# Application

FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan
Implementation Grant Cycle

Iowa Cancer Consortium
www.canceriowa.org

## Applicant Information:

**Name of Project Lead**: Michelle Altmaier
**Project Lead Email Address:** michelle-altmaier@uiowa.edu
**Project Lead Phone Number:** 319-678-7478
**Organization:** Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at University of Iowa Health Care
**Street Address:** 200 Hawkins Drive – 4035 Boyd Tower
**City:** Iowa City
**Zip Code:** 52242

## Project Details:

**Project Title:** Oncology Food Assistance Program at UI Health Care Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center
**Total Amount of Funds Requested for FY26 (up to $25,000)**: $18,580.00

**Provide a brief description of your intended project and any relevant background information about your organization**. *(Suggested: 1,000 words or less.)*
The proposed food assistance program aims to significantly enhance patient support services within University of Iowa Health Care Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center outpatient clinic. By providing Iowans with greater access to nutritious food, including non-perishable food boxes and nutritional supplement drinks, this initiative will help reduce the burden of cancer and empower individuals to lead longer, healthier lives. The impact of this program will be profound, improving the overall well-being of cancer patients and fostering a healthier community.

University of Iowa Health Care Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center is Iowa's only National Cancer Center Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center, the highest distinction a cancer center can achieve. Holden is dedicated to providing the finest cancer care, education, and research to Iowa and beyond.

Research, education, and patient care at Holden involve the efforts of over 1,100 members and employees, including faculty from 36 departments and five colleges at the university. Each year, Holden physicians deliver exceptional cancer care to over 29,000 unique patients from all 99 counties in Iowa, plus surrounding states.

Cancer patients have specific needs that can vary from person to person. Many patients experience physical and psychosocial symptoms during and after treatment that are disruptive to their daily lives. To promote health and reduce these risks, it is crucial for patients to engage in healthy behaviors such as eating nutritious food, staying physically active, adhering to their treatment regimen, and avoiding tobacco and alcohol. A common factor that derails a patient's treatment and worsens quality of life is financial toxicity, which can result in food insecurity.

Food insecurity is defined by the United States Department of Agriculture as the lack of access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food insecurity is associated with numerous adverse social and health outcomes and is increasingly considered a critical public health crisis. Key drivers of food insecurity include unemployment, poverty, income shocks, and health conditions such as cancer, which can prevent adequate access to food. Cancer patients are particularly at risk due to the financial and physical burdens of their illness such as inability to work, frequent appointments, increased travel to obtain care, and not feeling well enough to obtain and prepare food. Food insecurity negatively affects their ability to obtain the proper nutrition needed for treatment and healing. Additionally, cancer patients experiencing food insecurity often face psychological distress and strain. Multiple interventions, including participation in food assistance programs and broader societal-level improvements in economic stability, have been shown to reduce food insecurity.

We plan to establish a food assistance program at the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center main campus clinic in partnership with the Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) Food Reservoir, a Feeding America partner. This program will provide essential nutritional support to cancer patients and their families, ensuring they have access to healthy food options during their treatment journey. HACAP will provide non-perishable food boxes to the cancer center at no cost. All cancer patients that have a cancer related appointment will be screened using the HACAP Hunger Vital Sign survey, which is a validated, two question survey to screen for food insecurity. The survey includes questions about food worries and food shortages. Any cancer patient who screens positive will be offered shelf-stable food boxes. A positive result is registered when a patient marks "often true" or "sometimes true" to one of the following questions:

HACAP Hunger Vital Sign™ Survey

I/We worried whether my/our food would run out before I/we got money to buy more.

- ☐ Often true
- ☐ Sometimes true
- ☐ Never true

The food that I/we bought just didn't last, and I/we didn't have money to get more.

- ☐ Often true
- ☐ Sometimes true
- ☐ Never true

How many adults (18 and older) live in your house? _____

How many children (under 18) live in your house? _____

Internal Use

Date:_____

- ☐ Accepted a Food Box
  Number given _____
- ☐ Declined a Food Box
- ☐ Social Work consult placed
- ☐ Dietitian consult placed

If a patient screens positive, a referral will be made to social work and dietician services for individualized assessment and assistance. Each food box will contain several non-perishable food items and a flyer with local resources such as SNAP and 211 resources to facilitate connection with long term nutritional support. Cancer Center staff will order food boxes through the HACAP portal, and HACAP will deliver them on Mondays and Tuesdays to the Food and Nutrition hospital delivery dock.

In addition to providing non-perishable food boxes, we plan to offer nutritional supplement drinks. Nutritional supplement drinks offer several benefits for cancer patients. They are easy to ingest, especially for those who struggle with solid foods due to loss of appetite, taste changes, nausea, or mouth sores caused by treatments like chemotherapy. These drinks provide essential nutrients, vitamins, and calories in a convenient form, helping to prevent malnutrition and muscle wasting, which are common issues among cancer patients. Additionally, they support the increased energy needs that cancer and its treatments can cause, without requiring patients to eat large meals. Nutritional drinks are often gentler on the digestive system, making them suitable for patients experiencing gastrointestinal upset. Their convenience and quick preparation ensure that patients receive the necessary nutrients, which is particularly beneficial when they have limited time or energy to prepare meals. Overall, nutritional supplement drinks play a vital role in maintaining the health and well-being of cancer patients during their treatment journey.

HACAP Reporting Requirements: Cancer Center staff will track and report the following data points monthly to the HACAP Food Reservoir:

- Number of patients screened for food insecurity (FI).
- Number of patients who screened positive for FI.
- Number of patients who accepted a food box.
- Number of patients who declined a food box.
- Household and number of individuals in need.

The Clinical Cancer Program Manager, Cancer Center Dietitian, and a Cancer Center Infusion Nurse Clinician will be certified in food safety and responsible for the safe storage and handling of food items, thus adhering to compliance standards.

**How many individuals in Iowa do you expect to reach through your project?**
With a 10.8% food insecurity rate in Iowa and over 29,000 unique patients seen annually, we expect to reach over 3,000 individuals and their households. By addressing the needs of entire households, we aim to provide comprehensive support that extends beyond the individual patient, ensuring that families also benefit from improved access to nutritious food. This holistic approach will help mitigate the broader impacts of food insecurity on cancer patients and their loved ones.

**In which Iowa counties do you expect to reach people through your project?**
Our cancer center serves patients from all 99 Iowa counties and the surrounding region, including neighboring states.

**Please describe how your project addresses one or more of these priority areas:** *(Suggested: 1,000 words or less.)*

- Addressing cancer disparities across the cancer continuum.
- Addressing cancer prevention and/or early detection.
- Expanding successful local projects statewide in Iowa.
- Formalizing lasting and broad change in cancer control through policy and systems change within organizations, systems, and communities. (Funds may not be used for lobbying.)

**Addressing cancer disparities across the cancer continuum.** We strive to reduce disparities in cancer care by offering access to nutritious food to patients that report food insecurity. Some studies show up to forty one percent of oncology patients experience financial toxicity which contributes to food insecurity. We aim to ensure all patients, regardless of socioeconomic status or other social characteristics, have access to healthy food options in order enhance their overall health and support their treatment and recovery.

**Expanding successful local projects statewide in Iowa.** Our partnership with HACAP will expand their successful community programming. They are offering support to healthcare entities to meet the needs of patients, but HACAP is already well established in the community and supports many people within nine Iowa counties. We hope that our cancer center food pantry project will be successful and have the potential for statewide expansion. By showcasing the positive impact on cancer patients' health and well-being, we can advocate for similar initiatives across Iowa, ensuring that more communities benefit from enhanced nutritional support.

**Please indicate which type of funding you are applying for (choose one)**:

☐ **Single Year** (applying for one year of funding only)

☒ **Multi-Year: Year 1** (applying for the first year of a two- or three-year project with the intention of applying for Year 2 in FY27, if awarded)

☐ **Multi-Year: Year 2** (FY25 Year 1 awardees only) *

☐ **Multi-Year: Year 3** (FY25 Year 2 awardees only) *

***If you are applying for continued funding (funded last year for the same multi-year project), please describe your success and challenges in previous years of funding.*** *(Suggested: 250 words or less.)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Which goal(s) and strategy(ies) from the Iowa Cancer Plan will your project support/help to implement?** (*Suggested: 100 words or less.)*

Our food pantry project aligns with several goals and strategies from the Iowa Cancer Plan. Under Prevention and Risk, this project will enhance opportunities for Iowans to access nutritious food, which reduces risks associated with cancer treatment. By providing healthy food options and recipes, we aim to create environments that support healthy eating habits during treatment. Additionally, under Survivorship and End-of-Life Care, our project will increase enrollment in community support services for cancer patients and survivors. By addressing food insecurity and offering nutritional support, we will help improve the overall well-being of cancer patients, ensuring they have access to essential resources during their recovery journey. We will prioritize health improvement with the goal of engaging, centering, and benefiting populations and communities at the highest risk of health-related inequities. Our goals include addressing food insecurity among cancer patients, particularly those from underserved communities, enhancing the quality of life for cancer patients by providing access to nutritious food, and offering comprehensive nutritional support as part of survivorship care.

## Project Objectives:

These objectives will serve as the grant deliverables for your project, if awarded. The Iowa Cancer Consortium Board of Directors may request to change, add, or remove objectives with your agreement prior to funding. Where applicable, please include baseline (current) data. Please add additional objectives, if desired.

**Objectives should be SMARTIE goals: **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant, **T**ime-Based, **I**nclusive, and **E**quitable. The CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program put together a helpful resource for SMARTIE objectives. (This and additional resources can be accessed at https://canceriowa.org/grants/ifp)*

***Objective #1: Increase Access to Nutritious Food for Oncology Patients Receiving Care at Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center**

- Deadline *(funding period is July 1, 2025-May 31, 2026):* We plan to initiate assessment and intervention on July 1, 2025.
- Baseline data: One estimate states 41% of adult oncology patients experience financial toxicity (Valero-Elizondo et al., 2021). Financial toxicity directly impacts patients in a variety of ways, including their ability to afford food. In the calendar year 2024, Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center served 29,636 unique patients. A study by Brady et, al. showed that Iowa's Medicaid members experience food insecurity at a rate of 51.3% when assessed by the Hunger Vital Sign tool (2022).
- Target by deadline: By 1/1/2026, we will initiate the food assistance program to serve all food insecure oncology patients identified by the Hunger Vital Sign Survey, to support their nutrition, treatment outcomes, and recovery.

***Objective #2: Improve Food Security and Health Outcomes**

- Deadline *(funding period is July 1, 2025-May 31, 2026):* Data collection will be initiated on July 1, 2025 with findings and usage reported monthly to HACAP through May 31, 2026.
- Baseline data: In one study, Legacy of Hope provided free groceries every two weeks through Emergency Patient Support Network. Patients were noted to experience decreased symptoms of anxiety and nausea (Sina et al., 2024). There is currently no comprehensive data on the prevalence of food insecurity within the oncology population of Iowa. We are seeking to fill this knowledge gap. There is a current standard of practice in the Urology and Gynecology Oncology departments to provide nutritional supplement drinks for a subset of surgical patients to improve surgery outcomes. We would like to expand access to nutritional supplement drinks for patients that report food insecurity to allow the improved health outcomes to reach non-surgical oncology patients.
- Target by deadline: By 5/31/2026, screen 29,000 patients for food insecurity, work with HACAP to provide immediate food supply to patients in need and connect them to social work and dietician services to secure long-term food assistance from community resources such as WIC, SNAP, and community food banks.

***Objective #3: Expand Food Assistance Model Across the State of Iowa**

- Deadline *(funding period is July 1, 2025-May 31, 2026):* We aim to network with additional UI clinics by March 31, 2026 to assess their ability to implement similar programming at their locations.
- Baseline data: Iowa has the second highest rate of new cancer incidence in the country. The Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center is expanding to clinics across the state of Iowa in an attempt to meet the growing demands of this population. This provides an opportunity for this model of food assistance to be expanded to clinics beyond the main campus, including Mission and the Quad City clinic. Expansion would improve access to food for more patients throughout the state as the oncology population grows.
- Target by deadline: By 5/31/2026, network with partner clinics to expand our food assistance model to 2 clinics to improve access to nutritious food to oncology patients across the state of

Iowa. By 5/31/2026, create a standard operating procedure to share with new clinics for the receipt, storage, and distribution of food assistance, with a standard for data collection and reporting.

**Sources:**

Brady, P. J., Askelson, N. M., Wright, B., Daly, E., Momany, E., McInroy, B., & Damiano, P. (2022). Food Insecurity Is Prevalent in Iowa's Medicaid

Sina, E. M., Rowe, M., Mancuso, G., Garber, G., Kelly, W. K., & Leader, A. E. (2024). Evaluating the Impact of a Novel Program to Address Acute Food Insecurity Among Cancer Patients. *Nutrients*, *16*(24), 4408. https://doi-org.proxy.lib.uiowa.edu/10.3390/nu16244408

Valero-Elizondo J, Chouairi F, Khera R, Grandhi GR, Saxena A, Warraich HJ, Virani SS, Desai NR, Sasangohar F, Krumholz HM, Esnaola NF, Nasir K. Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease, Cancer, and Financial Toxicity Among Adults in the United States. JACC CardioOncol. 2021 Jun 15;3(2):236-246. doi: 10.1016/j.jaccao.2021.02.006. PMID: 34396329; PMCID: PMC8352280.

## Project Collaborators:

The Iowa Cancer Consortium seeks to fund collaborative proposals. **At least one collaborator is required per project**. A letter of support is required for each listed collaborator.

### Collaborator #1 (required)

**Name:** Jane Drapeaux
**Organization:** Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP)
**Mailing Address:** 1515 Hawkeye Drive, Hiawatha, IA 52233
**Phone:** 319-393-7811
**Email:** Click or tap here to enter text.
**Please describe the collaborator's proposed responsibilities/role in the project.** *(Suggested: 100 words or less)*
HACAP is a critical partner to this food pantry project. They will offer continuous support and guidance for the program. Supply technology and training assistance related to food safety and online ordering. Provide and deliver all contents of food boxes and nutritional supplement drinks. Facilitate network-wide data sharing across the Feeding America network. Collect data through a screening and referral reporting system.

### Collaborator #2 (optional)

**Name:** Bridget Drapeaux MA, RDN, LD
**Organization:** UI Health Care Food and Nutrition Services
**Mailing Address:** 200 Hawkins Drive Iowa City, IA 52242
**Phone:** Click or tap here to enter text.
**Email:** bridget-drapeaux@uiowa.edu

**Please describe the collaborator's proposed responsibilities/role in the project.** *(Suggested: 100 words or less)*

Food and Nutrition has played a pivotal role in establishing this food pantry. Bridget and her team will receive all HACAP food boxes, which will be delivered to the hospital dock on Monday and Tuesday mornings. They will assist in transporting these boxes to the Cancer Center using the proper transport carts provided by Food and Nutrition. Ensuring food safety will be paramount, involving proper storage, handling, and distribution of food items to prevent contamination and spoilage. Additionally, we will collaborate with Food and Nutrition to develop healthy recipes for patients**.**

## **Collaborator #3** (optional)

**Name:** Amy Lukas

**Organization:** UI Health Care Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Mailing Address:** 200 Hawkins Drive Iowa City, IA 52242

**Phone:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Email:** amy-lukas@uiowa.edu

**Please describe the collaborator's proposed responsibilities/role in the project.** *(Suggested: 100 words or less)*

Conduct thorough nutritional assessments to identify patients' dietary needs and food insecurities. Develop personalized nutrition plans tailored to each patient's medical condition and treatment. Provide education and counseling on healthy eating habits, food safety, and managing side effects of cancer treatments through diet. Work closely with other healthcare professionals, such as social workers, nurses, and oncologists, to ensure comprehensive care. Oversee the distribution of nutritious food items and ensuring the pantry is stocked.

## Evidence & Evaluation:

*Resources for Evidence-Based Interventions and Evaluation: (This and additional resources can be accessed at https://canceriowa.org/grants/ifp)*

- *The Iowa Cancer Consortium has put together a blog post, A Public Health Professionals Guide to Evidence-Based Cancer Control Interventions (EBIs), which contains state and national resources for public health professionals to visit when selecting interventions.*
- *CDC's Program Evaluation Framework guides public health professionals in conducting program evaluation. It is a practical, nonprescriptive tool, designed to summarize and organize essential elements of program evaluation.*

**What scientific evidence is there that your project will be effective?** (*Suggested: 500 words or less.)*
Nearly 11% of Iowans (1 in 9) and 15.4% of Iowa children (1 in 6) face food insecurity according to Feeding America's latest annual Map the Meal Gap. While we currently lack specific data on the number of cancer patients in Iowa who face food insecurity, it is known that food insecurity can significantly impact cancer patients due to the financial toxicity associated with cancer care. This insecurity negatively affects their ability to obtain the proper nutrition needed for treatment and healing. Additionally, cancer patients experiencing food insecurity often face psychological distress and strain. Across the United States, cancer centers are partnering with local food banks to establish mini food banks within healthcare centers. This initiative increases access for patients in need, particularly those who may already be feeling unwell or facing limited resources such as transportation, money, and time.

**How will you evaluate your project? How will you know if you have been successful?** (*Suggested: 250 words or less.)*
To evaluate the food assistance program at Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, we will track the number of patients that endorse food insecurity, the number of patients that accepts food program food assistance, and the number of patients that are seen by social work to be connected to sustainable assistance. This tracking will be done with the Hunger Vital Sign survey and internal data collection. To evaluate the success of the program, we will assess patient satisfaction through Press Ganey surveys and monitor utilization rates. These metrics will provide an initial framework to determine the effectiveness of the food assistance program in addressing food insecurity and improving the overall well-being of cancer patients.

**How will you modify your project to meet the unique needs of certain populations?** *(Suggested: 500 words or less.)*
To modify our food pantry project at Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center to meet the unique needs of certain populations, we will implement several strategies. Our Hunger Vital Signs survey is simple and accessible to most literacy levels, can be filled out using translational services for non-English speaking patients or read by the nurse for patients with disabilities that prohibit them from reading or writing. Social work involvement will allow us to assess additional factors that may contribute to

food insecurity and ways to meet the needs of patients on an individual basis. Additionally, we will provide food assistance that accounts for the needs of all household members, offering multiple food boxes and tailored nutritional support to accommodate families. This will alleviate the burden of providing for family members for patients affected by a cancer diagnosis. By addressing these specific needs, we aim to create a more inclusive and effective food assistance program that supports the diverse populations served by Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center.

## Budget:

Allowable budget categories have been identified below. If funding is requested within a specific category, a brief explanation or funding justification is required.

Staff Support

- Applicants may request funds for key personnel. Funds may not be requested to supplant existing job responsibilities.
- For any staff support requests through this grant mechanism, a copy of staff resume/CV, estimate of project hours, and list of staff project-related responsibilities must be included along with the budget request. Resumes should be included as an attachment.

Travel

- Travel essential to the proposed project may be funded under this proposal.
- Travel reimbursement is allowed at the following rates: $0.50/mile; in-state travel reimbursements follow Iowa Department of Administrative Services (DAS) guidelines, which is $37/day for meals ($27.75/day for first and last day of travel); out-of-state travel reimbursements follow Iowa DAS guidelines, which varies by destination. Maximum lodging reimbursement for in-state hotels is $80 plus taxes per night (see the Iowa DAS travel webpage for more information and resources).

Printing and Copying

- Estimate the total number of document pages that will be copied or printed. Use $0.06/page for calculating costs. Example: 500 pages X $.06/page =$30.00

Supplies

- Estimate the unit cost for each item to be purchased and the total number of items needed. Example: 200 brochures X $1.25/brochure = $250.00

Indirect/Administrative Costs

- Applicants for whom the Iowa Cancer Consortium is not serving as a fiscal agent may charge an indirect rate limited to 8% of the direct costs proposed in the budget.
- The total budget, including indirect or administrative costs, may not exceed the total requested funds (maximum of $25,000).
- Administrative costs are those incurred for common or joint objectives and cannot be identified readily and specifically with a sponsored program but are still necessary to the organization's operations.
- For example, the costs of operating and maintaining facilities, depreciation and administrative salaries are generally treated as indirect/administrative costs.
- If there is a need for indirect funding beyond 8% of direct program costs, requests should be written into the applicant's budget and justified heavily.
- The applicant shall maintain documentation to support the administrative cost allocation. The Consortium reserves the right to request the documentation at any time.

Other:

- Equipment
    - Describe equipment needed for project implementation.
    - Equipment costs must be justified, and an explanation provided for equipment use after the grant period ends.
    - Items that cost $5,000 or more are not routinely funded but will be considered on an individual basis.
- Incentives
    - Incentives are an allowable expense only if proven to be effective as part of an evidence-based intervention. The research or evidence case must be outlined.

- Clinical Care/Service Delivery
    - Clinical care, including the provision of medication, vaccinations and/or treatment, is not an allowable expense. Service delivery, including radon mitigation and cancer screening test purchases, will be reviewed individually.
    - Community organizations and collaborators are encouraged to provide financial support for service delivery components.

**Please explain your budget in words**: *(Suggested: 100 words or less)*

Our total budget ask is $18,580. The majority of the budget is for nutritional supplement drinks to provide essential nutrients, vitamins, and calories in a convenient form, helping to prevent malnutrition and muscle wasting, which are common issues among cancer patients. During our benchmarking process with MercyOne Waterloo Cancer Center, they recommended including can openers in our budget. They have found that many patients do not have can openers, and not all cans come with pull tabs. Your support and partnership are essential and will significantly improve the quality of life for cancer patients in Iowa.

**Use the table below to complete your proposed budget:**

**Reminder:** Funding period is July 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026. This is an 11-month period, not a full year.

| Budget Items and Explanation | Grant Funds Requested | Other Funding | Total Funds for Project |
|---|---|---|---|
| *If possible, please divide them into categories. Examples include staff support, travel, supplies, equipment, etc. If service delivery or incentives are included within the budget, please include a statement of need along with each budget item.* | *Funds being requested from the Iowa Cancer Consortium.* | *Include in-kind support, volunteer hours, collaborator financial support, and other types of financial support.* | *Include requested Iowa Cancer Consortium funds + items outlined in the Other Funding category.* |
| **Staff Support** | | | |
| | | | |
| **Travel** | | | |
| | | | |
| **Printing** | | | |
| Stickers for food boxes<br>3,000 x 7 cents = $210.00 | $210.00 | | |
| Recipes cards and nutritional information<br>3,000 x 5 cents = $150 | $150.00 | | |
| **Supplies** | | | |
| Nutritional supplement drinks<br>One drink a week for 3,000 patients<br>3,000 x 5 (one week supply) = 1,500<br>1,500 x $1 = $15,000 | $15,000.00 | | |
| Metal shelving to store food boxes<br>6 x $180 = $1,080 | $1,080.00 | | |
| Custom plexiglass for bottom shelving to adhere to hospital policy<br>6 x $50 = $300 | $300.00 | | |
| Can openers to patients in need<br>250 x $7 = $1,750 | $1,750.00 | | |
| Plastic bags<br>3,000 x 3 cents = $90 | $90.00 | | |
| HACAP non-perishable food boxes<br>4,000 x $20 | | $80,000.00 | |
| **Shipping** | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| **Other** | | | |
| Three cancer center employees ServSafe certification<br>3 x $149.00 = $447 | | $447.00 | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| **Totals:** | $18,580.00 | $80,447.00 | $99,027.00 |

Hawkeye Area
Community Action Program, Inc.

**FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan Implementation Grant Cycle**

April 23, 2025

Iowa Cancer Consortium
PO Box 859
North Liberty, Iowa 52317

Dear Iowa Cancer Consortium Board of Directors,

I write on behalf of HACAP in support of the healthcare partnership with the Holden Cancer Clinic at the University of Iowa proposed to the Iowa Cancer Consortium as part of the FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan Implementation Grant, Invitation for Proposals.

HACAP will fulfill the following roles in this partnership:

- **Provide ongoing support and guidance for the program through the services of our Healthcare Partnership Coordinator. Provide technology and training assistance regarding Food Safety and online ordering. As well as onboarding support for transition to a food pantry**
- **Provide and deliver all food and contents of Food as Medicine boxes.**
- **Provide network wide data sharing across Feeding America network. Provide data collection through screening and referral reporting system.**

The healthcare partnership with Holden Cancer Clinic and HACAP will allow the cancer center to provide nutritious food to patients in a vulnerable state. HACAP will provide and deliver healthy food items to the Holden Cancer Center at no cost, removing barriers to access for both the clinic and the patient. Food and health are inextricably linked, however many neighbors, particularly those on fixed budgets, experience poor health outcomes exacerbated by lack of access to nutritious foods. The goal of this project is to build a strong partnership between HACAP and the Holden Cancer Clinic to help address food insecurity and support a healthier community.

Sincerely,

Jane Drapeaux
CEO

Jane Drapeaux
Chief Executive Officer

Corporate Office:
1515 Hawkeye Drive • Hiawatha, Iowa 52233
ph: 319.393.7811 • fax: 319.393.6263 • www.hacap.org

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IOWA
HEALTH CARE

**University of Iowa Health Care**
Food and Nutrition Services

May 7, 2025

Iowa Cancer Consortium
PO Box 859
North Liberty, Iowa 52317

Dear Iowa Cancer Consortium Board of Directors,

I am writing to express my support for the proposal to establish a food pantry within the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at University of Iowa Health Care as part of the FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan Implementation Grant, Invitation for Proposals. This initiative addresses a critical need among patients undergoing cancer treatment: access to nutritious food.

A dedicated food pantry located within the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center would directly support patients facing challenges of food insecurity by offering convenient access to nourishing food, which is a crucial part of care and recovery. It would also reinforce the hospital's holistic approach to patient care, recognizing that wellness extends beyond clinical treatment to include basic needs like nutrition and food security.

This program has the potential to improve treatment adherence, reduce stress, and enhance overall quality of life for cancer patients and their families. Moreover, it aligns with University of Iowa Health Care's goal of high-quality patient-centered care.

Thank you for considering this important project.

Sincerely,

Bridget Drapeaux MA, RDN, LD
Associate Director, Clinical Operations
Food and Nutrition Services
University of Iowa Health Care

IOWA HEALTH CARE

**University of Iowa Health Care**
**Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center**
200 Hawkins Dr., Building Address
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

4/29/2025

Iowa Cancer Consortium
PO Box 859
North Liberty, IA 52317

Dear Iowa Cancer Consortium Board of Directors,

I write in support of a food pantry for the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center as part if the FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan Implementation Grant, Invitation for Proposals.

As the dietitian for the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, I see much food insecurity. Just the other day, I had a patient on a very limited income unable to afford oral nutrition supplements. Another patient asked about a sack lunch as he is low income and had not planned to be at the hospital over lunch. Many patients eat small amounts 1-2 x day to control food costs. A food pantry can provide essential nutrients to help our patients cope with the burden of cancer care.

Sincerely,

Amy Lukas, RD, CSO, LD

Dietitian

Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center

Amy-lukas@uiowa.edu

IOWA
HEALTH CARE

**University of Iowa Health Care**
**Holden Comprehensive**
**Cancer Center**
200 Hawkins Dr., Building Address
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

# FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan Implementation Grant Cycle

May 12, 2025

Iowa Cancer Consortium
PO Box 859
North Liberty, Iowa 52317

Dear Iowa Cancer Consortium Board of Directors,

I write on behalf of Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center in support of Oncology Food Assistance Program proposed to the Iowa Cancer Consortium as part of the FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan Implementation Grant, Invitation for Proposals.

Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center will fulfill the following roles in this partnership:

- Support leadership and staff time for training in ServSafe certification, building the partnership infrastructure, and writing operating procedures that can be implemented both locally and at additional Cancer Centers throughout the state of Iowa.
- Provide time and infrastructure for clinical staff to identify and assess patient needs to further refine needs specific to the cancer patient population using standardized data collection and analysis. Further illuminating the needs of cancer survivors and impact of a program to address these needs.
- Physical space to store and provide items in a location close to clinical services to increase patient and family compliance and ease of intervention delivery. Ensure the storage and standard operating procedures comply with hospital standards for patient care.

The Oncology Food Assistance Program provides evidenced based intervention and services for patients entering the continuum of cancer survivorship. This program works with partners to leverage delivery of food and builds upon models of care adding nutritional supplementation specific to the needs of cancer patients. The programmatic aspects of service delivery will enhance the identification of patient needs through standardized data capture, referral

services, and operating procedures defined for program replication throughout the state of Iowa.

Best Regards,



Tina Devery, MHA
Associate Director of Administration
Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center

IOWA
HEALTH CARE

**University of Iowa Health Care**
**Care Coordination Division**
200 Hawkins Drive
Iowa City, IA 52240
Tel 319-356-2207
Fax 319-384-6810 or 319-353-6083
Web uihc.org

05/08/2025

Iowa Cancer Consortium
PO Box 859
North Liberty, Iowa 52317

Dear Iowa Cancer Consortium Board of Directors,

I am writing on behalf of Iowa Healthcare's Clinical Cancer Center in support of the Food Pantry Project proposed to the Iowa Cancer Consortium as part of the FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan Implementation Grant, Invitation for Proposals.

I am a social work specialist at Iowa Healthcare. As you know, cancer treatments can often result in financial strain, and I believe a food pantry located at the hospital could have an immediate impact on our patients. A recent example of a patient that could have benefited from us having a food pantry was a 50-year-old semi-truck drive from Western Iowa. He underwent six weeks of daily radiation treatment. He did not have any paid time off from work and relied on family and friends to helps as they were able. He also did not have a vehicle in town, making it extremely hard for him to access food while he stayed at local lodging, so having access to something here would have been extremely helpful to him. My role at Iowa Healthcare is to connect patients with community resources and offer them support; this project will allow me to build on this as we will have a tangible resource to offer patients that are struggling in the moment.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Brittni Engrav, LISW