



# 2021 Legislative Agenda

The Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) is an interfaith organization with a core membership of over 125 congregations from five faith traditions working together to meet basic human needs in Greater Des Moines. The DMARC Food Pantry Network consists of 14 partner food pantries and numerous mobile food pantry locations. Last year, over 56,000 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 (DUFEB) program, which incentivizes the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables by SNAP participants
- expanding income eligibility for Food Assistance to assist more Iowans who are struggling to make ends meet

#### DMARC opposes:

- policy changes that create barriers to accessing nutrition benefits

### Support Iowa’s nonprofit anti-hunger organizations

#### DMARC supports:

- exempting food banks, food pantries, and other anti-hunger organizations from the state sales tax
- providing funding to assist with logistical support, delivery, and access issues at food pantries, and for a food insecurity data collection pilot project for rural Iowa
- codifying IDALS’ Local Produce and Protein Program and expanding to include nonprofit 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).