



2023 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 15 partner food pantries, numerous mobile food pantry locations, and a home delivery program. Last year, over 43,000 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 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
- expanding access to SNAP for more Iowans facing food insecurity by increasing program income eligibility to 200% FPL

DMARC opposes:

- policy changes that create barriers to accessing nutrition benefits

Support organizations and institutions fighting hunger in Iowa

DMARC supports:

- initiatives to expand free and reduced-price school meals and encourage the purchase of locally-grown foods by schools and early care sites
- state investment to support recent refugees to the state while they get settled
- 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/

Questions? Contact DMARC Communications and Advocacy Manager Luke Elzinga at (515) 277-6969 x216 or lelzinga@dmarcunited.org.