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Contact: Casey Thiems, Marketing Manager, IL Pork Producers Association

217.529.3100 | Casey@ilpork.com | [www.ilpork.com](http://www.ilpork.com)

**Illinois Pork Producers Announces Funding Opportunity for Food Pantries**

**SPRINGFIELD, ILL. –** The Illinois Pork Producers Association (IPPA) is excited to announce a new funding opportunity for food pantries in 2021. The Food Pantry Co-op was created to provide pork to food pantries, shelters, churches or groups in Illinois who strive to fight food insecurity in their local communities.

“Giving back to our local communities continues to be a top priority for Illinois pig farmers,” shares Alan Kollmann, IPPA President. “Our hope for this funding is to get quality protein further into small communities in our state, through existing organizations.”

The Food Pantry Co-op will reimburse up to $250 for the purchase of pork products. Eligible purchases include shelf-stable pork products, frozen or fresh products. Organizations, such as those listed above, are encouraged to apply for this program.

Funding is available on a first come, first served basis. The application can be found at ilpork.com.

IPPA continues to provide ground pork to the regional food banks across the state through the Pork Power program. Income from annual t-shirt sales, monetary donations from individuals, Illinois Corn Growers and the Illinois Soybean Association, plus donated pigs from Illinois farmers make this program possible.

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The Illinois Pork Producers Association (IPPA) represents more than 1,600 pork producers throughout Illinois and the Illinois pork industry, which contributes more than $13.8 billion and more than 57,000 jobs to the state’s economy (related to pork production and processing). IPPA is comprised of county pork producer groups in approximately 20 counties throughout Illinois. IPPA is an affiliate of the National Pork Producers Council and the National Pork Board.

**APPLICATION CAN BE DOWNLOADED** [**HERE**](https://ilpork.com/farmers-care/funding-opportunities/food-pantry-funding-program)**.**