



# 2022 State Advocacy Agenda

The Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) is an interfaith organization working together to meet basic human needs for the greater Des Moines community. The DMARC Food Pantry Network consists of 14 partner food pantries and numerous mobile food pantry locations. Last year, over 58,000 unique individuals used the DMARC Food Pantry Network. DMARC strives to provide nutritious and culturally appropriate food to all who use a food pantry.

DMARC works to “shorten the line” at food pantries by advocating for effective policies that will reduce food insecurity, address root causes of poverty, and improve the lives of the people of Iowa.

## PRIMARY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### Protect and enhance Food Assistance (SNAP) and other nutrition programs

#### DMARC supports:

- state investment in the Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb) program, which incentivizes the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables by SNAP participants
- a state waiver from USDA to test strategies to promote healthy eating among SNAP recipients in the state of Iowa

#### DMARC opposes:

- policy changes that create barriers to accessing nutrition benefits

### Support organizations and institutions fighting hunger in Iowa

#### DMARC supports:

- state assistance with logistical support, cold storage, transportation, and home delivery services for food banks, pantries, and anti-hunger organizations
- establishing a food insecurity data collection pilot project for rural Iowa
- policies that increase the amount of wholesome food that is rescued and directed away from landfills to anti-hunger organizations

## SUPPORTING LEGISLATIVE STATEMENT

**DMARC supports programs that empower Iowans to lead healthy, self-sufficient lives by bridging gaps in opportunity and building stronger, more resilient communities.**

[dmarcunited.org/advocacy/](https://dmarcunited.org/advocacy/)

**Questions?** Contact DMARC Communications and Advocacy Manager Luke Elzinga at (515) 277-6969 x10 or [lelzinga@dmarcunited.org](mailto:lelzinga@dmarcunited.org).