



March 13, 2026

DuPage County Board
421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

Dear DuPage County Board,

On behalf of Loaves & Fishes Community Services, we respectfully request \$2.5 million in support of our Hub 2.0 expansion, a strategic infrastructure investment that will strengthen the charitable food system, expand access to healthy food, and increase our ability to serve residents across DuPage County.

Growing Community Need

The need is urgent and growing. Feeding America data shows that food insecurity in DuPage County has increased 64% since 2019, and reductions in SNAP benefits and other public supports are expected to place even greater strain on household budgets. In response, Loaves & Fishes has expanded service through our hub and spoke model, increasing the number of DuPage County residents served by 73% over the past four years. Today, we serve nearly 4,000 DuPage County residents each week. In fiscal year 2025 alone, we served 15,363 unique DuPage County residents through 175,110 total visits.

At the same time, the local charitable food system is operating at full capacity. Cold storage is especially limited, restricting the ability of local pantries to accept and distribute essential perishable foods such as produce, dairy, and protein. Without additional infrastructure, the system cannot keep pace with rising need.

The Hub 2.0 Expansion

Hub 2.0 is the next phase of Loaves & Fishes' proven regional hub and spoke model. The project will expand our Aurora Food Distribution Hub in DuPage County from 30,000 to 62,000 square feet, nearly quadruple cold storage capacity, and more than double the number of clients we can serve directly. The total project cost is \$8 million, building on the success of our current Hub facility and bringing the cumulative investment in this infrastructure to approximately \$12.5 million.

Benefits to DuPage County

This expansion will directly benefit DuPage County by:

- Adding critical infrastructure to serve significantly more residents
- Expanding collaboration across the charitable food system and increasing shared capacity

- Supporting additional spoke locations in underserved areas
- Reducing cost per client through scaled operations and shared logistics
- Providing no-cost cold storage and dry storage access to partner pantries

A Strong Return on Investment

Hub 2.0 is a strategic and cost-effective investment in DuPage County's infrastructure to address food insecurity. DuPage County's proposed investment of \$2.5 million represents approximately 20% of the total cumulative Hub investment, while DuPage County residents have accounted for approximately 36% to 41% of all people served over the past three years. In our most recent fiscal year, Loaves & Fishes directly provided approximately \$12 million in food to DuPage County residents.

With Hub 2.0, we will be positioned to at least double the number of people we serve today, significantly increasing that direct community benefit. The expanded Hub will also create added value for the broader charitable food network through shared storage, increased co-buying opportunities, and reduced logistics costs for partner pantries. Together, these efficiencies maximize the impact of public and philanthropic investment and help more families across DuPage County access healthy food.

Conclusion

Hub 2.0 is not simply a building expansion. It is a strategic investment in DuPage County's social infrastructure that will increase efficiency, strengthen collaboration, and ensure more families have access to the healthy food they need to thrive.

We appreciate DuPage County's leadership and thoughtful consideration of this request. Thank you for your consideration and partnership.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Havala
President and CEO

