



**Iowa Food Bank
Association**
Feeding Iowa

Hosting a Legislator

What is our goal today?

- **To provide information that gets all attendees/viewers comfortable with hosting an elected official**
- **To encourage us all to speak about our work with key community stakeholders**
- **To make all aware HACAP Food Res can help with this process**

Why is this important?

- **Familiarity with decision-makers**
- **Lawmakers continually express interest in visiting HACAP partners**
- **Connects them to issues in their district**

Preparing to Host

- **Have a plan – what are we doing?**
 - Volunteer shift, visit while open, tour and conversation etc.
- **1st Visit – keep it simple and informative – establish a relationship**
 - Numbers served, how you offer services, who supports you, etc.
- **Large site vs small site**
- **Have a back-up plan for zoom/teams meeting**

Inviting a Legislator

- **Know who to contact:** [Iowa Legislature - Find Your Legislator](#)
 - Email is best
- Have multiple dates available
- Tell them what you do, and the plan for the visit
- Include any data you may have that sticks out
- Remember to do your homework!

Sample Legislator Email

- Be brief, include your location, provide your contact information, thank them

Dear Representative/Senator (Last Name)

My name is Aron Brecht from the HACAP Food Reservoir in Hiawatha. I am reaching out to invite you to visit our food bank for a tour and conversation about our efforts in the district you represent. We are a food bank that provides food to our neighbors in need across 7 counties. Our partners serve over 50,000 neighbors in need in those 7 counties, including 7,000 in your service area, and we distribute over 10 million pounds of food per year.

Our address is 1515 Hawkeye Dr. Hiawatha, IA 52233. We have time October 20th, 25th, and 30th between 1-3 PM and you can reach me at this email or at 319-310-3943.

Thank you for your service to lowans and we look forward to meeting, and working, with you!

Sincerely,

Doing your homework

- **What has this person supported or opposed?**
- **How does it connect with what we do?**
- [Iowa Legislature - Find Your Legislator](#) - Bills Tab
- **Review social media, news articles, website, etc.**
- [Rep. Hinson Example](#) - WIC
- **Examples – Sami Scheetz, Choose Iowa**

Hosting

- **Just like any other visitor**
- **Execute the plan!**
- **If you have an ask – do not forget it**
 - **Ex: "what can you do to help the neighbors we serve?"**
- **Give plenty of time for discussion – let the conversation flow**
- **Follow up say thank you!**

How HACAP Can Help

- **With everything in this slideshow**
- **Attend/Lead the meeting, gameplan, provide insight on legislators, etc.**
- **Making a connection – especially if we have existing relationship**
- **We can be very involved – we can also stay away – everything in between.**

Questions?



What's Next?

- **Get to work! Let me know how we can help.**
- **Find additional tips and tricks:** [Be the Voice for Alleviating Hunger | Iowa Food Bank Association](#)
- **Sign up for advocacy updates:** [Join Our Mailing List | Iowa Food Bank Association](#)
- **Keep us posted!**
- Abrecht@hacap.org or 319-310-3943