

March 13, 2026

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



Dear Chair Conroy and County Board Members.

Thank you for your continued commitment to addressing food-insecurity in the county.

Northern Illinois Food Bank is requesting \$2M to continue the Produce Purchase program for DuPage County member food pantries. This program which was funded by ARPA and then the County Board between 2022 and 2025 enabled us to provide over 5M pounds of fresh produce for food-insecure neighbors in the county through our network of food pantries.

If approved, we would use the \$2M over two years for the same program in which we allocate fresh produce to food pantries for a weekly or twice monthly delivery based on their capacity and the number of neighbors they are serving. This method ensures that the produce is delivered and distributed to neighbors in a timely manner to reduce spoilage and waste. As diligent as we are with getting the fresh produce out as quickly as possible, the nature of the food usually means that there is a small percentage that we have to trash, so we are requesting up to 5% be allowed for trash.

We are requesting 10% of the grant be allocated for administration.

Thank you again for your consideration of this request that will help us meet the increasing need for food and especially for fresh produce to benefit our neighbors.

Gratefully,



Julie Yurko
President & CEO

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