

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



NORTHEAST IOWA
FOOD BANK

WATERLOO, IA, October 3, 2022 – Aetna donates \$25,000 to Iowa Food Bank Association

Donation to help provide personnel and resources for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

[The Iowa Food Bank Association](#) (IFBA) recently receive a \$25,000 grant from Aetna, a CVS Health company (NYSE: CVS). The funding will provide key personnel and resources for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) outreach services and to operate the IFBA SNAP Hotline.

“We’re committed to strengthening Iowa community resources that enable Medicaid members to take better control of their health,” said Ted Koutsoubas, Chief Strategy Officer for Aetna Medicaid. “Our donation will help the champion IFBA’s innovative solutions to improve food security of under-resourced Iowans across the state.”

SNAP is the largest federal nutrition assistance benefits program for eligible low-income individuals and families. In 2022, [more than 141,000 households](#) in Iowa receive SNAP benefits, covering about 287,000 Iowans.

“Since the state disaster declaration went away in April and decreased the amount of SNAP dollars that were available, we are seeing the number of those utilizing our services increase by as much as %15,” said Barb Prather, Executive Director of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. *“This grant will help provide the resources northeast Iowans need to access SNAP and supplemental resources.”*

“We welcome Aetna’s generous donation,” said Linda Gorkow, Executive Director of the Iowa Food Bank Association. “Currently, 1 in 9 Iowans are struggling with hunger. This donation will supplement the dollars we receive from federal funds to promote and operate our SNAP outreach and hotline program costs.”

Many Iowans in need may not be aware of SNAP benefits or take advantage of them because they fear it’s too difficult. Through an ongoing partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture and the Iowa Department of Human Services, IFBA outreach specialists educate food insecure Iowans about SNAP benefits and how to apply for SNAP benefits or use the SNAP Hotline. The Hotline- **(855) 944.FOOD (3663)**- is open **8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Monday through Friday.

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About the Northeast Iowa Food Bank:

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank distributes nutritious food and grocery products to 168 nonprofit organizations and programs that help families and individuals with food assistance. For 40 years, the Food Bank has alleviated hunger and provided nutrition education through its programs. Last year, the Food Bank distributed more than 9.4 million meals within a 16-county service area.

The Food Bank oversees eight programs that serve our communities: Member Agency Distribution, Cedar Valley Food Pantry, Backpack Program, Kids Cafe, Elderly Nutrition, Mobile Food Pantries, Summer Feeding, and a Community Garden. The Food Bank is a proud member of the Iowa Food Bank Association and Feeding America. To learn more, visit neifb.org or find us on socials [@NEIFB](https://www.instagram.com/NEIFB).

About the Iowa Food Bank Association:

Iowa Food Bank Association's mission is to support the food bank members who are also Feeding America network members and their affiliates serving Iowa in their work to ensure that sufficient food is accessible to all. The six member food banks are private, not-for-profit organizations committed to its mission of providing food to Iowa children, families, and seniors to lead full and active lives, strengthening the communities where they live. To learn more, visit www.iowafba.org or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/iowafoodbankassociation.

About Aetna Medicaid:

Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC (Aetna Medicaid), a CVS Health Company, has over 30 years of experience managing the care of most medically vulnerable, using innovative approaches and a local presence in each market to achieve both successful health care results and effective cost outcomes. Aetna Medicaid has particular expertise serving high-need Medicaid members, including those who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. Currently, Aetna Medicaid owns and/or administers Medicaid managed health care plans under the names of Aetna Better Health and other affiliate names. Together, these plans serve approximately 2.8 million people in 16 states, including Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. For more information, see www.aetnabetterhealth.com.

About CVS Health:

[CVS Health](https://www.cvshealth.com)® is the leading health solutions company, delivering care like no one else can. We reach more people and improve the health of communities across America through our local presence, digital channels, and over 300,000 dedicated colleagues – including more than 40,000 physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and nurse practitioners. Wherever and whenever people need us, we help them with their health – whether that's managing chronic diseases, staying compliant with their medications, or accessing affordable health and wellness services in the most convenient ways. We help people navigate the health care system – and their personal health care – by improving access, lowering costs, and being a trusted partner for every meaningful moment of health. And we do it all with heart, each and every day. Follow @CVSHealth on social media.

