the entire region. With a statewide reach and a deep understanding of **local solutions**, we are committed to **ending hunger today, tomorrow and for good.**

GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK OUR PARTNERS

VOLUNTEERS

15,000 hours are shared.
5000 people of all ages sort, re-pack, label, build food boxes, and help distribute this food statewide.

FINANCIAL DONORS

Food for 20 meals is provided for every \$10 gifted. Individuals, businesses, churches, foundations, and government entities invest their resources.

FOOD INDUSTRY

15 million pounds of food are sourced and rescued.
Growers, processors, manufacturers and retailers donate food that would otherwise go to waste.

PARTNER NETWORK

Nutritious food supplied by the Great Plains Food Bank is then distributed by 185 food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens operating in 105 communities.

NEIGHBORS

The 1 in 6 neighbors facing food insecurity are at the center of our work.

LOCAL IMPACT



Norma

Today, the GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK provides food for

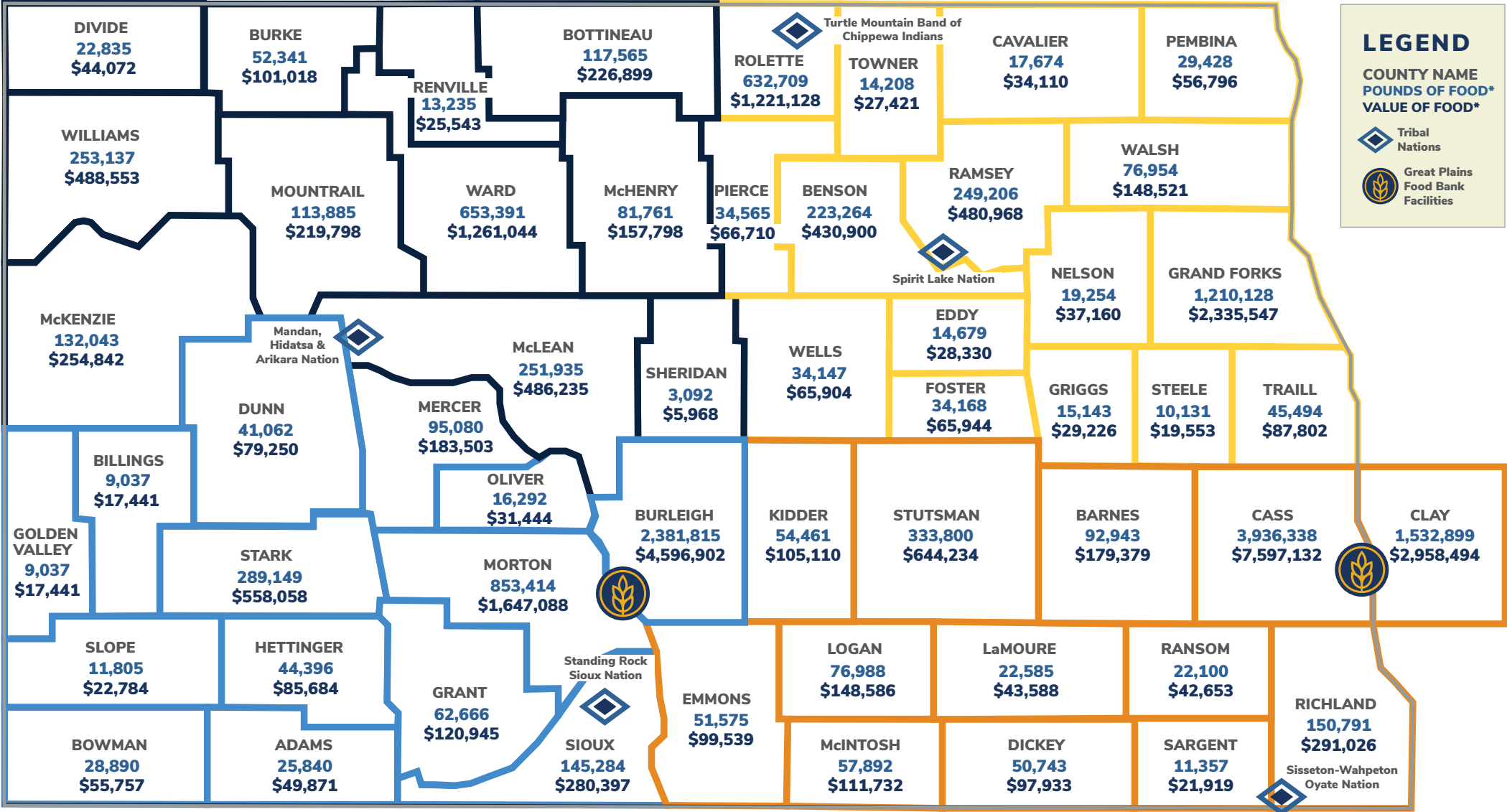
**12.8 MILLION
MEALS ANNUALLY**

185
GREAT PLAINS
FOOD BANK
partner agencies
operating in
105
communities



88%
of all food that moves through
the statewide partner agency
network is sourced and/
or facilitated by the GREAT
PLAINS FOOD BANK

GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK SERVICE AREA



LEGEND

COUNTY NAME
POUNDS OF FOOD*
VALUE OF FOOD*



GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK DIRECT SERVICE PROGRAMS

	SW	NW	NE	SE
BackPack Program	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Youth Summer Meals	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
School Pantries	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Mobile Food Pantry	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Senior Food Pack Program	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Wellness Pantries	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Kitchen Coalition	🍏			🍏
SNAP Outreach	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Cultural Food Pop-Up Distributions	🍏			🍏
Disaster Response	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Tribal Elder Nourishment Box Program - Coming Soon				

*Total pounds of fresh and shelf-stable food sourced and directly delivered by the Great Plains Food Bank to food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens operating within the county. Reporting period: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.

*Calculation based on the estimated total wholesale value of Feeding America product donations at an average price of \$1.93 per gross pound for 29 product categories that comprise the donations. The Great Plains Food Bank is a partner food bank of Feeding America.

To learn more about these programs in your community, visit GreatPlainsFoodBank.org.

35%
CHILDREN



15%
SENIORS



14%
VETERANS



13%
SINGLE
CAREGIVERS



1 IN 6
PEOPLE



1 IN 4
CHILDREN



75%
reported
experiencing at
least one chronic
health condition.



41%
attended college,
trade school or hold
an advanced degree.



Native American,
American Indian and
Alaska Native neighbors
face hunger at
7X THE RATE
of other communities.



1 IN 3
do not have access to a
WORKING VEHICLE.

Data gleaned as part of *Hunger on the Plains 2023*, a study conducted by the Great Plains Food Bank. The full report and executive study can be found at GreatPlainsFoodBank.org/HOTP.

John and his
daughter, Riley



The Harvesting Hope campaign has a bold \$30.5 million goal to build the infrastructure, expand statewide programs, and develop the long-term sustainability needed to end hunger today, tomorrow and for good.

This campaign will enable us to **more than double** the amount of food distributed per year and **expand** and **strengthen** hunger-relief programs and services in **more communities**.

Hunger is a problem we can - and must - fix.
You are an important part of the solution.

Your support will bring more than food to your neighbors, you will **harvest hope** for a brighter future where children, older adults and families **thrive. Join us!**

For more information, contact:

Marcia Paulson

Chief Development Officer

701.476.9101

mpaulson@greatplainsfoodbank.org

GREATPLAINSFOODBANK.ORG

Scan for Harvesting Hope
campaign updates and
opportunities to give.



2025 SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1143

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1143
3/13/2025

A bill for an act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food distribution grant program.

9:53 a.m. Chairman Luick called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Luick, Vice-Chair Myrdal, Senator Marcellais, Senator Weston, Senator Weber, Senator Lemm

Discussion Topics:

- Great Plains Food Bank, distribution process, and expansion need
- Mobile Pantry Program
- Rural and underserved areas
- Statewide Food Distribution Program
- The Local Foods Purchase Cooperative Agreement Program
- Ageing, disabled, and financially insecure populations
- Food pantries and soup kitchens
- Fundraising plan and fiscal cost of new facility
- Charitable hunger relief and increase in food insecurity
- Public-private partnership and dollar to dollar match
- Volunteer contributions and positive impact

9:54 a.m. Representative Brandy Pyle, District 22, testified in favor, introduced the bill, and submitted testimony #39721.

9:57 a.m. Doug Goehring, Agriculture Commissioner, ND Department of Agriculture, testified in favor and submitted testimony #41326.

10:00 a.m. Melissa Sobolik, CEO of the Great Plains Food Bank, testified in favor and submitted testimony #40606, #40605, and #40604.

10:17 a.m. Matt Perdue, ND Farmer's Union Members, testified in favor and submitted testimony #41222.

10:19 a.m. Scharlie A. Kilzer, Director of AMEN Food Pantry, testified in favor and submitted testimony #40630.

10:25 a.m. Jim Barnhardt, Founder and Executive Director, Dream Center Bismarck, testified in favor and submitted testimony #41190.

10:32 a.m. Amy L. Mazigian, SVP of Western ND, Gate City Bank, testified in favor and submitted testimony #40963.

10:39 a.m. Chairman Luick closed the hearing.

10:40 a.m. Senator Weston moved a Do Pass and Rerefer to Appropriations.

10:40 a.m. Senator Weber seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Larry Luick	Y
Senator Janne Myrdal	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Richard Marcellais	A
Senator Mark F. Weber	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y

Motion passed 5-0-1.

Senator Weston will carry the bill.

Additional written testimony:

Eric J. Wilkie, Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation, submitted testimony #40108 in favor.

Alex Bacon, resident of Jamestown, ND, submitted testimony #40992 in favor.

Mary Carlson, Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry, Minto, ND, submitted testimony #41039 in favor.

Stacey A. Ackerman, Board of Directors, Great Plains Food Bank, submitted testimony #41165 in favor.

Emma McIntyre, board member, Great Plains Food Bank, submitted testimony #41249 in favor.

10:41 a.m. Chairman Luick closed the hearing.

Audrey Oswald, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1143 ([25.0709.03000](#))**

Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Luick, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1143 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**. This bill does not affect workforce development.



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Brandy Pyle

District 22
P.O. Box 337
Casselton, ND 58012-0337
bpyle@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations

HB 1143

Good afternoon, Chair Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veteran Affairs Committee.

Today, I am proud to introduce an infrastructure bill that may not look like the typical proposals we consider—roads, bridges, and buildings. But I firmly believe that this bill is just as essential to the fabric of our state.

This bill represents an infrastructure investment that will serve as the backbone to every county in our state. It's a piece of the larger puzzle that, when properly placed, connects the fundamental needs of our citizens to one of the most basic human requirements: food.

What is truly remarkable about this initiative is the work that has already been done by the Great Plains Food Bank (GPFB). Since its founding 41 years ago, GPFB has grown exponentially with its reach and impact, largely without state involvement. Today, semi-trucks carrying food and supplies have logged over 190,000 miles, crisscrossing our state and reaching all 53 counties. They have partnered with nearly 200 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and tribal nations in North Dakota, ensuring that people from both rural and urban areas have access to the resources they need.

The mobile pantry program has become a lifeline, ensuring that food isn't just available in large urban centers but also in rural and underserved areas. This bill seeks to build on that success by expanding the infrastructure that allows food to be distributed more efficiently and to even more people across our state.

This isn't just about logistics; it's about creating a stronger, more connected state—where access to food is guaranteed for everyone, no matter where they live. It's about building systems that are responsive and resilient, so we can continue to feed our citizens in an effective and timely manner.

As an appropriator for our state who closely watches our bottom line and as a farmer's wife, I have been deeply impressed with the work of the Great Plains Food Bank over the last 41 years. Their current facility, which has been in use for the past 24 years, has been stretched to its limits. They've done what we often do with our equipment and buildings—we make them last. I call it "farmer engineering"—holding things together and making them work well beyond their expected lifespan.

Now is the time for us to make a critical infrastructure investment. By investing in the infrastructure of our only food bank in North Dakota, we ensure that the Great Plains Food Bank can continue the vital work that our citizens rely on every single day.

Behind me, there are individuals who will provide more details about the current building situation, the needs of their clients, and answer any other questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration. This is the investment we need for those who need it the most.

I look forward to working together to support this essential infrastructure project for the good of all North Dakotans.

Brandy L. Pyle



Dear Members of the North Dakota Legislature,

On behalf of the FM Area Foundation, I am writing to thank you for your work on behalf of North Dakota and express our strong support for House Bill 1143.

The FM Area Foundation is located in Fargo, and our primary mission is to support community vitality through philanthropy, providing grants and resources to nonprofits that address critical community needs. Since inception, our community foundation has granted nearly \$100 million into our nonprofit sector. Each year, we help facilitate funding for programs that support thousands of North Dakotans in need, including those facing food insecurity.

House Bill 1143 represents a vital investment in our state's ability to combat hunger by establishing a food distribution facility. This initiative would directly support the infrastructure needed to ensure food reaches those who need it most, helping organizations like the Great Plains Food Bank continue their essential work. As the largest hunger-relief organization in the state, the Great Plains Food Bank has built a strong, diverse network over the past 40 years, distributing food to every county in North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota.

The need for food assistance continues to rise, and our ability to meet this growing demand depends on strengthening our distribution capabilities. The proposed one-time funding of \$10 million will provide critical resources for site acquisition, construction, and logistical improvements, ensuring food gets to families, seniors, and children facing hunger. With a required one-to-one match from nonstate sources, this funding will leverage private and philanthropic dollars to maximize its impact. This investment aligns with the mission Great Plains "Ending Hunger Together: Today, Tomorrow, and for Good" campaign, which recognizes that hunger is a solvable issue. By expanding infrastructure, increasing statewide food distribution, and ensuring long-term sustainability, we can build a future where no North Dakotan goes hungry.

North Dakota's nonprofits impact the lives of our citizens every day. From providing essential services that address health and education needs to fostering economic growth, nonprofits represent 15 percent of the state's private-sector payroll, supporting over 54,000 jobs. Supporting HB 1143 is not just an investment in food security—it is an investment in our state's economic stability and quality of life.

The FM Area Foundation respectfully asks for your support of HB 1143. By passing this bill, you will help strengthen North Dakota's hunger relief infrastructure, ensuring that food reaches those in need efficiently and effectively. We appreciate your leadership and commitment to the well-being of all North Dakotans.

Sincerely,

Executive Director, FM Area Foundation



FM Area Foundation
409 7th St. S. Fargo, ND 58103
701.234.0756
areafoundation.org



Mission: We help donors maximize their philanthropy to create a vibrant community full of opportunities for everyone.

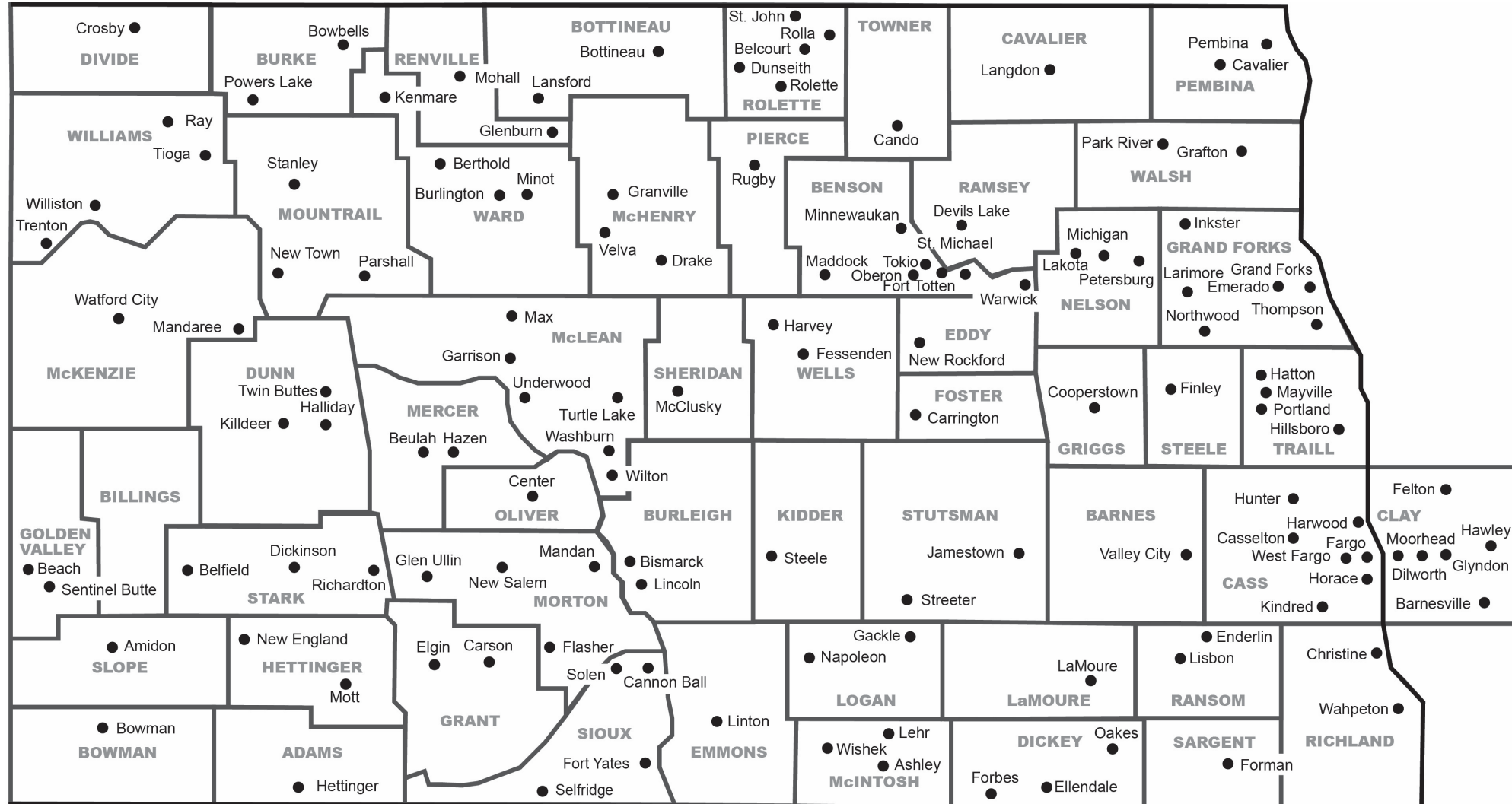


**GREAT PLAINS
FOOD BANK**

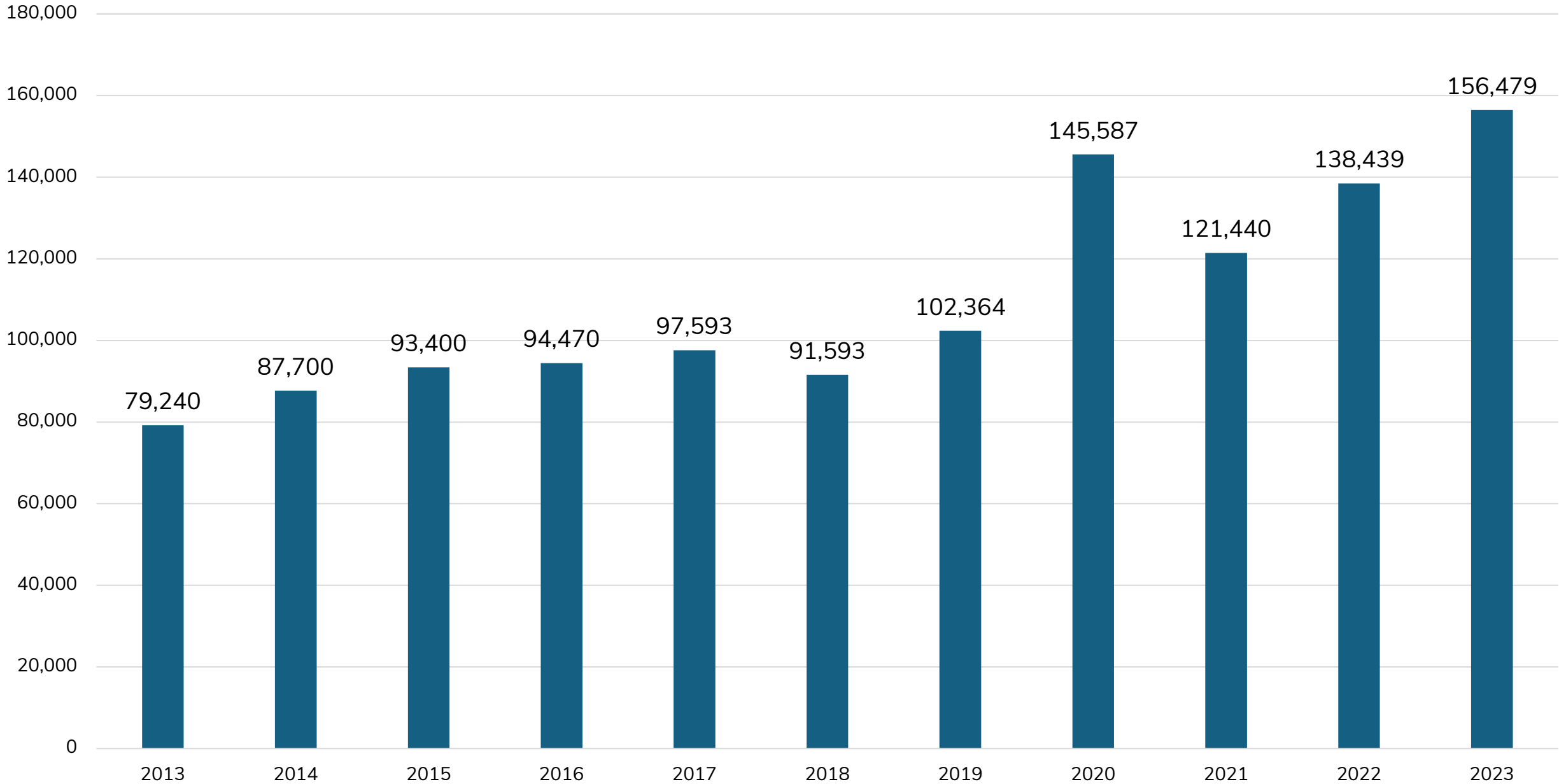
Melissa Sobolik
CEO



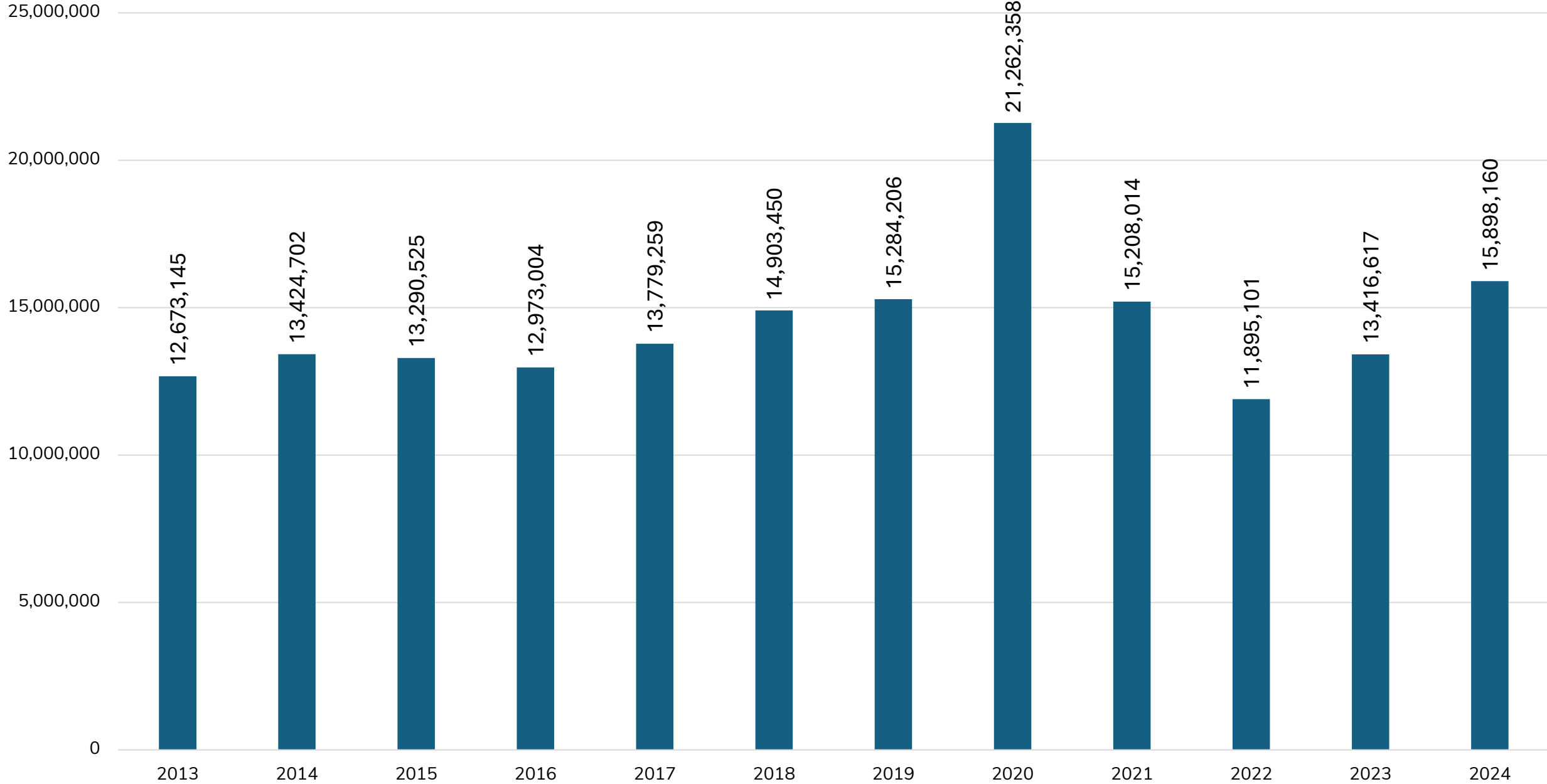
Service Map



Individuals Served

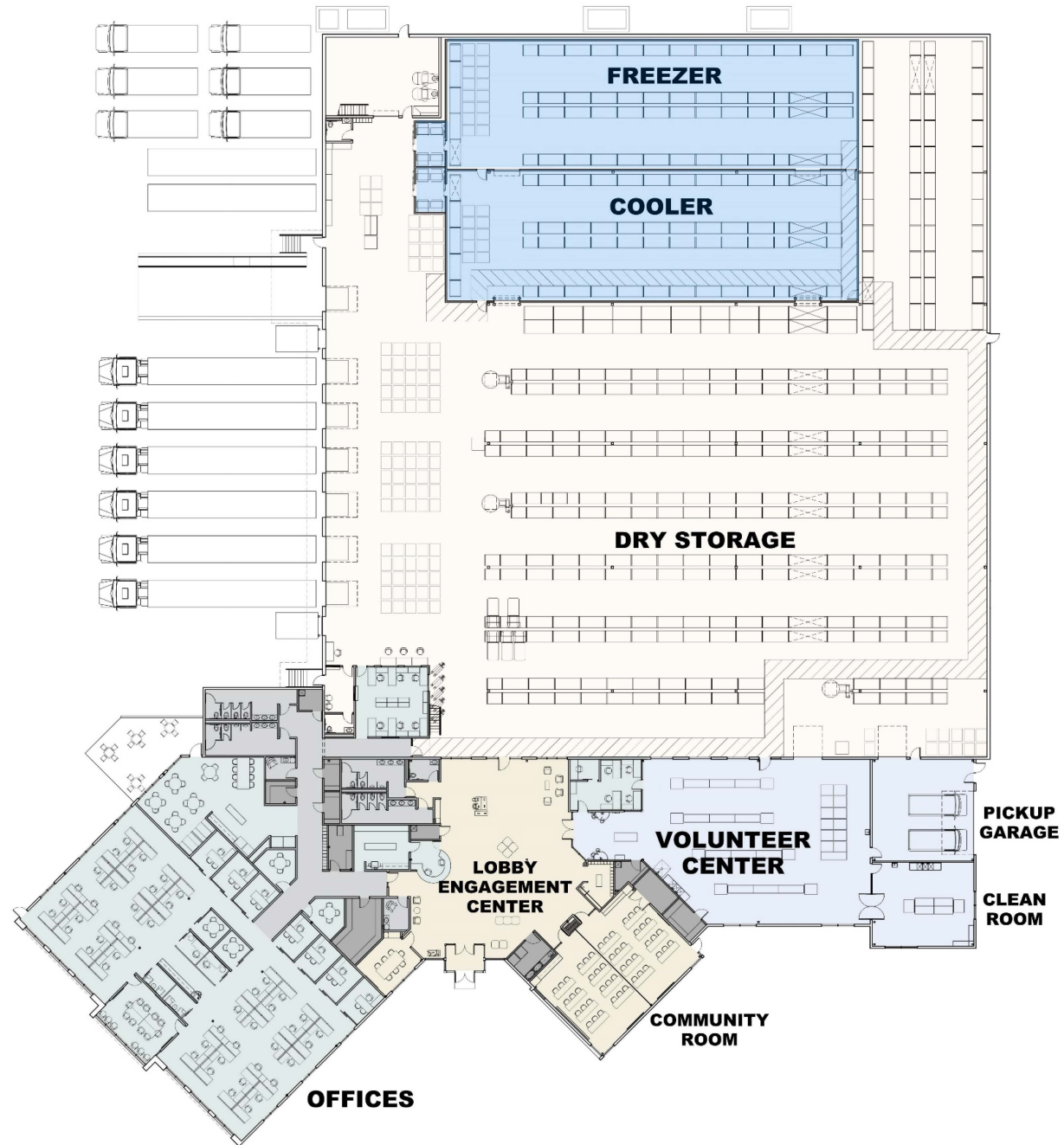


Pounds Distributed







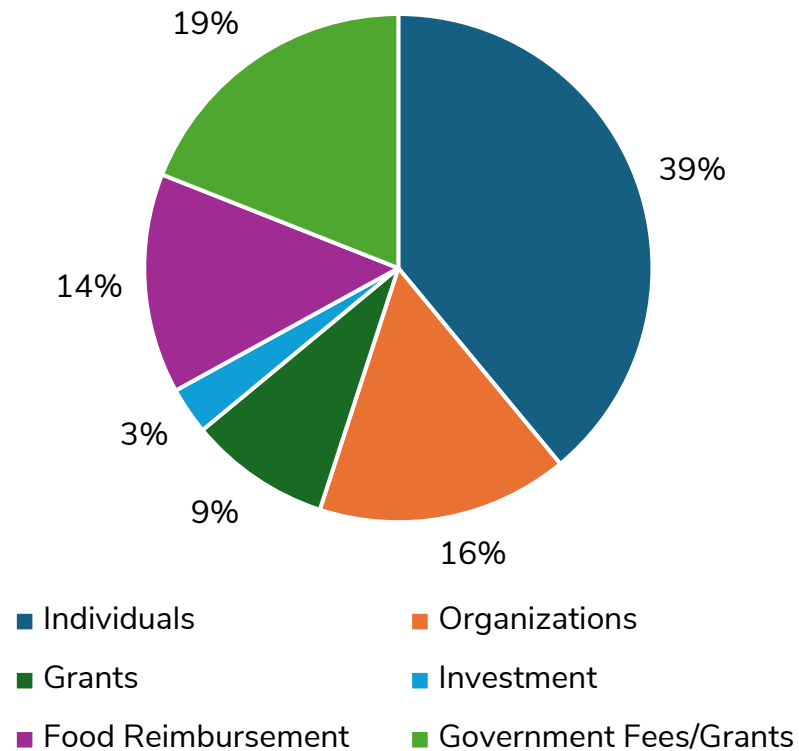




Revenue



Annual Support



Total Cost New Facility **\$30,500,000**

Revenue	\$11,187,208
Private Contributions	1,212,208
CDBG-CV Grant	2,000,000
GPFB Reserves	900,000
Building Sale*	2,500,000
New Markets Tax Credits*	4,575,000
Remaining	\$19,312,792





**GREAT PLAINS
FOOD BANK**



DeShawn and her granddaughter, Elena

ENDING HUNGER TOGETHER IN YOUR COMMUNITY

For over 40 years, the Great Plains Food Bank has been a **lifeline for families** and individuals facing hunger as the **only food bank** serving all of North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota. Our unique position allows us to evaluate, serve, and respond to the evolving needs of communities across the entire region. With a statewide reach and a deep understanding of **local solutions**, we are committed to **ending hunger today, tomorrow and for good.**

GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK OUR PARTNERS

VOLUNTEERS

15,000 hours are shared.
5000 people of all ages sort, re-pack, label, build food boxes, and help distribute this food statewide.

FINANCIAL DONORS

Food for 20 meals is provided for every \$10 gifted. Individuals, businesses, churches, foundations, and government entities invest their resources.

FOOD INDUSTRY

15 million pounds of food are sourced and rescued.
Growers, processors, manufacturers and retailers donate food that would otherwise go to waste.

PARTNER NETWORK

Nutritious food supplied by the Great Plains Food Bank is then distributed by 185 food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens operating in 105 communities.

NEIGHBORS

The 1 in 6 neighbors facing food insecurity are at the center of our work.

LOCAL IMPACT



Norma

Today, the GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK provides food for

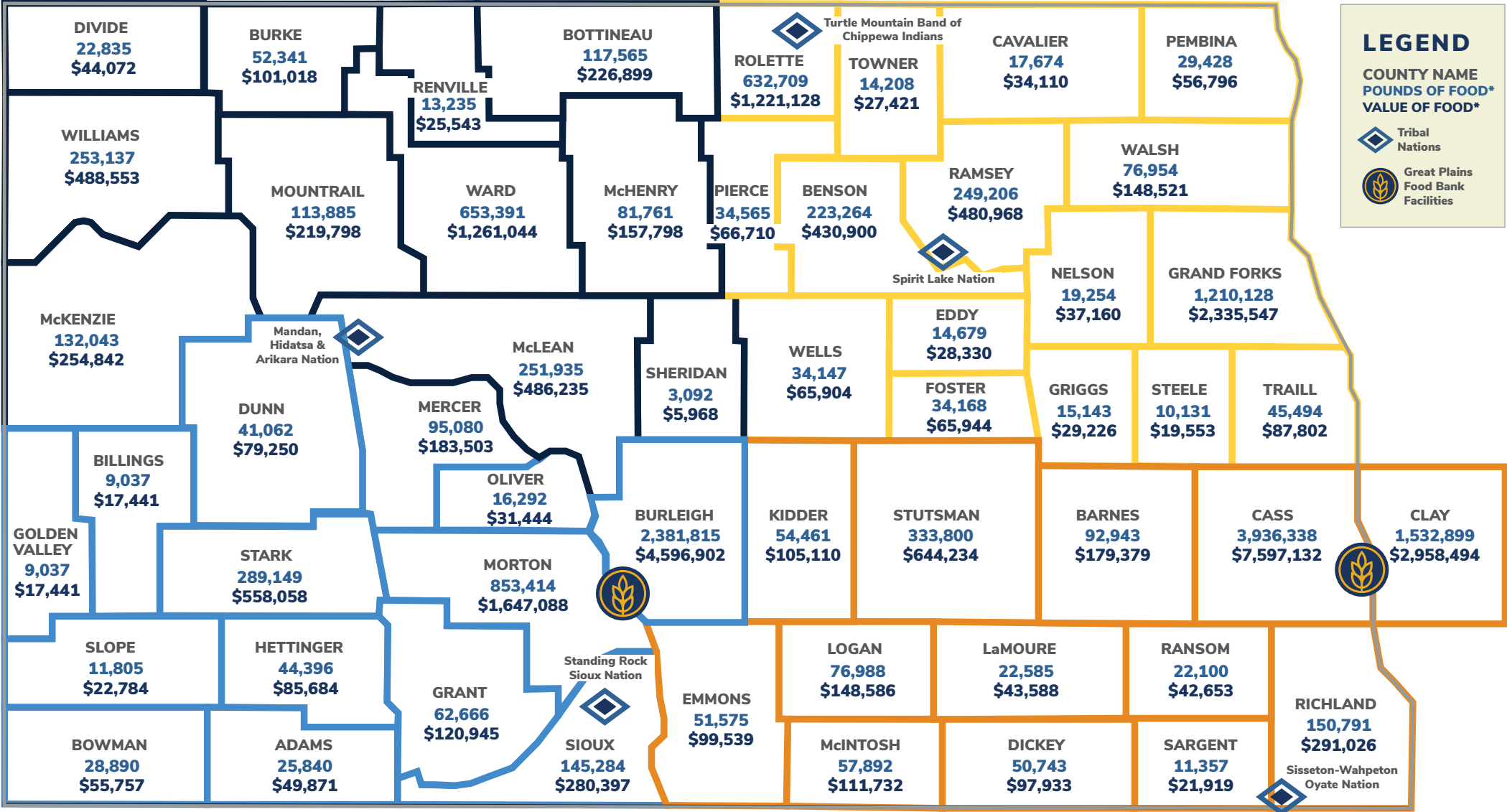
**12.8 MILLION
MEALS ANNUALLY**

185
GREAT PLAINS
FOOD BANK
partner agencies
operating in
105
communities



88%
of all food that moves through
the statewide partner agency
network is sourced and/
or facilitated by the GREAT
PLAINS FOOD BANK

GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK SERVICE AREA



LEGEND

COUNTY NAME
POUNDS OF FOOD*
VALUE OF FOOD*



GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK DIRECT SERVICE PROGRAMS

	SW	NW	NE	SE
BackPack Program	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Youth Summer Meals	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
School Pantries	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Mobile Food Pantry	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Senior Food Pack Program	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Wellness Pantries	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Kitchen Coalition	🍏			🍏
SNAP Outreach	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Cultural Food Pop-Up Distributions	🍏			🍏
Disaster Response	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Tribal Elder Nourishment Box Program - Coming Soon				

*Total pounds of fresh and shelf-stable food sourced and directly delivered by the Great Plains Food Bank to food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens operating within the county. Reporting period: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.

*Calculation based on the estimated total wholesale value of Feeding America product donations at an average price of \$1.93 per gross pound for 29 product categories that comprise the donations. The Great Plains Food Bank is a partner food bank of Feeding America.

To learn more about these programs in your community, visit GreatPlainsFoodBank.org.

OUR NEIGHBORS

145,409 INDIVIDUALS SERVED

35%
CHILDREN



15%
SENIORS



14%
VETERANS



13%
SINGLE
CAREGIVERS



1 IN 6
PEOPLE



1 IN 4
CHILDREN



75%
reported
experiencing at
least one chronic
health condition.



41%
attended college,
trade school or hold
an advanced degree.



1 IN 3
do not have access to a
WORKING VEHICLE.



Native American,
American Indian and
Alaska Native neighbors
face hunger at
7X THE RATE
of other communities.

Data gleaned as part of *Hunger on the Plains 2023*, a study conducted by the Great Plains Food Bank. The full report and executive study can be found at GreatPlainsFoodBank.org/HOTP.

John and his
daughter, Riley



The Harvesting Hope campaign has a bold \$30.5 million goal to build the infrastructure, expand statewide programs, and develop the long-term sustainability needed to end hunger today, tomorrow and for good.

This campaign will enable us to **more than double** the amount of food distributed per year and **expand** and **strengthen** hunger-relief programs and services in **more communities**.

Hunger is a problem we can - and must - fix.
You are an important part of the solution.

Your support will bring more than food to your neighbors, you will **harvest hope** for a brighter future where children, older adults and families **thrive. Join us!**

For more information, contact:
Marcia Paulson
Chief Development Officer
701.476.9101
mpaulson@greatplainsfoodbank.org

GREATPLAINSFOODBANK.ORG

Scan for Harvesting Hope
campaign updates and
opportunities to give.



March 13, 2025

HB1143: Food distribution facility grant program

Melissa Sobolik, CEO, Great Plains Food Bank

Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee Members,

I am Melissa Sobolik, the CEO of the Great Plains Food Bank and it is my pleasure to offer testimony and support for House Bill 1143.

ND prides itself on growing food to feed the world, yet last year alone more than 156,000 North Dakotans visited a food pantry or soup kitchen. That's one in five of our neighbors and one in three children. We and the state's charitable feeding network responded and were able to distribute nearly 16 million pounds of food to them.

The Great Plains Food Bank proudly serves as North Dakota's only food bank and its largest hunger relief organization. We, like all food banks across the nation, are set up to recover surplus food that would otherwise go to waste and get it into the hands of those who need it. Over the past 41 years we have recovered and distributed 294 million pounds of food to neighbors in every county across North Dakota. We have built strong relationships with growers, producers, ranchers, retailers, manufacturers and the food industry to find, recover and in some cases, purchase, food. We bring that product into either our statewide distribution center in Fargo or regional service center in Bismarck, where it is inventoried and safely stored prior to distribution. Every item is entered into an online inventory software, and our partner network of nearly 200 food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters place their order, much like any online shopping, and then we pick their order, load it onto one of our semi-trucks and deliver it directly to their door monthly. They are then able to stock their shelves, make their meals, and serve those in need in their respective communities. They are a cornerstone of the charitable hunger relief network, as are our food and financial donors and volunteers. Ending hunger is a shared responsibility and are honored to work alongside them to make North Dakota hunger-free.

We also offer an array of direct service programs to fill gaps, reduce barriers and increase access, like our Mobile Food Pantry, Backpack Program, Senior Food Pack Program, Youth Summer Meals, Wellness Pantries, and more.

Our mission is to END HUNGER TOGETHER and we do this by focusing our energy and resources on ending hunger TODAY, TOMORROW, and FOR GOOD. We aim to work ourselves out of a job, but unfortunately, we aren't there yet.

In the past 10 years, we have watched the need for food assistance grow. From 2013 to 2023, there was a 97% increase in the number of people seeking food assistance. Reaching a record high of 156,479 individuals in 2023.

Which correlates with an increase in food distributed. In 2024, we distributed nearly 16 million pounds of food. Each month 1.3 million pounds of food is going out of our statewide distribution center. Sixty-one percent of that product is donated, 25% is from USDA in the form of federal commodities, less than 1% comes from food drives, and 14% of it is purchased. We accept all types of product, including shelf stable products, fresh produce, dairy, bakery items, meat/protein and even non-grocery items like diapers, pet food and paper products.

Food is the most basic human need. It has the power to transform lives; it is medicine and is the foundation upon which strong families are built and communities flourish. There is enough food produced to feed everyone in our great state, yet not all have access to it. As the need for our services grows and evolve, so must we as an organization. As we continue to grow, innovate and bring new programs, services and ideas to end hunger, we have reached our capacity facility-wise.

Our current statewide distribution center in Fargo consists of 3.1 acres, a 45,000 square foot warehouse that holds 59 semi-loads of product, commercial freezer and cooler, 3 loading docks, a volunteer center, houses 45 team members, and is home to our 4 straight trucks, 6 semi-trailers and 3 tractors.

In October 2022, after months of paying for offsite storage, using semi-trailers for food storage instead of transportation, having our HVAC system fail, filling holes or draining water from our parking lot, and a leaky warehouse roof, we embarked on a comprehensive assessment into the quality, maintenance needs and capacity of our facility. We quickly learned that our site and facility had a number of issues and challenges.

Structurally, we are built on a former landfill, and the uncontrolled fill would mean extensive site work for any building. Our ballasted EPDM roof is nearing the need a full replacement. Our exterior warehouse walls have no insulation. There are numerous code issues regarding ADA compliance, including no elevator access to the second floor. The ventilation system lacks current outside air requirements. The warehouse heaters exhaust combustion air back into the warehouse. All ductwork is housed underneath the building. The electrical system is at the end of its life and replacement parts are not readily available. The HVAC system for the office has reached its life cycle and needs full system replacement.

On top of that, the current site doesn't allow for any expansion or growth of warehouse, office space, loading docks or parking lot. Even if we overcame all the challenges and issues identified, we would completely outgrow this facility in 5-8 years.

At the direction of our board of directors, we began researching what a new statewide distribution center would need to include to be effective, efficient, and evolve with our mission, and ultimately what it would cost. We engaged an architect and realtor to work with an internal building committee made up of staff and board members. Together, we toured other food banks, warehouses, office buildings and after several scaled back iterations, determined the right size and design for our current and future needs.

We focused on designing intentionally for food banking and enhancing operational efficiencies. We needed to meet current and projected demands, while having ample growth opportunity and flexible spaces. We needed it to be accessible, durable and prudent.

Ultimately, we landed on a 70,500 square foot space that would:

- Grow our warehouse space by 57%
- Increase pallet racking space by 97%
- Create 6 loading docks for shipping and receiving
- Expand freezer and cooler capacity by 128%
- More than double volunteer capacity to accept groups up to 100
- Add an allergen free repacking room
- Create various workstations and offices for our growing team
- Feature a multi-use community room for events, trainings, meetings
- Allow for workforce development and training programs

We then completed a fundraising feasibility study to gather input and advice from key financial donors on their appetite for a capital project. Throughout the summer of 2023, we learned that there was overwhelming support for a new statewide distribution center and the donors felt that raising \$20 million was feasible.

As we searched for land, we did evaluate whether Fargo was still the right location for our statewide distribution center. Based on the population and need, the intersection of I-94 and I-29, the quantity of food donors and volume of product available, and a strong financial and volunteer base, we confirmed that Fargo was indeed the best location. We have a regional service center located in Bismarck that will serve as our hub to central and western North Dakota.

We tasked our realtor with finding a parcel of land that was close to both interstates, was on or near a public transit route, while staying in the central part of the city. Our realtor identified a parcel of land in the heart of the city, meeting all our requirements, plus it qualified for New Markets Tax Credits. We were able to purchase and close on nearly 9 acres of land in October 2024, in large part due to a Community Development Block Grant – Covid (CDBG-CV) administered through the North Dakota Department of Commerce for \$2 million. Our board of directors allocated the remaining purchase cost out of board-directed reserves.

Once we completed designing for this site, the space allowed for separate truck and car entrances and parking lots, 130+ car parking spaces and ample room for building expansion for all function areas. The estimated cost for all construction and associated expenses to expand services, including a construction inflation rate of around 5%, was \$30.5 million.

Great Plains Food Bank staff and board have been building a strong, 3 year fundraising plan. We officially started fundraising in July 2024 and have raised \$1,212,208 in private contributions so far. On top of that, the \$2 million CDBG-CV grant and the \$900,000 allocated from reserves puts our revenue at \$4,112,208. We plan to sell our current facility, which we own out-right, for an estimated \$2.5 million. The new site also qualifies for New Markets Tax Credits, which should bring in an estimated \$4.5 million. That revenue plan totals \$11,187,208 leaving us with \$19,312,792 to raise.

HB1143 would provide a one-time appropriation of \$5 million to build a larger, more efficient statewide distribution center that would increase the capacity of our entire state's charitable hunger relief efforts. With a larger facility, we can recover, store and safely transport MORE food, to MORE people, in MORE communities, MORE often.

While it's a one-time appropriation, the investment stands to last for decades. The facility is designed to support our mission for the next 40 to 50 years. The bill proposes a dollar-for-dollar match between state funds and privately raised dollars, showing a true public/private partnership. HB1143 is an INCREDIBLE return on the state's investment in our neighbors living with food insecurity in every county across our great state.

HB1143 is about so much more than just a statewide distribution center or a facility. It's about what this statewide distribution center will enable us to do. It'll be a springboard for ending hunger for good. It will allow us to transform, expand and innovate new ways to tackle food insecurity and hunger to meet the growing and changing needs of our neighbors. It sends a message to anyone needing our services that as long as hunger exists, so will we. It provides reassurance that North Dakota children don't go to bed without dinner. It provides relief and hope to seniors who won't have to forgo their medication in order to put a meal on their table. We work towards a future where neighbors are nourished, communities are strong and systems ensure no one is left behind.

On behalf of the 156,479 North Dakotans we proudly serve, the tens of thousands of food and financial donors, charitable hunger relief network, volunteers, staff and board, we ask for your support on HB1143. Hunger hides in plain sight. It is a problem we can, and must, fix. We hope you'll join us and be a part of the solution. This is an opportunity to take a giant leap forward in ending hunger and we appreciate your support and consideration.

Thank you so much and I'd be happy to answer any questions you have.

Testimony for HB 1143**Date Hearing: March 13, 2025**

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Scharlie Kilzer, and I am the Director of the AMEN Food Pantry in Dickinson.

The AMEN Food Pantry mission is to implement a unified community approach to providing food and emergency services to families in Dickinson and the surrounding areas. The AMEN Food Pantry has been successfully serving neighbors for 40 years.

Several years ago, I went through a very needed but difficult transition from a full-time successful manager at a local Dickinson business, living in a 5-bedroom house, to an unemployed single mother looking for a home and food for my children in the matter of days. I went to the AMEN Food Pantry trying to hide my face and my identity because I was so ashamed to be there. A volunteer at the pantry came to me and told me not to be ashamed. She comforted me with a hug as I cried and assured me that there was no shame in being in need. The help we received not only got us through that difficult time but uplifted us spiritually as well. Years later, I saw that AMEN was in need of a director. I instantly knew that I had the passion to help our neighbors, and their families go through their own situations. Today, I am honored to be going into my 5th year as their director.

AMEN's partnership with the Great Plains Food Bank is vital to the AMEN Food Pantry and our mission. Without their support, we would not be able to continue our quarterly Mobile Food Pop-Up, provide children with a full week of healthy meals throughout the summer, and offer our Backpack Program to children during the school months. All of this is in addition to the neighbors we serve monthly at the pantry through open distribution days.

Over the years, I have watched the number of families impacted by food insecurity more than double in our community. HB 114 approval is vital to the AMEN Food pantry to continue and expand many of our successful programs and meet the ever-increasing needs of our surrounding area while supporting and purchasing from our rural and local retailers. It's more than just a statewide distribution center or a facility, it's an opportunity to meet those needs that I see in Dickinson and the surrounding area.

I ask you today to be a crucial part in our mission by acting as a Hunger Hero for your state and approving HB 1143.

Respectfully,

Scharlie Kilzer



For a Better Way of Life.®

P.O. Box 2847 • Fargo, ND 58108-2847

**TESTIMONY BY AMY MAZIGIAN IN FAVOR OF HB1143 TO MEMBERS OF THE
SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Hearing Date:
MARCH 13, 2025)**

Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee Members,

Good afternoon. My name is Amy Mazigian, and I serve as Gate City Bank's Senior Vice President of Western North Dakota. For over 25 years, Gate City Bank has proudly partnered with the Great Plains Food Bank, supporting its bold mission to end hunger across North Dakota. Our bank has a long-standing history of giving back to the places where we live and work, driven by our commitment to creating a better way of life. Through charitable donations, team member volunteerism and in-kind gifts, we are honored to stand alongside the Great Plains Food Bank in helping those in need.

Today, I am here to share Gate City Bank's support of House Bill 1143, which calls for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food distribution facility grant program. This one-time investment by the North Dakota Legislature represents a meaningful step forward, fostering hope and expanding opportunities for hunger relief efforts through increased volunteer engagement. Ending hunger is a shared responsibility, and we are honored to support the Great Plains Food Bank mission through this important partnership.

For nonprofits, volunteers serve as the backbone of their operations – bolstering the organization's capacity to fulfill its purpose. This certainly is the case for the Great Plains Food Bank. Annually, more than 5,000 individuals of all ages from the faith, education, civic and business community share more than 15,200 hours of their time (valued at \$506,768¹ – or the equivalent of 7.3 fulltime employees) preparing millions of pounds of surplus food for statewide distribution. Gate City Bank is proud to be a part of this vital work, contributing over 1,700 total volunteer hours at the current Great Plains Food Bank statewide distribution facility in Fargo, their regional service center operations in Bismarck and in dozens of communities statewide aiding in their community food distribution efforts.

Gate City Bank team members help repack bulk food items received from their food industry partners, fill backpacks with child-friendly foods that are sent home with kids on Friday ensuring they have food to eat over the weekend, assemble mobile food pantry boxes that are delivered into underserved communities, build senior food pack boxes provided to income-eligible seniors and help distribute this food off the back of the Great Plains Food Bank semi directly to families living with food insecurity when the truck rolls into their town.

¹ <https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>

Continued on Page 2

701-293-2400 • 800-423-3344 • GateCity.Bank





For a Better Way of Life.®

P.O. Box 2847 • Fargo, ND 58108-2847

In September, at the Gate City Bank West Region Leadership Meeting, we concluded the day with a group volunteer session at Great Plains Food Bank in Bismarck. Many leaders expressed that it was the most rewarding volunteer event they had ever experienced. Some shared how fulfilling it is to make a difference, describing the pride they feel in supporting their neighbors and helping provide hope through something as essential as food. They also spoke of the camaraderie built during these volunteer efforts and the sense of purpose that comes from knowing their time directly contributes to a brighter future for their communities. One Gate City Bank volunteer remarked, "Great Plains Food Bank is truly an inspiration to our team members and others. We are deeply grateful for their dedication to feeding our communities." Indeed, our gratitude is immense. It takes the collective efforts of legislators, volunteers, business leaders, and many more to ensure that we continue to support those in need across our state.

If passed, HB1143 will enable the Great Plains Food Bank to expand and enhance these efforts. The Great Plains Food Bank will invest dollars in the volunteer experience, supporting their operations to bring more food to more people, more often. Dollars will be allocated toward their volunteer engagement center, which will provide increased space for up to 100 volunteers at a time – doubling the existing capacity. It will provide an elevated experience for volunteers with the addition of a welcome center, lockers and comfort stations. And it will provide for an allergen repack room, expanding the types and quantities of food available to be repacked for statewide distribution. Without this investment in vital volunteer force, hunger relief efforts across North Dakota will be stifled.

In closing, Gate City Bank and our team members are honored to volunteer alongside the Great Plains Food Bank in the shared mission to end hunger for our neighbors in need. We respectfully ask for your support and to vote DO PASS on HB1143.

Sincerely,

Amy Mazigian
SVP of Western North Dakota
Gate City Bank

701-293-2400 • 800-423-3344 • GateCity.Bank



This would be a great way to help support our food banks throughout the state and possibly help some schools out. We're a ag state so it makes a good amount of sense

Testimony for HB 1143

March 12, 2025

Dear Chair Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veteran Affairs Committee,

As a local partner of the Great Plains Food Bank, I see firsthand how vital its work is to our community, Ward County, and the entire state of North Dakota. Every week, families rely on local food pantries like ours to put meals on the table, and the demand has only grown. There is only 1 food bank in the state and they can't operate efficiently without the right infrastructure. That's why I strongly support House Bill 1143, which would provide a \$10 million state investment to help build a new statewide food distribution center—a facility designed to serve North Dakotans for the next 40-50 years.

This is not just a building—it's a long-term solution to fight hunger. With more space, modern infrastructure, and increased cooler and freezer storage capacity, the new facility will allow Great Plains Food Bank to rescue and distribute more food, reach more communities like ours, and respond faster to emergencies. The best part? This investment matches private dollars already being raised, ensuring a dollar-for-dollar public-private partnership that maximizes impact without overburdening state resources.

North Dakota has the food, the generosity, and the means to ensure no one in our state goes hungry. Now, we need the infrastructure to make it happen. I humbly ask lawmakers to support HB 1143 and make this critical investment in our state's future.

Mary Carlson, Co-Chair

The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry

Minot, ND. 58701

Testimony for HB 1143**Date Hearing: March 13th, 2025**

Dear Chair Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veteran Affairs Committee,

I am Stacey Ackerman, Vice Chair of the Great Plains Food Bank and have been a board member for over 5 years.

I have had a passion for the mission ever since hearing the story of my father, who lost his father when he was around 5 years old. My Grandmother Rose brought in laundry for income to do her best to feed her family, but there were many nights that there was not anything to eat. At that time, there were no organizations like the Great Plains Food Bank to help. Now, 75 years later, we still have neighbors who are going to bed hungry. Students who arrive at school on Monday mornings are not ready to learn. Seniors who face trade-offs between their medicine or food, both are vital for health. Parents who face the choice of keeping their lights on or fixing their car versus buying food for dinner. Food and hunger are basic needs, but hunger is a workforce issue. Hunger is an education issue. Hunger is a health issue.

We are truly blessed to be in North Dakota with abundant resources and with agriculture as our most significant economic driver. Our farmers and ranchers feed the world. We are blessed with low unemployment at just over 2% and a strong education system. However, we face unique challenges with transportation, access to medical care, and wages not keeping up with inflation.

The Great Plains Food Bank does essential work to ensure that the citizens in every county of North Dakota have healthy food, so that they can do their best at school, work, and home. They also work tirelessly to keep good food out of landfills. But every day, we make tradeoffs of what we can support effectively with our staff, finances, and our facilities in Bismarck and Fargo. We have come to a time where our current building no longer meets our needs.

We are in dire need of a building that can ensure that we continue to support the hundreds of communities across the entire state. This new facility will also us to more efficiently recover food, educate our citizens on healthy food choices and preparation, and engage more effectively with our volunteers, employees, communities, and neighbors. We have made do, but as Melissa shared, the costs of maintenance are no longer serving us and in many cases there are no more easy or quick fixes. Furthermore, nationally, there is an awareness of how food impacts our health, and we can be at the forefront of that movement in North Dakota. We really do have the opportunity to be the first hunger-free state in the nation and this investment will help us get there.

We ask you to support an investment in our infrastructure thereby helping us build for the future as we continue to serve our children, seniors, Veterans, and caregivers.

"It was once said that the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and..." - Hubert H. Humphrey

Thank you for your consideration, and on behalf of the board of directors, we ask for your support of HB1143.

Respectfully,
Stacey Ackerman



Dream Center Bismarck
1805 Park Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58504

March 12, 2025

Chairman Luick & Senate Agriculture & Veterans Affairs Committee:

My name is Jim Barnhardt. I am the Founder and Executive Director of Dream Center Bismarck. I am a full-time volunteer at the Dream Center and also own a main street Bismarck, small business. My story with Dream Center Bismarck started with a vision God gave me on May 29, 2016. The vision was for a meal ministry surrounded by free services to help those in need. In March of 2019, we were sanctioned as a Dream Center. By June of 2019, in collaboration with Bismarck Public Schools and Great Plains Food Bank, we started our Adopt-a-Block mobile grocery distribution in the parking lots of South Central High School and Jeannette Myhre School. When COVID came along in March/April of 2020, we once again collaborated with Great Plains Food Bank and the Bismarck and Mandan Public Schools and expanded our mobile grocery distribution to six days a week. In April of 2022, Dream Center Bismarck opened our new 24,300 square foot facility at 1805 Park Avenue in Bismarck. Site selection was helped with input from Bismarck Public Schools and once again, Great Plains Food Bank was there.

Due to the need in our community, the Dream Center has grown rapidly and was responsible for 1.1 million meals in our community this last year, and the need is growing. In addition to all those meals, we work with entities like Northland Health, Bismarck/Burleigh Public Health, CHI, NDSU Extension, Job Service ND, Bridging the Dental Gap, Sanford Health, Celebrate Recovery, Narcotics Anonymous, Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People and many others to bring in free services that help our low-income or homeless clients get to a better place in life. As we say "it's all about the food." Food breaks down barriers to opportunities. Whether you're a kid in school or an adult trying to work – it's hard to function if you are hungry.

Last year, through Great Plains Food Bank, we received over one million pounds of grocery product. Roughly half of that came from the Great Plains Food Bank warehouse in Fargo. Most of the other 50% of product we receive comes from food rescue initiative, a program coordinated by Great Plains Food Bank in which we pick up food product from stores like Costco, Cash Wise, Family Fare and others. Over a million pounds of food. And that's just the Dream Center. Great Plains Food Bank serves over 180 food pantries.

Continued Page 2



Since opening less than three years ago, the Dream Center has seen the need grow, not just for ourselves, but for other entities serving those needing assistance. As the only food bank in the state, Great Plains Food Bank has a big job. If it wouldn't be for Great Plains Food Bank, it would have been nearly impossible for Dream Center Bismarck to distribute those one million meals last year. Our partnership is simply that important.

Dream Center Bismarck is just one of over 180 entities served by Great Plains Food Bank. Passage of House Bill #1143 is critical to the future of our state. Many families with children, seniors and the vulnerable would simply not be able to make it without those 180 entities served by Great Plains Food Bank. Food is a basic need. Whether it's a family with children, our seniors, or anyone else, they should not have to worry about where their next meal will come from. North Dakota is a prosperous and growing state. Let's not let the low-income and marginalized struggle with food insecurity. The need is growing, and our efforts need to too. Please, consider passing House Bill #1143 so Great Plains Food Bank can expand and continue to serve the over 180 entities across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Barnhardt'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jim Barnhardt
Founder & Executive Director
Dream Center Bismarck
701-955-2150



Contact:
Matt Perdue, Lobbyist
mperdue@ndfu.org | 701.641.3303

**Testimony of
Matt Perdue
North Dakota Farmers Union
Before the
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
March 13, 2025**

Chairman Beltz and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1143. My name is Matt Perdue, and I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Farmers Union's members. NDFU supports HB 1143.

HB 1143 provides \$5 million to match private and non-state contributions for the construction of food distribution facility. Our members are proud of their work to provide food, fiber and fuel for our country. We also feel an obligation "to support our neighbors who are hungry, many of whom are in rural communities."

The Great Plains Food Bank is the only food bank in North Dakota. Eighty-eight percent of all the food that passes through our state's charitable food network is sourced or purchased by Great Plains Food Bank. They support every community in the state, from Grafton to Golve. NDFU is a strong supporter of Great Plains Food Bank and has partnered with them through food and financial contributions and to provide locally-sourced foods to communities.

Supporting a new food distribution facility will help the Great Plains Food Bank increase the amount of food distributed throughout the state. This will allow them to serve more people and more communities.

We encourage a "Do Pass" recommendation on HB 1143. We look forward to collaborating with you and the Great Plains Food Bank to address food insecurity in our state. I will stand for any questions.

Chairman Beltz & House Agriculture Committee,

My name is Emma McIntyre, and I am a Board Member for the Great Plains Food Bank as well as a lifelong North Dakota resident. As a North Dakotan in my 20s, I couldn't think of a more impactful way to give my time than by supporting an organization dedicated to ensuring that no senior, child, or family in our state has to go to bed hungry.

I am here today to ask for your support of **HB 1143**, a bill that will strengthen our ability to fight hunger **across** North Dakota. This is not just an investment in a facility—it is an investment in our communities, our economy, and the next generation of North Dakotans.

With food insecurity on the rise, we know this will affect our children most of all. The National Library of Medicine cites that food insecurity is associated with lower cognitive indicators, including diminished reading and mathematics proficiency. I ask you to give this generation the tools it needs to become productive citizens, and food is a great first step.

Hunger does not discriminate by county line or economic status; it affects rural and urban communities alike. It impacts children who struggle to focus in school, parents making impossible choices between food and rent, and seniors who have spent their lives building this state and now face food insecurity. By supporting this bill, you are ensuring that the Great Plains Food Bank has the capacity to serve all 53 counties in North Dakota with greater efficiency, better infrastructure, and expanded reach.

As a young leader in North Dakota, I look to you—the stewards of our state—to provide us with the tools we need to build a future where hunger is no longer a reality. This investment is a gift to every North Dakotan, ensuring that we grow up in a state where our neighbors don't have to rely on luck to know where their next meal will come from.

I urge you to **pass HB 1143** and help us take a meaningful step toward ending hunger in North Dakota.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Emma McIntyre

Board Member, Great Plains Food Bank

COMMISSIONER
DOUG GOEHRING



ndda@nd.gov
www.ndda.nd.gov

NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE CAPITOL
600 E. BOULEVARD AVE. - DEPT. 602
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0020

Testimony of Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs
Fort Union
March 13, 2025

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, I am Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here today in support of HB 1143, which provides a 5 million dollar appropriation for a grant program for food distribution facilities.

During the last biennium, two programs from state and federal funds were administered by my department. Statewide Food distribution program purchased over \$638,000 worth of food through 20 local vendors and was distributed to 164 food pantry sites. The Local foods purchase cooperative agreement program sourced products from 35 local vendors and was distributed to 238 local food pantries in 50 counties to 145,000 plus individuals.

Chairman Luick and committee members, thank you for your time and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

2025 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1143

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division Red River Room, State Capitol

HB 1143
3/31/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food distribution facility grant program.

10:00 a.m. Vice-Chair Dwyer opened the meeting.

Members present: Vice-Chair Dwyer, Senator Burckhard, Senator Erbele, and Senator Sickler. Member absent: Senator Wanzek.

Discussion Topics:

- Mobile food pantry
- 240 local, non-profit food pantries served by Great Plains Food Bank
- Direct service programs
- Verification of recipients' qualifications for benefits
- Study of maintenance needs and site of existing food bank facility
- Regional site in Bismarck
- Fund-raising plan
- Public-private partnership, including Minnesota
- Existing state support: funds to purchase local food products for distribution
- Causes of increasing demand for food assistance

10:01 a.m. Representative Pyle, District 22, introduced HB 1143 and submitted testimony #44424.

10:05 a.m. Doug Goehring, Commissioner, ND Department of Agriculture, testified in favor.

10:07 a.m. Melissa Sobolik, CEO, Great Plains Food Bank, testified in favor, responded to committee questions, and submitted testimony #44411, #44412, #44413, and #44481.

10:26 a.m. Matt Perdue, Government Relations Director, ND Farmers Union, testified in favor.

10:32 a.m. Parrell Grossman, Legislative Director, ND Soybean Growers Association, testified in favor.

Additional written testimony:

Jeffrey Quam, submitted testimony #44406 in favor.

10:33 a.m. Vice-Chair Dwyer closed the hearing.

Carol Thompson, Committee Clerk

I support this SB 1143 for support for the food bank. The recipients are some of our most vulnerable citizens. Please vote in favor.



**GREAT PLAINS
FOOD BANK**



DeShawn and her granddaughter, Elena

ENDING HUNGER TOGETHER IN YOUR COMMUNITY

For over 40 years, the Great Plains Food Bank has been a **lifeline for families** and individuals facing hunger as the **only food bank** serving all of North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota. Our unique position allows us to evaluate, serve, and respond to the evolving needs of communities across the entire region. With a statewide reach and a deep understanding of **local solutions**, we are committed to **ending hunger today, tomorrow and for good.**

GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK OUR PARTNERS

VOLUNTEERS

15,000 hours are shared.
5000 people of all ages sort,
re-pack, label, build food
boxes, and help distribute
this food statewide.

FINANCIAL DONORS

Food for 20 meals is provided
for every \$10 gifted. Individuals,
businesses, churches, foundations,
and government entities invest
their resources.

FOOD INDUSTRY

15 million pounds
of food are sourced
and rescued.
Growers, processors,
manufacturers and
retailers donate food
that would otherwise
go to waste.

PARTNER NETWORK

Nutritious food supplied
by the Great Plains Food
Bank is then distributed
by 185 food pantries,
shelters and soup
kitchens operating in
105 communities.

NEIGHBORS

The 1 in 6 neighbors facing food insecurity
are at the center of our work.

LOCAL IMPACT



Norma

Today, the GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK provides food for

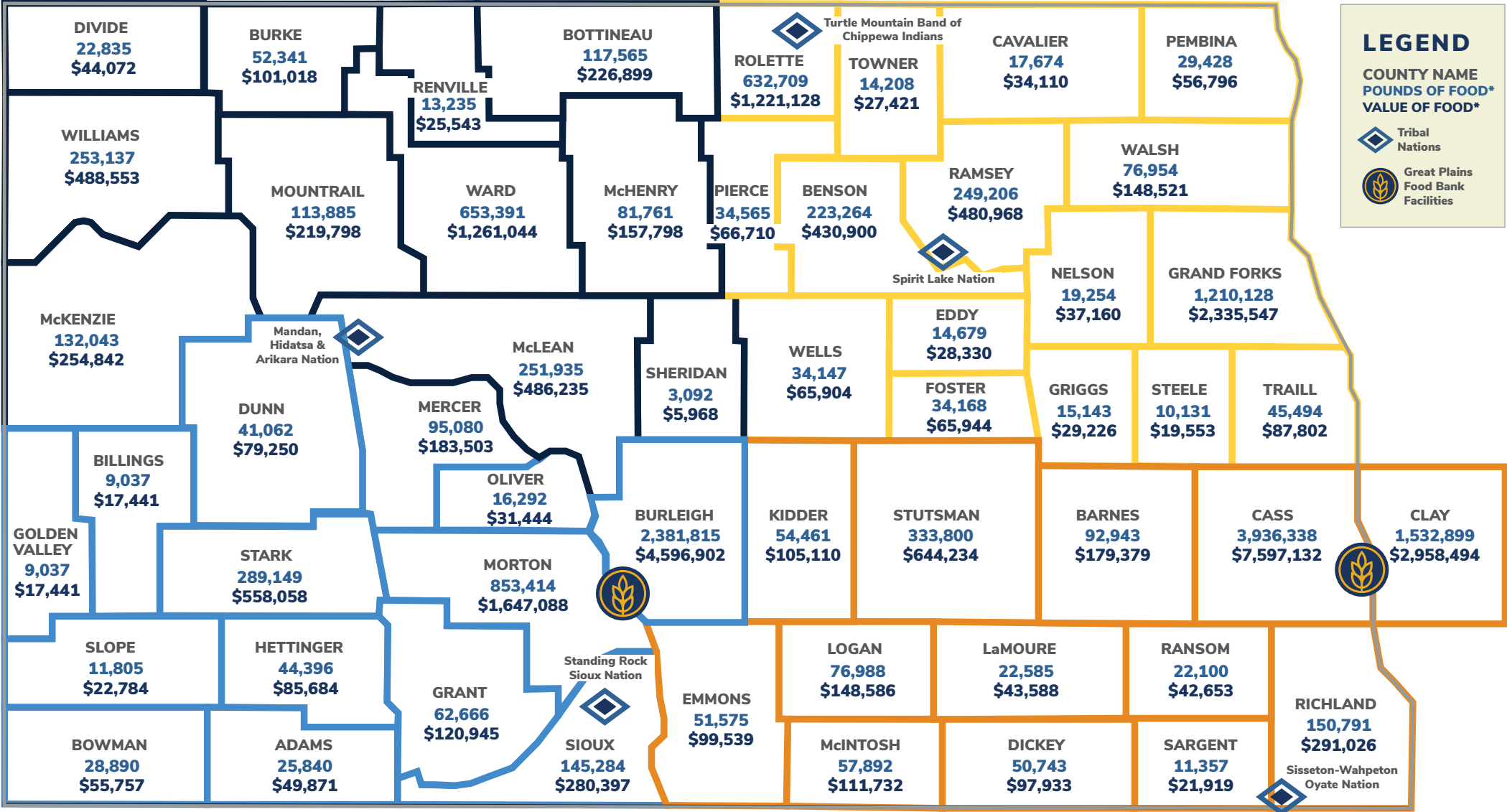
**12.8 MILLION
MEALS ANNUALLY**

185
GREAT PLAINS
FOOD BANK
partner agencies
operating in
105
communities



88%
of all food that moves through
the statewide partner agency
network is sourced and/
or facilitated by the GREAT
PLAINS FOOD BANK

GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK SERVICE AREA



DIRECT SERVICE PROGRAMS

The Great Plains Food Bank's direct service programs are dedicated to **filling gaps, reducing barriers, and increasing access to nutritious food** for those in need. Through innovation and hunger prevention efforts, we create solutions that reach underserved populations and unserved communities.

Our work is strengthened by invaluable community partnerships and champions, whose support allows us to make a meaningful impact and bring hope to every corner of our service area. **Together, we are nourishing neighbors, strengthening communities, and ensuring systems leave no one behind.**

GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK DIRECT SERVICE PROGRAMS

	SW	NW	NE	SE
BackPack Program	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Youth Summer Meals	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
School Pantries	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Mobile Food Pantry	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Senior Food Pack Program	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Wellness Pantries	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Kitchen Coalition	🍏			🍏
SNAP Outreach	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Cultural Food Pop-Up Distributions	🍏			🍏
Disaster Response	🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏
Tribal Elder Nourishment Box Program - Coming Soon				

To learn more about these programs in your community, visit GreatPlainsFoodBank.org.

*Total pounds of fresh and shelf-stable food sourced and directly delivered by the Great Plains Food Bank to food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens operating within the county. Reporting period: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.

*Calculation based on the estimated total wholesale value of Feeding America product donations at an average price of \$1.93 per gross pound for 29 product categories that comprise the donations. The Great Plains Food Bank is a partner food bank of Feeding America.

OUR NEIGHBORS

145,409 INDIVIDUALS SERVED

35%
CHILDREN



15%
SENIORS



14%
VETERANS



13%
SINGLE
CAREGIVERS



1 IN 6
PEOPLE



1 IN 4
CHILDREN



75%
reported
experiencing at
least one chronic
health condition.



41%
attended college,
trade school or hold
an advanced degree.



1 IN 3
do not have access to a
WORKING VEHICLE.



Native American,
American Indian and
Alaska Native neighbors
face hunger at
7X THE RATE
of other communities.

Data gleaned as part of *Hunger on the Plains 2023*, a study conducted by the Great Plains Food Bank. The full report and executive study can be found at GreatPlainsFoodBank.org/HOTP.

John and his
daughter, Riley



The Harvesting Hope campaign has a bold \$30.5 million goal to build the infrastructure, expand statewide programs, and develop the long-term sustainability needed to end hunger today, tomorrow and for good.

This campaign will enable us to **more than double** the amount of food distributed per year and **expand** and **strengthen** hunger-relief programs and services in **more communities**.

Hunger is a problem we can - and must - fix.
You are an important part of the solution.

Your support will bring more than food to your neighbors, you will **harvest hope** for a brighter future where children, older adults and families **thrive. Join us!**

For more information, contact:
Marcia Paulson
Chief Development Officer
701.476.9101
mpaulson@greatplainsfoodbank.org

Scan for Harvesting Hope
campaign updates and
opportunities to give.



GREATPLAINSFOODBANK.ORG

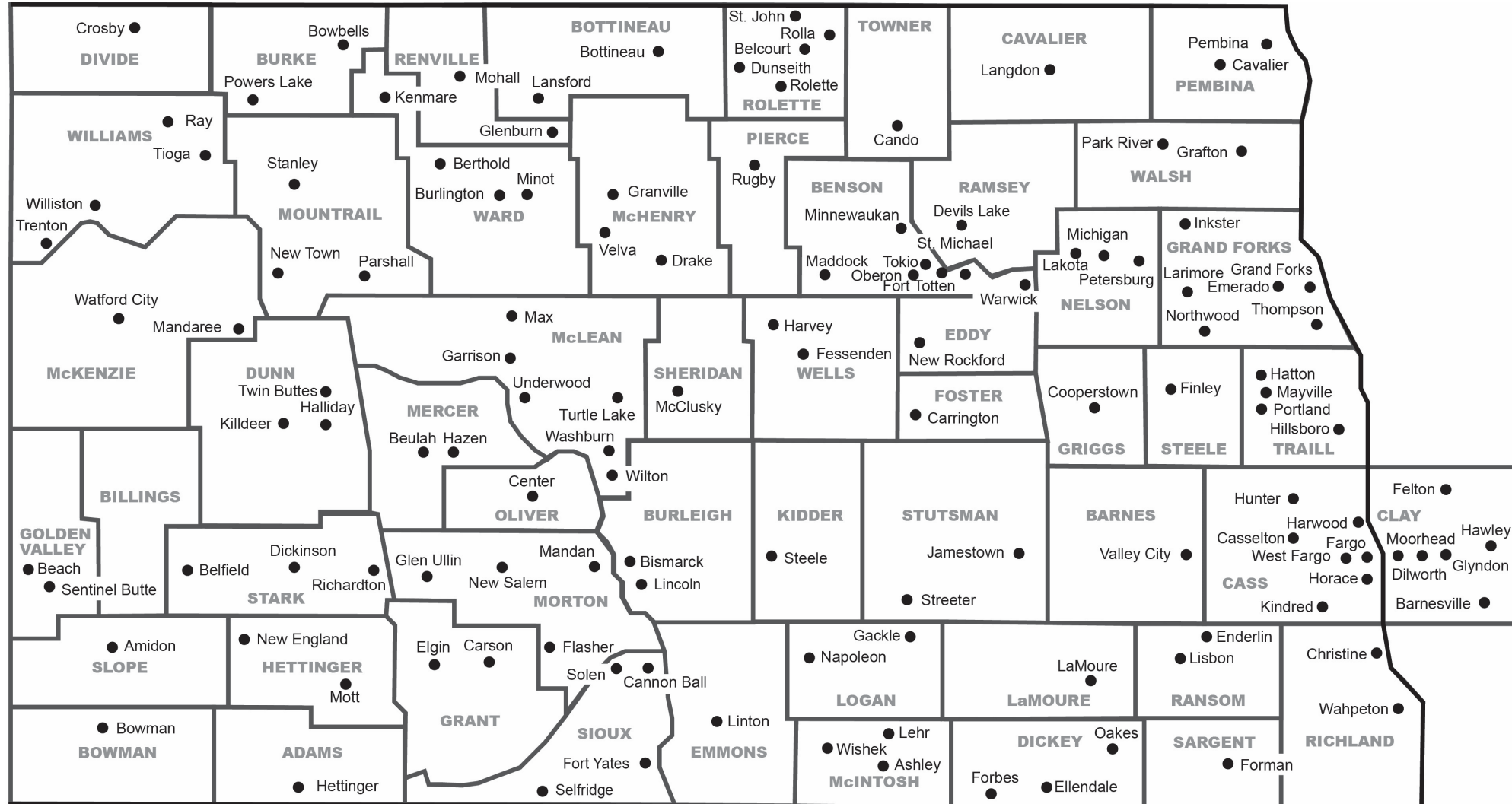


**GREAT PLAINS
FOOD BANK**

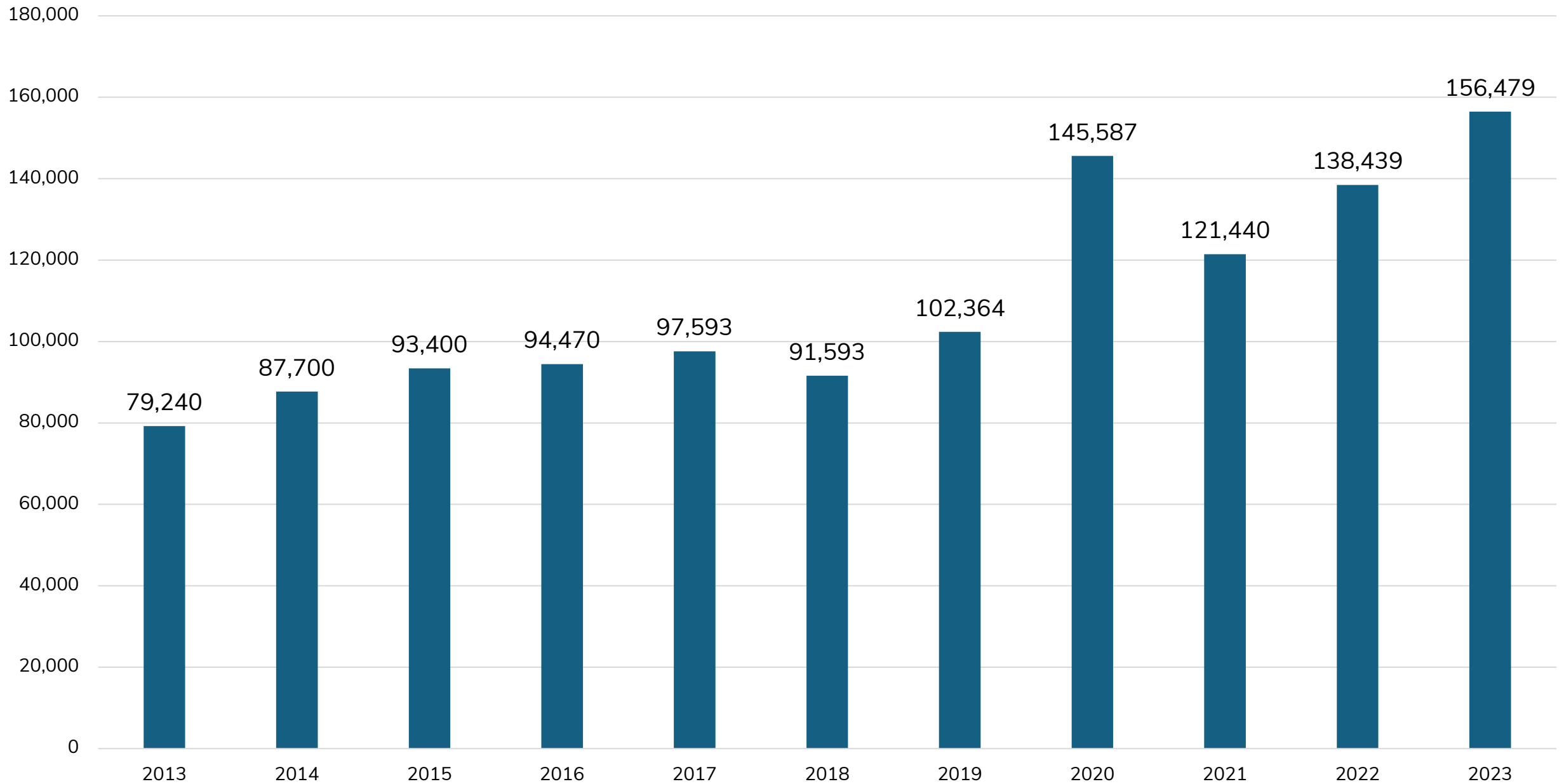
Melissa Sobolik
CEO



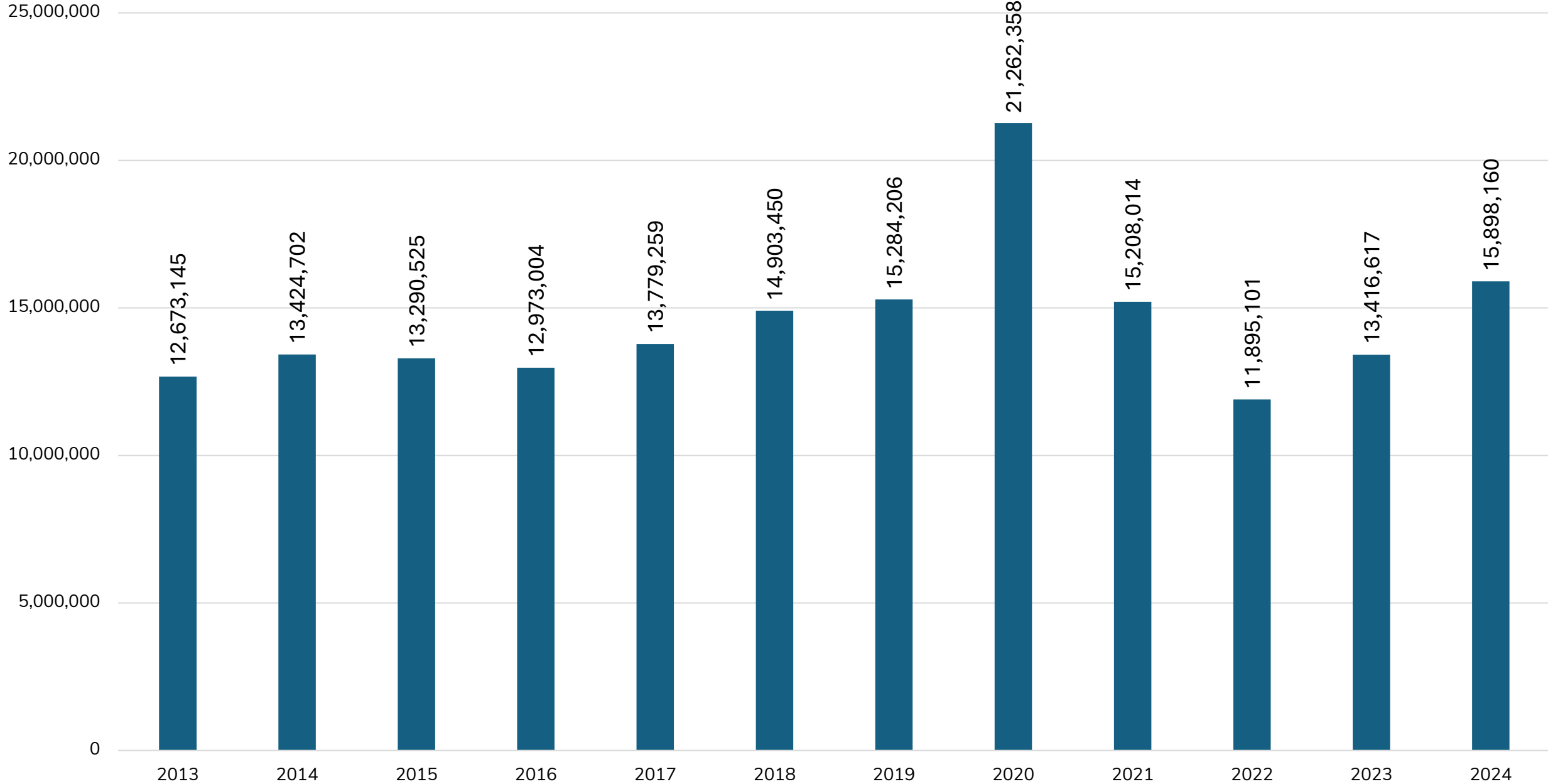
Service Map



Individuals Served

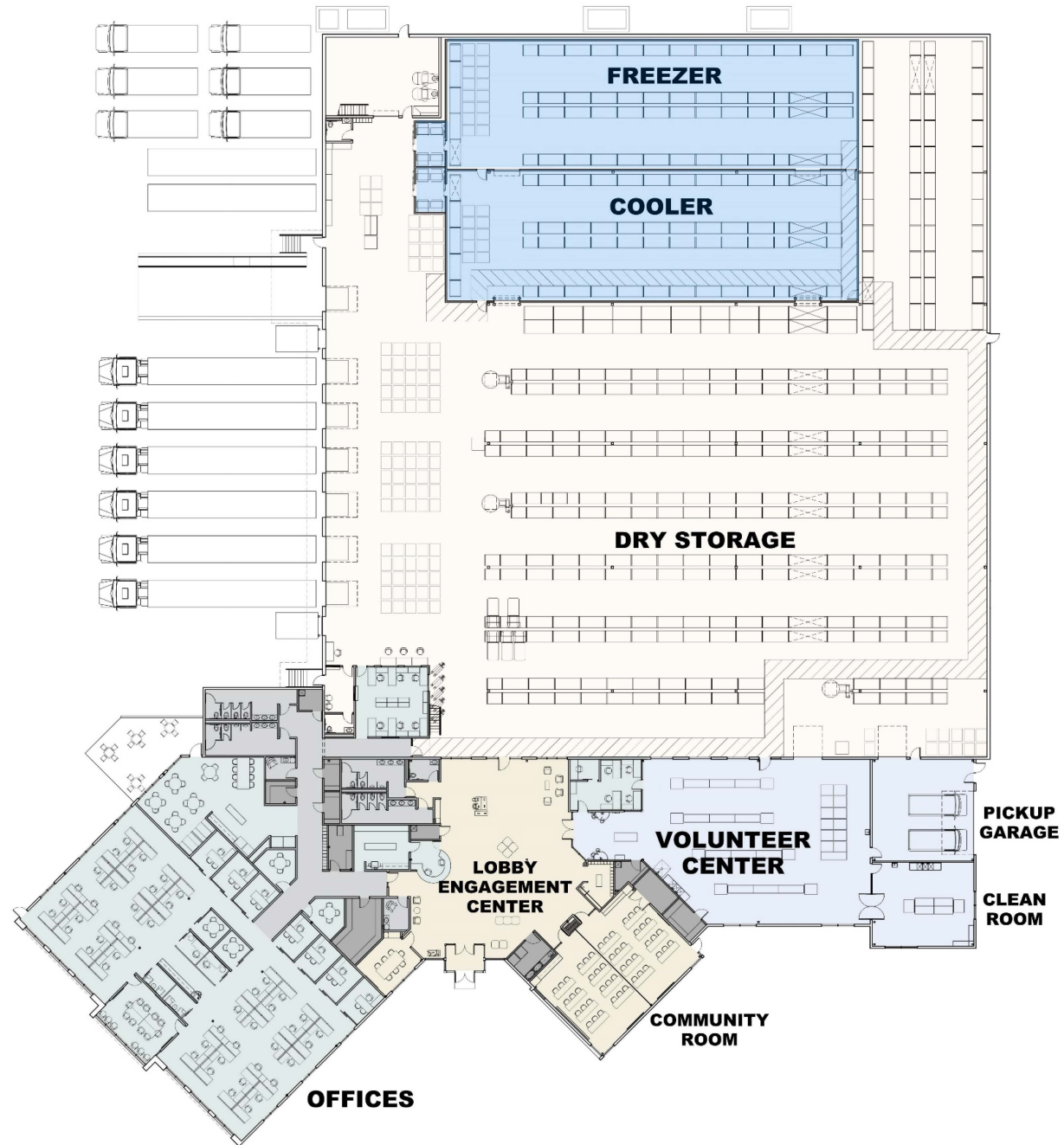


Pounds Distributed







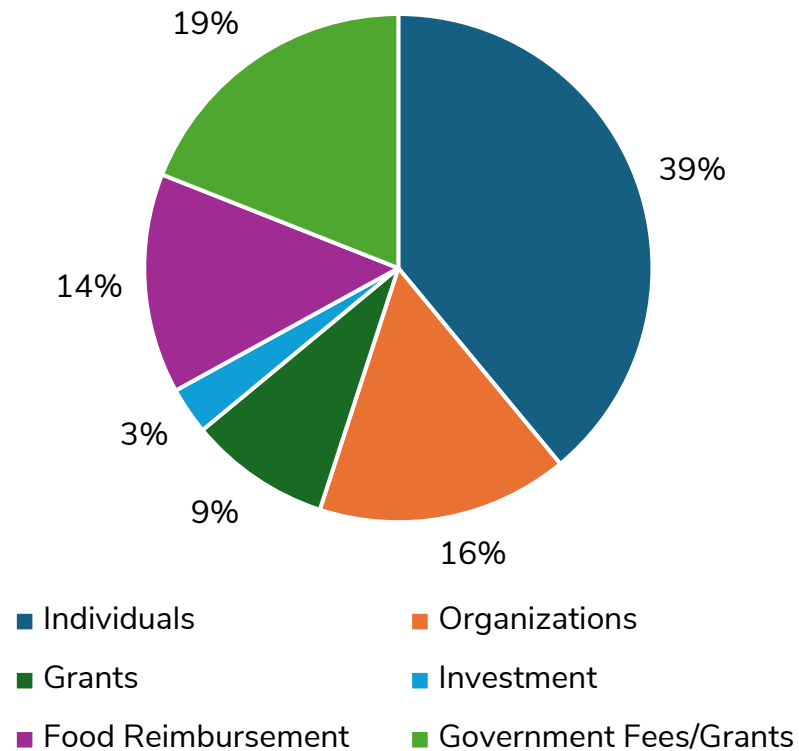




Revenue



Annual Support



Total Cost New Facility **\$30,500,000**

Revenue	\$11,187,208
Private Contributions	1,212,208
CDBG-CV Grant	2,000,000
GPFB Reserves	900,000
Building Sale*	2,500,000
New Markets Tax Credits*	4,575,000
Remaining	\$19,312,792



March 31, 2025

HB1143: Food distribution facility grant program

Melissa Sobolik, CEO, Great Plains Food Bank

Chairman Wanzek and Senate Appropriations Government Operations Committee Members,

I am Melissa Sobolik, the CEO of the Great Plains Food Bank and it is my pleasure to offer testimony and support for House Bill 1143.

ND prides itself on growing food to feed the world, yet last year alone more than 156,000 North Dakotans visited a food pantry or soup kitchen. That's one in five of our neighbors and one in three children. We and the state's charitable feeding network responded and were able to distribute nearly 16 million pounds of food to them.

The Great Plains Food Bank proudly serves as North Dakota's only food bank and its largest hunger relief organization. We, like all food banks across the nation, are set up to recover surplus food that would otherwise go to waste and get it into the hands of those who need it. Over the past 41 years we have recovered and distributed 294 million pounds of food to neighbors in every county across North Dakota. We have built strong relationships with growers, producers, ranchers, retailers, manufacturers and the food industry to find, recover and in some cases, purchase, food. We bring that product into either our statewide distribution center in Fargo or regional service center in Bismarck, where it is inventoried and safely stored prior to distribution. Every item is entered into an online inventory software, and our partner network of nearly 200 food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters place their order, much like any online shopping, and then we pick their order, load it onto one of our semi-trucks and deliver it directly to their door monthly. They are then able to stock their shelves, make their meals, and serve those in need in their respective communities. They are a cornerstone of the charitable hunger relief network, as are our food and financial donors and volunteers. Ending hunger is a shared responsibility and are honored to work alongside them to make North Dakota hunger-free.

We also offer an array of direct service programs to fill gaps, reduce barriers and increase access, like our Mobile Food Pantry, Backpack Program, Senior Food Pack Program, Youth Summer Meals, Wellness Pantries, and more.

Our mission is to END HUNGER TOGETHER and we do this by focusing our energy and resources on ending hunger TODAY, TOMORROW, and FOR GOOD. We aim to work ourselves out of a job, but unfortunately, we aren't there yet.

In the past 10 years, we have watched the need for food assistance grow. From 2013 to 2023, there was a 97% increase in the number of people seeking food assistance. Reaching a record high of 156,479 individuals in 2023.

Which correlates with an increase in food distributed. In 2024, we distributed nearly 16 million pounds of food. Each month 1.3 million pounds of food is going out of our statewide distribution center. Sixty-one percent of that product is donated, 25% is from USDA in the form of federal commodities, less than 1% comes from food drives, and 14% of it is purchased. We accept all types of product, including shelf stable products, fresh produce, dairy, bakery items, meat/protein and even non-grocery items like diapers, pet food and paper products.

Food is the most basic human need. It has the power to transform lives; it is medicine and is the foundation upon which strong families are built and communities flourish. There is enough food produced to feed everyone in our great state, yet not all have access to it. As the need for our services grows and evolve, so must we as an organization. As we continue to grow, innovate and bring new programs, services and ideas to end hunger, we have reached our capacity facility-wise.

Our current statewide distribution center in Fargo consists of 3.1 acres, a 45,000 square foot warehouse that holds 59 semi-loads of product, commercial freezer and cooler, 3 loading docks, a volunteer center, houses 45 team members, and is home to our 4 straight trucks, 6 semi-trailers and 3 tractors.

In October 2022, after months of paying for offsite storage, using semi-trailers for food storage instead of transportation, having our HVAC system fail, filling holes or draining water from our parking lot, and a leaky warehouse roof, we embarked on a comprehensive assessment into the quality, maintenance needs and capacity of our facility. We quickly learned that our site and facility had a number of issues and challenges.

Structurally, we are built on a former landfill, and the uncontrolled fill would mean extensive site work for any building. Our ballasted EPDM roof is nearing the need a full replacement. Our exterior warehouse walls have no insulation. There are numerous code issues regarding ADA compliance, including no elevator access to the second floor. The ventilation system lacks current outside air requirements. The warehouse heaters exhaust combustion air back into the warehouse. All ductwork is housed underneath the building. The electrical system is at the end of its life and replacement parts are not readily available. The HVAC system for the office has reached its life cycle and needs full system replacement.

On top of that, the current site doesn't allow for any expansion or growth of warehouse, office space, loading docks or parking lot. Even if we overcame all the challenges and issues identified, we would completely outgrow this facility in 5-8 years.

At the direction of our board of directors, we began researching what a new statewide distribution center would need to include to be effective, efficient, and evolve with our mission, and ultimately what it would cost. We engaged an architect and realtor to work with an internal building committee made up of staff and board members. Together, we toured other food banks, warehouses, office buildings and after several scaled back iterations, determined the right size and design for our current and future needs.

We focused on designing intentionally for food banking and enhancing operational efficiencies. We needed to meet current and projected demands, while having ample growth opportunity and flexible spaces. We needed it to be accessible, durable and prudent.

Ultimately, we landed on a 70,500 square foot space that would:

- Grow our warehouse space by 57%
- Increase pallet racking space by 97%
- Create 6 loading docks for shipping and receiving
- Expand freezer and cooler capacity by 128%
- More than double volunteer capacity to accept groups up to 100
- Add an allergen free repacking room
- Create various workstations and offices for our growing team
- Feature a multi-use community room for events, trainings, meetings
- Allow for workforce development and training programs

We then completed a fundraising feasibility study to gather input and advice from key financial donors on their appetite for a capital project. Throughout the summer of 2023, we learned that there was overwhelming support for a new statewide distribution center and the donors felt that raising \$20 million was feasible.

As we searched for land, we did evaluate whether Fargo was still the right location for our statewide distribution center. Based on the population and need, the intersection of I-94 and I-29, the quantity of food donors and volume of product available, and a strong financial and volunteer base, we confirmed that Fargo was indeed the best location. We have a regional service center located in Bismarck that will serve as our hub to central and western North Dakota.

We tasked our realtor with finding a parcel of land that was close to both interstates, was on or near a public transit route, while staying in the central part of the city. Our realtor identified a parcel of land in the heart of the city, meeting all our requirements, plus it qualified for New Markets Tax Credits. We were able to purchase and close on nearly 9 acres of land in October 2024, in large part due to a Community Development Block Grant – Covid (CDBG-CV) administered through the North Dakota Department of Commerce for \$2 million. Our board of directors allocated the remaining purchase cost out of board-directed reserves.

Once we completed designing for this site, the space allowed for separate truck and car entrances and parking lots, 130+ car parking spaces and ample room for building expansion for all function areas. The estimated cost for all construction and associated expenses to expand services, including a construction inflation rate of around 5%, was \$30.5 million.

Great Plains Food Bank staff and board have been building a strong, 3 year fundraising plan. We officially started fundraising in July 2024 and have raised \$1,212,208 in private contributions so far. On top of that, the \$2 million CDBG-CV grant and the \$900,000 allocated from reserves, puts our revenue at \$4,112,208. We plan to sell our current facility, which we own out-right, for an estimated \$2.5 million. The new site also qualifies for New Markets Tax Credits, which should bring in an estimated \$4.5 million. That revenue plan totals \$11,187,208 leaving us with \$19,312,792 to raise.

HB1143 would provide a one-time appropriation of \$5 million to build a larger, more efficient statewide distribution center that would increase the capacity of our entire state's charitable hunger relief efforts. With a larger facility, we can recover, store and safely transport MORE food, to MORE people, in MORE communities, MORE often.

While it's a one-time appropriation, the investment stands to last for decades. The facility is designed to support our mission for the next 40 to 50 years. The bill proposes a dollar-for-dollar match between state funds and privately raised dollars, showing a true public/private partnership. HB1143 is an INCREDIBLE return on the state's investment in our neighbors living with food insecurity in every county across our great state.

HB1143 is about so much more than just a statewide distribution center or a facility. It's about what this statewide distribution center will enable us to do. It'll be a springboard for ending hunger for good. It will allow us to transform, expand and innovate new ways to tackle food insecurity and hunger to meet the growing and changing needs of our neighbors. It sends a message to anyone needing our services that as long as hunger exists, so will we. It provides reassurance that North Dakota children don't go to bed without dinner. It provides relief and hope to seniors who won't have to forgo their medication in order to put a meal on their table. We work towards a future where neighbors are nourished, communities are strong and systems ensure no one is left behind.

On behalf of the 156,479 North Dakotans we proudly serve, the tens of thousands of food and financial donors, charitable hunger relief network, volunteers, staff and board, we ask for your support on HB1143. Hunger hides in plain sight. It is a problem we can, and must, fix. We hope you'll join us and be a part of the solution. This is an opportunity to take a giant leap forward in ending hunger and we appreciate your support and consideration.

Thank you so much and I'd be happy to answer any questions you have.



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Brandy Pyle

District 22
P.O. Box 337
Casselton, ND 58012-0337
bpyle@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations

HB 1143

Good morning, Chair Wanzek and members of the Senate Government Operations Appropriations section.

Today, I am proud to introduce an infrastructure bill that may not look like the typical proposals we consider—roads, bridges, and buildings. But I firmly believe that this bill is just as essential to the fabric of our state.

This bill represents an infrastructure investment that will serve as the backbone to every county in our state. It's a piece of the larger puzzle that, when properly placed, connects the fundamental needs of our citizens to one of the most basic human requirements: food.

What is truly remarkable about this initiative is the work that has already been done by the Great Plains Food Bank (GPFB). Since its founding 41 years ago, GPFB has grown exponentially with its reach and impact, largely without state involvement. Today, semi-trucks carrying food and supplies have logged over 190,000 miles, crisscrossing our state and reaching all 53 counties. They have partnered with nearly 200 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and tribal nations in North Dakota, ensuring that people from both rural and urban areas have access to the resources they need.

The mobile pantry program has become a lifeline, ensuring that food isn't just available in large urban centers but also in rural and underserved areas. This bill seeks to build on that success by expanding the infrastructure that allows food to be distributed more efficiently and to even more people across our state.

This isn't just about logistics; it's about creating a stronger, more connected state—where access to food is guaranteed for everyone, no matter where they live. It's about building systems that are responsive and resilient, so we can continue to feed our citizens in an effective and timely manner.

As an appropriator for our state who closely watches our bottom line and as a farmer's wife, I have been deeply impressed with the work of the Great Plains Food Bank over the last 41 years. Their current facility, which has been in use for the past 24 years, has been stretched to its limits. They've done what we often do with our equipment and buildings—we make them last. I call it "farmer engineering"—holding things together and making them work well beyond their expected lifespan.

Now is the time for us to make a critical infrastructure investment. By investing in the infrastructure of our only food bank in North Dakota, we ensure that the Great Plains Food Bank can continue the vital work that our citizens rely on every single day.

Behind me, there are individuals who will provide more details about the current building situation, the needs of their clients, and answer any other questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration. This is the investment we need for those who need it the most. I do have an amendment to offer the committee. I would like to increase the amount of the grant back to \$10,000,000. As you will see and hear from the executive director, this is a 2:1 match with the capital campaign well on its way. This amount from the state ensures that we are committed to our citizens.

I look forward to working together to support this essential infrastructure project for the good of all North Dakotans.

Brandy L. Pyle

3-31-25, 10:00 - 11:00
 Melissa Sobolik
 #

List of Partner Agencies by District



District 5

- Minot: Berthold Zion Food Pantry, Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry, Salvation Army, The Lord's Cupboard

District 17

- Grand Forks: Freedom Church Cares, HC Community Care Center and Food Pantry, Northlands Rescue Mission, Red River Valley Community Action, Salvation Army, St. Joseph's Social Care

District 28

- Ellendale: Ellendale Community Food Pantry
- LaMoure: LaMoure County Food Pantry
- Gackle: Gackle Area Food Pantry
- Napoleon: Logan County Food Pantry
- Ashley: Ashley Food Pantry
- Lehr: Lehr Lions Food Pantry
- Wishek: Wishek Food Pantry
- Gwinner: Sargent County Food Pantry
- Forman: Sargent County Food Pantry

District 29

- Cooperstown: Bread of Life Food Pantry
- Michigan: Michigan Food Pantry
- Finley: Steele County Food Pantry
- Jamestown: Community Action Region VI, Progress Community Center, Salvation Army

District 47

- Bismarck: Dream Center, First Baptist Church, New Song Church, Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry, Community Action, Ministry on the Margins, River of Hope, Salvation Army

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division Red River Room, State Capitol

HB 1143
4/3/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food distribution facility grant program.

9:54 a.m. Chairman Wanzek opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Wanzek, Vice-Chair Dwyer, Senator Burckhard, Senator Erbele, and Senator Sickler.

Discussion Topics:

- Change in funding would facilitate 2 to 1 matching funds
- Tax break, sale of existing facility
- Role of Great Plains Food Bank and local facilities/citizens served
- Available balance remaining in State Improvement and Investment Fund (SIIF)

9:54 a.m. Amy Cleary, GA Group, PC, answered committee questions on behalf of Great Plains Food Bank.

9:59 a.m. Senator Burckhard moved to change the grant amount from 5 million to 10 million.

10:00 a.m. Senator Erbele seconded the motion.

10:03 a.m. Senator Burckhard withdrew the motion.

10:06 a.m. Senator Dwyer moved to Amend HB 1143 by increasing the grant amount from 5 million to 10 million dollars.

10:06 a.m. Senator Burckhard seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	N

Motion passed 4-1-0.

10:07 a.m. Senator Burckhard moved a Do Pass as Amended for HB 1143.

10:07 a.m. Senator Erbele seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y

Senator Jonathan Sickler	N
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Motion passed 4-1-0.

Senator Burckhard will carry this bill.

10:09 Chairman Wanzek closed the hearing.

Carol Thompson, Committee Clerk

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1143
4/9/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food distribution facility grant program.

8:07 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Bekkedahl, Vice-Chairman Erbele, and Senators Burckhard, Cleary, Conley, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Magrum, Mathern, Meyer, Schaible, Sickler, Sorvaag, Thomas, Wanzek.

Discussion Topics:

- Cost Distribution
- Gap Amount
- New Facility Building
- Improved and Efficient Storage and Distribution

8:08 a.m. Senator Burckhard introduced the bill and submitted testimony #44822.

8:09 a.m. Senator Burckhard moved amendment LC 25.0709.03001.

8:09 a.m. Senator Cleary seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	N
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	N
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	N
Senator Jonathan Sickler	N
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	N
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 11-5-0.

8:12 a.m. Senator Burckhard moved a Do Pass as Amended.

8:13 a.m. Senator Mathern seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	N
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 15-1-0.

Senator Burckhard will carry the bill.

8:14 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.

Elizabeth Reiten, Committee Clerk

March 28, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

VC 4/9/25
1 of 2

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1143

Introduced by

Representatives Pyle, Brandenburg, Davis, McLeod, Mitskog, Swiontek, Hauck

Senators Boschee, Lee, Roers, Barta, Dever

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food
2 distribution facility grant program.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS**

5 **FUND - AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER - FOOD DISTRIBUTION FACILITY GRANT**

6 **PROGRAM - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the strategic

7 investment and improvements fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of

8 ~~\$5,000,000~~ \$10,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the agriculture

9 commissioner for the purpose of providing a food distribution facility grant program, for the

10 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. Grant funds may be used only to

11 pay for site acquisition, architectural costs, engineering costs, labor, equipment, and materials

12 related to the construction of a statewide charitable food distribution and logistics facility. A grant

13 recipient must provide one dollar of matching funds from nonstate sources for each dollar

14 provided by the agriculture commissioner. Entities receiving funding under this section shall

15 report to the agriculture commissioner annually regarding the use and effectiveness of the

16 funding. The appropriation provided in this section is considered a one-time funding item.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

2 of 2

House Bill No. 1143 - Department of Agriculture - Senate Action

	Base Budget	House Version	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Food distribution facility grants		\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$10,000,000
Total all funds	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$10,000,000
Less estimated income	0	5,000,000	5,000,000	10,000,000
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Department 602 - Department of Agriculture - Detail of Senate Changes

	Increases Funding for Food Distribution Facility Grants¹	Total Senate Changes
Food distribution facility grants	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Total all funds	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Less estimated income	5,000,000	5,000,000
General fund	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00

¹ Funding of \$5 million is added by the House to provide a total of \$10 million from the strategic investment and improvements fund for food distribution facility grants.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1143**

Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0709.03001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (15 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1143 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

4-8-25

25.0709.03001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Representative Pyle
March 28, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1143

Introduced by

Representatives Pyle, Brandenburg, Davis, McLeod, Mitskog, Swiontek, Hauck

Senators Boschee, Lee, Roers, Barta, Dever

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food
2 distribution facility grant program.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

- 4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS**
5 **FUND - AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER - FOOD DISTRIBUTION FACILITY GRANT**
6 **PROGRAM - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the strategic
7 investment and improvements fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
8 ~~\$5,000,000~~ \$10,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the agriculture
9 commissioner for the purpose of providing a food distribution facility grant program, for the
10 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. Grant funds may be used only to
11 pay for site acquisition, architectural costs, engineering costs, labor, equipment, and materials
12 related to the construction of a statewide charitable food distribution and logistics facility. A grant
13 recipient must provide one dollar of matching funds from nonstate sources for each dollar
14 provided by the agriculture commissioner. Entities receiving funding under this section shall
15 report to the agriculture commissioner annually regarding the use and effectiveness of the
16 funding. The appropriation provided in this section is considered a one-time funding item.

2025 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

HB 1143

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture Committee
Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1143
4/17/2025
Conference Committee

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food distribution facility grant program.

10:31 a.m. Chairman Voller called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Vollmer, Representative Schreiber-Beck, Hauck, Senators Burchard, Erbele, Dwyer

Discussion Topics:

- Food insecurity
- Strategic investment and improvements fund (SIIF)
- Facility grants

10:32 a.m. Chairman Vollmer gave a brief history and lead the discussion.

10:34 a.m. Senator Burckhardt defended the Senate amendment.

10:41 a.m. Chairman Vollmer closed the meeting.

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture Committee
Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1143
4/18/2025
Conference Committee

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food distribution facility grant program.

11:35 a.m. Chairman Vollmer called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Vollmer, Representative Schreiber-Beck, Hauck, Senators Burckhard, Erbele, Dwyer

Discussion Topics:

- SIIF Fund savings
- Noble endeavor

11:35 a.m. Chairman Vollmer gave an appropriation report based on the revised budget forecast.

11:37 a.m. Senator Erbele gave a report on the Senate position.

11:39 a.m. Chairman Vollmer closed the meeting.

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture Committee
Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1143
4/22/2025
Conference Committee

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner for a food distribution facility grant program.

4:32 p.m. Chairman Vollmer called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Vollmer, Representative Schreiber-Beck, Hauck, Senators Burckhard, Dwyer

Member Absent: Senator Erbele

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

4:33 p.m. Senator Dwyer moved to reject the Senate amendment LC#25.0709.03001.

4:33 p.m. Senator Burckhard seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0-1

Representative Vollmer will carry the bill.

Senator Burckhard will carry the bill.

4:34 p.m. Chairman Vollmer closed the meeting.

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

HB 1143 042225 1634 PM Roll Call Vote

Final Recommendation

HB 1143

Date Submitted: April 22, 2025, 4:34 p.m.

Recommendation: Reject

Amendment LC #: 25.0709.03001

Engrossed LC #: N/A

Description:

Motioned By: Dwyer, Michael

Seconded By: Burckhard, Randy A.

House Carrier: Vollmer, Daniel

Senate Carrier: Burckhard, Randy A.

Emergency Clause: None

Vote Results: 5 - 0 - 1

Rep. Vollmer, Daniel	Yea
Rep. Schreiber-Beck, Cynthia	Yea
Rep. Hauck, Dori	Yea
Sen. Burckhard, Randy A.	Yea
Sen. Erbele, Robert	Absent
Sen. Dwyer, Michael	Yea

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1143**

Your conference committee (Sens. Burckhard, Erbele, Dwyer and Reps. Vollmer, Schreiber-Beck, Hauck) recommends the **SENATE REJECT** its amendments ([25.0709.03001](#)) to Engrossed HB 1143.

Engrossed HB 1143 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.