



There have been changes to how food banks and food pantries receive food at the federal level. This has made a big difference in what food we are able to offer at the pantry. Because of this, we must make changes to how we serve our shoppers.

Starting May 2025, each household will be limited to one (1) shopping visit per month.

Shopping limits will also be impacted by the changes. Our priority has always been to provide milk and unlimited produce for our clients, but moving forward, those limits will be changing. Please see the changes below:

- o **2 half gallons of milk → 1 half gallon of milk when available**
- o **Unlimited produce → produce limited by weight (this limit may change depending on availability and produce type)**

Please know that we may not have enough milk for everyone, or enough produce for everyone. This does not mean that the “first appointment” is the best. There will be other foods available.

We want to remind our shoppers that the Welcome Pantry is designed to help you stretch your budget further. It should not be used to replace your trips to the grocery store. We also want to remind people that there are other food resources, and you are encouraged to use those resources in addition to visiting the pantry.

We know these changes may be hard for our shoppers. We are working hard to find new ways to bring back our twice-a-month shopping visits and bring in additional fresh produce. Our goal has always been to be a warm, welcoming place to be, and that has not changed! We strive to be as thoughtful, intentional, and transparent as possible to serve our clients and Freeborn County to the best of our ability!

If you have questions about these changes, you may email welcomepantry@unitedwayfc.org or drop a note in our white drop-box outside our door. For additional resources, please call 2-1-1 from your phone for our 24/7 referral hotline.

Thank you,

Welcome Pantry Staff

