Resource Guide

Generated November 24, 2026 · 6 open facilities · closed facilities are not listed · call before you go: details change quickly

IA

Benton County Courthouse Food Pantry

Walk–in Resource · Open

Food Pantry

905 D Ave, Room 30, Vinton, IA 52349

Phone 319–472–4743
Web www.cobentoniaus.com
Hours Tues & Fri 10:00am–4:00pm
Serves Benton County
Eligibility Applicants must first apply for the food stamp program through DHS and bring that referral form to this office when they are in need of food.
Service Temporary

*Located in the ICAS Building (former West Elementary School)

*Tied to Flood of Hope 2008

The Food Pantries in Benton County are administered by a volunteer organization. This office screens and refers applicants for that organization for persons who are in need of food assistance. The Vinton Food Pantry is available on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Applicants must first apply for the food stamp program through DHS and bring that referral form to this office when they are in need of food. The Food Pantry volunteers request that persons access the Pantry only one time every three month. The Food Pantry volunteers request that persons access the Pantry only one time every three months on an emergency basis.

Services offered: Facility: Food, Emergency Food Center; Food * (ANY/ALL Types); Food, Canned, Meals * (ANY/ALL Types); Food Distribution, Food Pantry (Distributes to the Public); Food, Non–Perishable Food * (ANY/ALL Types of Canned, Dry, Drinks, Snacks); Meals, MRE's, MRE, Meals–Ready–To–Eat; Volunteer Opportunities, In General * (ANY/ALL Types); Volunteers, Individual Volunteers (This facility accomodates Individuals Volunteers)
Campaigns: 2008 MidWest Floods

Updated Oct 8, 2008 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/3501

Flood Of Hope (Administered by Independent Child Advocate Services – ICAS)

Walk–in Resource

Disaster Recovery/Resources

905 D Avenue, Vinton, IA

Phone (319) 472–4501 Crisis Line: 877.471.ICAS
Web www.floodofhope.com
Serves Rural IA, Benton Co. & Surrounding Communities
Eligibility Impacted by the 6/08 MidWest Floods
Checks payable to Flood of Hope
Service Temporary

Site is down – no evidence of activity for this organzation – LTel 6/26/10

Flood of Hope© is a grassroots collaboration between small communities, elected officials and government entities, agency partners, and volunteer organizations. Flood of Hope© is administered by Independent Child Advocate Services (ICAS), and includes partnerships between the Iowa Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (IFFCMH), Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC), Windsor Manor, the City of Vinton, Benton County, Iowa Representative Dawn Pettengill, private businesses, community volunteers, and volunteer organizations such as Hands On Disaster Services. The work accomplished through Flood of Hope© has become a critical thread in the necessary fabric of recovery. Flood of Hope© information is updated regularly at www.floodofhope.com.

To date, Flood of Hope© has established a semi–permanent crisis center in the south building of ICAS, located at 905 D Avenue in Vinton, IA. Anyone who needs help, can contact ICAS at (319) 472–4501. ICAS prioritizes meeting the needs of families in rural areas, children's mental and behavioral health problems, and families who are experiencing a crisis. Families directly affected by the flood can request to speak with a flood relief volunteer. Flood of Hope© is operated entirely by volunteers due to limited financial resources; however, we are working very hard to bring additional human resources such as volunteer labor into the community to assist with recovery. Through case management and fundraising efforts, Flood of Hope© will eventually be able to assist in more monetary ways. Monetary assistance will depend entirely on the results of fundraising opportunities and cash donations.

The IFFCMH outreach office is also located in the south building. IFFCMH is able to assist with advocacy, especially for meeting the mental health needs of young people and their families. As the trauma of the disaster unfolds in children, this outreach link is a valuable asset available for anyone in Iowa. IFFCMH has also provided a joint opportunity for a Coe College student to complete her internship. Heidi Reynolds has been leading a substantial amount of the volunteer coordination effort and

organizing much of post–disaster chaos. The partnership that IFFCMH has provided made it possible for ICAS to coordinate flood relief efforts. Without this partnership, the efforts would not have been as effective.

ASAC has partnered by allowing local staff to assist with crisis counseling and to help with the social marketing aspects of Flood of Hope©. Amber Snider has committed herself to organizing benefit events, such as a silent auction, a benefit concert, and a golf tournament to raise funds for the flood relief efforts. Please contact ICAS at (319) 472–4501 and request to work with Amber if you have skills or time to help organize these or other events.

Habitat for Humanity is examining their current programs and looking at ways to help low–income families build or re–build their homes. More information will provided when details become available.

Benton County Board of Supervisors have worked with ICAS to relocate the sheriff's office, the county social services office, the Department of Transportation office, and the food pantry to the ICAS facility, and are now located in the north building. ICAS will additionally provide outreach space to agencies that traditionally met with consumers in the county's social services office. Vocational Rehab will begin meeting with their consumers at ICAS.

CURRENT NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

§ Food, cleaning supplies, paper products, or gift cards are appreciated most and can be dropped off during normal operating hours without an appointment. Food is a high need. We have enough food for about three days of distribution. Food can also be donated to the Benton County Food Pantry. Food for flood victims is being kept separate from the regular food pantry for tracking purposes.

§ Please do not bring donations of furniture, appliances, household items or decorations without calling ahead and assessing our need for them. Many people are still in very temporary housing situations, such as living with relatives or friends, and they have no place to put these items. ICAS is out of storage space and will have to start throwing things away due to limited storage capacity. We prefer that you hang onto them until they are needed, or take them to Goodwill or the Salvation Army. As families figure out where they will be living, we will be able to accommodate these types of donations, but this will take some time.

§ Tools are needed: claw hammers, saws of all kinds, crowbars, reversible drills, and building tools are among the list of needed items. We are asking that power tools be new due to liability risks. We are considering a lending "library" of tools so that volunteer organizations have a variety of tools to work with when they come.

§ Supplies for rebuilding are needed. We need a substantial amount of supply resources. These can be in terms of gift cards to local vendors, or in–kind donations of common building materials. No one comes out ahead with recovering from a flooding disaster. FEMA and Red Cross do not even come close to meeting the costs of all that is lost. Many times, homeowners end up having to pay to have their home demolished, and then have to continue paying mortgage for a house they no longer have in addition to paying for a new home. The buy out process can take a year or more, and people struggle to purchase materials. Donations of supplies will be used to repair homes that are salvageable, or to help repair infrastructure (such as the North Benton Ambulance garage). No supplies will be used on a home that is at risk of being demolished. Once repairs are made, supplies will be provided to Habitat for Humanity to assist with the building of new homes in the area.

§ Volunteers are encouraged to continue helping Flood of Hope©. Volunteers who can make phone calls and help assess families' needs are needed at ICAS. Teams of volunteers who can help families clean out their homes, sort through their belongings, and help gut or repair homes are needed. It works best to have a "leader" organize a group of volunteers and provide ICAS with 3 or more days advanced notice that your team is coming and to inform ICAS on what your team is willing to do. Vinton is a small town, so working out logistics is challenging and we need time to accommodate space, food, and sleeping arrangements. Groups that can be self–sufficient are greatly appreciated due to the lack of resources in Vinton (such as hotels or sleeping/showering accommodations). We are also helping families in other rural communities, so if you have a team interested in working in other areas, please allow 5 or more days for us to work out logistics.

ICAS is helping Hands On by interviewing and prioritizing families that need help. If you know a family who can benefit from this resource, encourage them to register with ICAS if they have not done so. ICAS is also working with families to do case management so those with the fewest resources and highest risk factors (such as elderly, disabled, single parent, etc.) of not getting enough help are prioritized. Family members do not need to reside within Benton County to ask for help; however, at this time Benton County residents are still being given priority for flood assistance. ICAS will do its best meet the needs of any Iowan resident, as it always has.

Please check the Flood of Hope© website, www.floodofhope.com, for updated information.
Campaigns: 2008 MidWest Floods
Updated Jun 28, 2010 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/3389

Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School

Shelter · Standby

Red Cross Flood Evacuation Shelter, School
1002 G Avenue, Vinton, IA 52349

Web grantwood–redcross.org/index.html?gwatitle.htm&1
Eligibility Evacuee's for 6/08 Flooding
Service Temporary

Services offered: Shelter * (ANY/ALL Types); Shelter, Evacuation Shelter; Support for "All" Disasters
Campaigns: 2008 MidWest Floods; American Red Cross / Int'l Federation of RC / ICRC / IFRC
Updated Jun 28, 2010 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/3077

North Benton Family Resource Center

Walk–in Resource · Open

Non–Profit
202 East 4th St, Vinton, IA 52349

Phone 319–472–4761
Web www.linncountyrec.com/cgi–script/csarticles/articles/000003/000318.htm
Hours business hours – call
Serves Benton and Linn County
Eligibility Must be low income; must bring proof of income
Bring proof of income
Service Temporary

*Apply at North Benton Family Resource Center

*Donation form is located at:
http://www.linncountyrec.com/online_forms/recare.asp

RECare Program

RECare is a crisis fund available for low income members to help pay their electric bills and to weatherize their homes. When you give to RECare, your donation goes directly to families in need in our community. All funds are distributed by a local community action agency, there are no administrative costs. Your contributions are also tax deductible.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP):

The Low–Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to assist low–income families with the cost of home heating. Applications are accepted on a first come/first serve basis from Nov. 1, 2007 through Apr. 15, 2008, Monday through Friday, or as posted at the local HACAP office. Check the back of your Linn County REC bill for a listing of HACAP or T.R.A.I.N offices.

ELIGIBILITY – A household may qualify for assistance in this program if the household's income falls within the income range listed below. This program is not designed to pay a household's total energy costs, but to provide assistance in the payment of residential heating costs for eligible households.

At the time you apply at a HACAP or T.R.A.I.N. office, providing you have brought all necessary documentation with you (proof of income for the last 13 weeks and a copy of your heating and electric bills), you will be told whether you are eligible and if so, for what amount you might qualify. This initial determination is subject to review and totally dependent on the availability of federal funds. In most cases, benefits will be in the form of a credit applied to your heating bill by your utility company. Households who reside in subsidized housing that are individually metered and responsible for paying their primary heating costs are eligible. Subsidized households that are master metered are usually not eligible to receive assistance benefits.

Residents of any licensed medical facility (hospital, skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility), publicly operated community residence or emergency shelter are ineligible unless they are paying a vendor directly for their primary heating source.

Proof of Income: Attach documents that offer proof of total household gross income from all sources. HACAP or T.R.A.I.N. offices must have complete proof of income to process your application.

Fixed Income: This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Aid to Families with Dependent Children or Family Investment Program, Veterans' Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, pensions. Please bring a copy of your most recent check.

Wage Earners: Attach copies of your check stubs for the three month period preceding the date of application or a copy of your federal income tax return.

Self Employment/Farmers: Bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return. If you receive interest or dividend income, alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified.

TANF (FIP) and SSI Recipients: Bring in a copy of your Medicaid card.

Services offered: Demographic Served: Low Income Folks; Financial Assistance, ** Financial Assistance (ANY/ALL Types); Financial Assistance, Utility Bill Assistance
Campaigns: 2008 MidWest Floods
Updated Aug 23, 2008 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/3500

Sherriff's Office – Benton County

Info/Hotline · Standby

Volunteer Coordination Staging Site, County
113 E 3rd St, Vinton, IA 52349

Phone (319) 472–2337
Web grantwood–redcross.org/index.html?gwatitle.htm&1

Serves Benton County
Service Temporary

6/11/08 Red Cross Update – For Vinton (Benton County): Sandbagging help should go to the Sheriff's Office

Services offered: First Responder, MidWest Region
Campaigns: 2008 MidWest Floods
Updated Jan 10, 2010 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/3093

VINTON (IOWA) FLOOD RELIEF FUND

Info/Hotline · Open

Disaster Fund

Farmers Savings Bank & Trust; Therese Foth, VP/Assistant Trust Officer; 401 B Avenue, Vinton, IA 52349

Web cityofvinton.com/html/vinton_iowa_fund.shtml
Serves Vinton, IA
Checks payable to Vinton Community Foundation – Vinton Flood Relief
Service Temporary

We lost our fire department, our county jail, and our electrical plant – the community fought hard to save many things in town.

The following is information regarding the Vinton Iowa Community Foundation:
The Vinton Iowa Community Foundation is a tax–exempt charitable organization, IRC 301 (a); that was established November 7, 1994. The purpose of the foundation is to receive and accept donations for educational, cultural, or charitable purposes. The Foundation then disburses the donations among local tax–exempt community organizations to support various projects. Though the use of these donations; the quality of life in the Vinton area is improved.

Over its lifetime, the foundation has provided over $98,000 to nonprofit groups and community projects. Each year the foundation distributes 100% of the interest earned and any donations which are not restricted. Restricted donations are either placed into the endowment or if for a specific use – distributed for that use.

The Foundation is managed by the five–member board of directors, who are appointed by various community organizations and serve limited terms. The organizations represented on the Board of Directors are:

Vinton – Shellsburg (Iowa) Community School District
Vinton Area Ministerial Association
Farmers Savings Bank & Trust – Vinton
Vinton Unlimited
Vinton City Council
Foundation positions are:
Secretary, John K Fischer, Attorney
Trustee, Farmers Savings Bank & Trust – Vinton
Accountant, Kerdus & Barron, PC
Contact information is:

Farmers Savings Bank & Trust
% Therese Foth, VP/Assistant Trust Officer
401 B Avenue
Vinton, IA 52349

The Vinton Community Foundation is now accepting funds for Vinton Flood Relief. The funds for immediate use will be disbursed by the Vinton Area Ministerial Association. Large requests will be decided by the entire Foundation Board and the Ministerial Association Board. 100% of funds donated for this cause will go out to flood victims.

Checks may be made payable to Vinton Community Foundation – Vinton Flood Relief and mailed to the above address.

Supplies may be sent to the following address:

ICAS
Patricia Gilbaugh
905 D Avenue
Vinton, IA 52349

319–361–6529

Wire instructions are as follows if you want to wire funds:

Bankers Bank Madison
Routing number or ABA Number 075912479

For Credit to: Farmers Savings Bank & Trust – Vinton
Account number 073918459
For Further Credit to: VCF–Vinton Flood Relief Fund
401 B Avenue, Vinton IA 52349

319–472–2373, Attention Therese Foth

Services offered: Demographic Served: Survivors, Natural Disaster Impacted Communities; Donations, Disaster Fund
Campaigns: 2008 MidWest Floods
Updated Jul 12, 2008 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/3393