



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

To raise the funds needed for this transformation, we are launching a capital campaign. We're off to a strong start with initial project funds from a City of Bellevue Community Development Block Grant, but we will need substantially more support from our community – from you – to make this dream a reality.

Our first step is to complete a pre-campaign assessment, which will gauge community support, help identify campaign volunteers and leaders, and determine a realistic fundraising goal. Your feedback will help us plan the rest of our campaign and move this project forward. Please take a few minutes to tell us what you think. Thank you!



**BELLEVUE
FOOD
PANTRY**

Project Fact Sheet

1912 and 1908 Hancock Street
Bellevue, NE 68005
402.292.2961
[encapnebraska.org/i-need-services/
Bellevue-food-pantry.html](http://encapnebraska.org/i-need-services/Bellevue-food-pantry.html)

INCREASING FOOD SECURITY AND HOUSEHOLD STABILITY WHILE GIVING HOPE

The Bellevue Food Pantry does more than feed the hungry. Along with providing food when individuals and families need it most, we provide the help, resources, and support our clients need so that they aren't hungry in the future. We dream of and work for a time when our services aren't needed, but until that day, we will do all we can to help reduce the impact of poverty in our community.

Food insecurity is rapidly rising across the country, including here in Sarpy County. Nearly one in five county residents are "often" or "sometimes" worried about running out of food, according to the most recent health department community needs assessment. In Bellevue, 9% of residents live at or below the federal poverty line, the highest rate in the county. With the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency ongoing and living expenses rising, many families have less to spend on food. With higher grocery prices, budgets don't stretch as far, and too many community members have less food than they need. The Bellevue Food Pantry is there to help, and we want to do more.

Every month, the Bellevue Food Pantry serves more than 800 people—families, seniors, veterans, and children—of all backgrounds. We provide food with no judgement, and we focus on serving our clients with respect and compassion. Our current space creates several challenges that limit our reach, however.

The pantry is simply too small for us to properly carry out our mission. We serve the entirety of Sarpy County, and we have only 1,000 square feet of pantry space and one small office. We have one industrial refrigerator and one freezer. We have just one entrance – one door for clients, staffers, volunteers, deliveries and donations. We need the space to sit down with our clients, to listen and understand the challenges they are facing, and try to help them find solutions.

*We want to offer them
more than a box of food;
we want them to find hope.*

TURNING THE PAGE

The dream for the Bellevue Food Pantry is a much larger, much more accessible facility that could serve as a community hub, a true gathering space where people in crisis can get nourishment, connections to community resources, and hope for the future. We want to build a space where people can choose their own food, including fresh produce, milk, and dairy products, just like they would at the grocery store. This “choice service model” is a critical part of a community’s effort to end hunger. When someone faces a challenge and needs to ask for help, having the opportunity to choose the food they receive that fits their own unique situation helps someone feel dignified. Thanks to a longstanding partnership with the City of Bellevue, that dream is now a very real possibility.

Last summer, the Bellevue City Council approved the sale of the Bellevue Public Library building. The library will be relocated, and the current space will become the new Bellevue Food Pantry. With about 20 times more space, we’ll be able to stock far more food, including fresh produce, meat, dairy, and refrigerated and frozen options. Our clients will be able to choose from a variety of non-perishable and fresh options to best fit their unique health and cultural needs. We will be able to expand our fresh and frozen storage and accept more bulk items and donations from Food Bank for the Heartland and other community donors.

In addition to far more space, this building will allow us to better carry out our mission to not only feed people but to help them find and maintain economic stability. We’ll have the space to meet with people, host educational and community events, and allow partner agencies to offer services at the pantry. We’ll be able to connect our clients with more services, which will increase our impact tremendously.



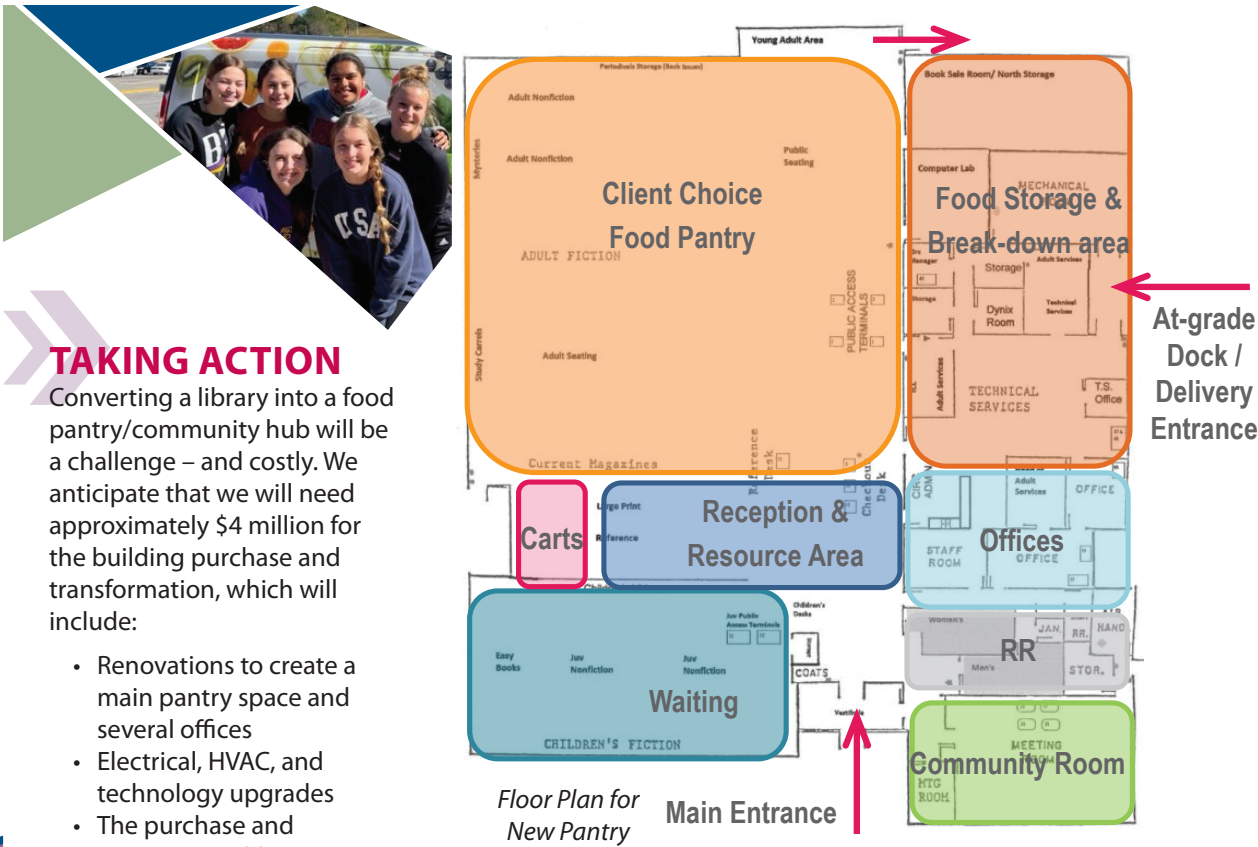
TAKING ACTION


Converting a library into a food pantry/community hub will be a challenge – and costly. We anticipate that we will need approximately \$4 million for the building purchase and transformation, which will include:

- Renovations to create a main pantry space and several offices
- Electrical, HVAC, and technology upgrades
- The purchase and installation of fridges, freezers, and a walk-in cooler
- The addition of new family restrooms, a kitchen and learning lab area
- Improved parking and expanded entrances
- Co-working spaces for community partners to give families, seniors, and veterans seeking support a “one-stop shop” for assistance
- Improved and increased community meeting spaces
- Preparation of community garden infrastructure

This work is slated to begin in 2024, after the library moves to its new location.

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST to PURCHASE and RENOVATE the NEW PANTRY: \$4 MILLION



CURRENT PANTRY		NEW PANTRY
1,025	Square footage	22,000
800	Clients served per month	XXXX
1/1	Refrigerators/freezers	10/10
0	Meeting spaces	5
1	Entrances/service entrances	22
850	Storage space (in square feet)	6,500
XX	Parking spaces	XXX