



Food Systems Updates

With the recent changes to SNAP age and work requirements (regardless of mobility, health, etc.), we have seen quite an increase of new faces at our free meal program. This includes women, children, and seniors. We are a community kitchen, serving anyone who is hungry and not only our residents.

Our team has been diligently processing extra produce to utilize in the winter months, preparing stock with vegetable scraps, and providing iced herbal teas during mealtimes from the abundant array of herbs in our garden. Our Garden Manager, Kitchen Manager, and Food Systems Director are discussing how to extend the growing season as we continue to strive to provide beautiful meals to our community.

Your support of the DRM helps us continue to feed the Dubuque community.



"A magnificent work of engaged scholarship . . .
The most important book on hunger and poverty in America
since Michael Harrington's *The Other America* (1964)."
— Kirkus Reviews

Join Us for a Book Discussion

Dr. Janet Poppendieck published "Sweet Charity? Emergency Food and the End of Entitlement" in 1999. While a few acronyms have changed, and "food stamps" are now the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the points of discussion remain hyper relevant, even 27 years later. Fighting hunger in America remains an overwhelming task, one which provides opportunities for anyone, anywhere, to get involved.

Rounding up at the grocery store, donating cans at church, volunteering at the pantry or free meal site, rescuing food from trash cans after a catering event, growing extra produce to share with the hungry.

It can be done at work or school or in a club or with your children or solo. But what happens, Poppendieck asks, when we focus our mutual energies on the downstream event (rising rates of hunger) rather than what's going on upstream?

Join Food Systems Director Clarissa Klostermann for a book discussion on **October 14th at 2:00PM** on the **second floor of 398 Main Street** as we consider the power of the emergency food system, how it has evolved over the last 25 years, and what it means to attempt to solve hunger with only charity and volunteerism. If you would like to participate, please RSVP at info@dbqrescue.org. Books are available for purchase at River Lights Bookstore. We hope this will be a wonderful time of discussion and collaboration.

On October 11th, 2026
**The Church Unites
to End Homelessness.**

Register for
Homelessness Sunday
at nfceh.org



Invitation to Homelessness Sunday

Homelessness Sunday offers communities of faith a meaningful opportunity to pause, reflect, and respond to the reality of homelessness in our neighborhoods. This initiative invites people from diverse faith traditions to come together around a shared value: the belief that every person deserves dignity, safety, and a place to call home.

While traditions may differ in practice and expression, many faiths share a common commitment to care for those who are vulnerable, to welcome the stranger, and to pursue justice. This day creates space for those shared values to be lived out in tangible ways.

Across the country, faith communities will gather on the same day to learn, reflect, and act. Some will host discussions or educational events. Others will organize service opportunities or partner with local organizations. Together, these efforts send a clear message that caring for our neighbors is a responsibility we share, and that meaningful change happens when we work together.

We can build a future where everyone can live with dignity, stability, and hope. Join us **October 11th** in changing our community for the better. Learn more at nfceh.org.

Ways You Can Take Action

- Check to see if your faith community has signed up to participate! The Faith Coalition to End Homelessness has worked hard to create a wide variety of materials that can make acknowledging this day easily accessible for clergy and congregational leaders.
- Take time to understand the realities of homelessness in your local area. Participate in our upcoming book club, volunteer with us to serve a meal or work in our gardens, or schedule a tour with our partner organization Opening Doors to better understand what homelessness looks like for the women, children, and men of our community.
- Support organizations working to address homelessness. It costs the DRM just under \$48 a day to provide food, shelter, job development, social services, and rehousing assistance for each of the 80+ men in residence with us. A gift of a day or week of support can change the lives of our neighbors for years to come.

Summer PIT Count

At around 1am on July 30th, a group of volunteers searched the city of Dubuque for those who were sleeping outside. Every six months, folks in Dubuque join others from across the United States to participate in the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, a coordinated effort to measure homelessness on a single night. This snapshot provides critical insight into both local needs and national trends, helping guide resources, policy, and community response.

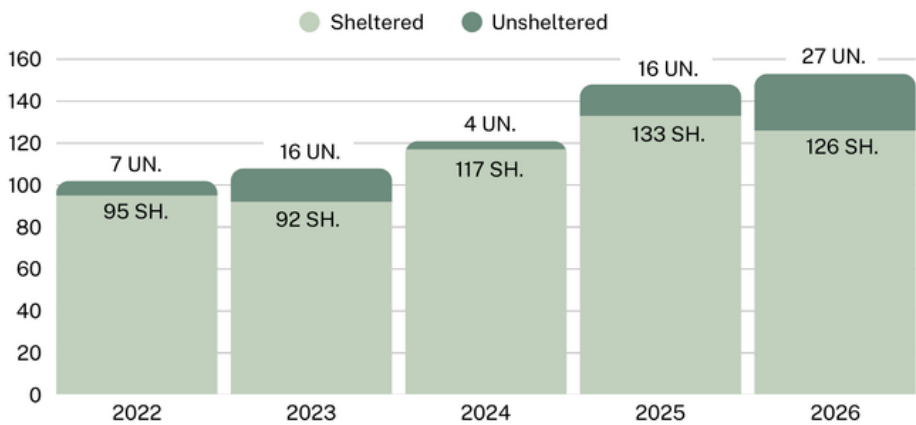


Both locally and nationally, the data reflects a steady rise in overall homelessness locally between 2022 and 2026. At the national level, in 2022, there were 354,000 who were without shelter. In 2025, the most recent data we have nationally, that number rose to 746,000. Locally, the numbers show Dubuque is following the national trend with our increases. PIT data shows that in Dubuque, the summer count rose

from 18 individuals in 2022 to 84 in 2026. These trends suggest that homelessness is not only rising, but becoming more visible in our community.

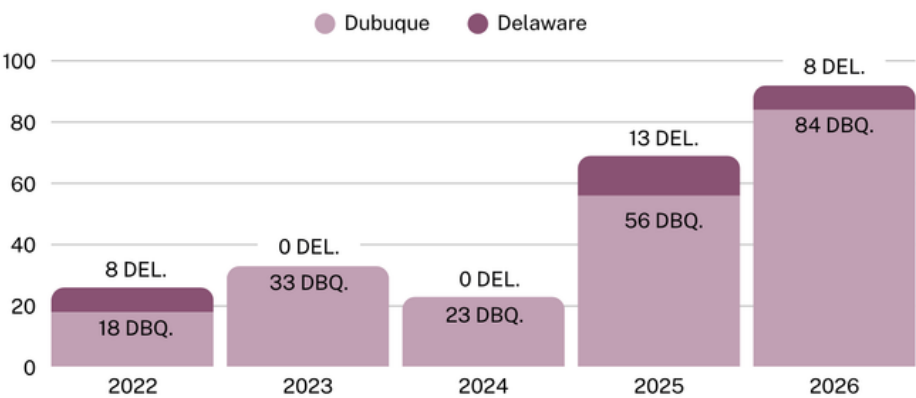
Point in Time Count

Winter Point-in-Time Count Data



Driven by factors such as rising housing costs, economic instability, and limited access to affordable housing, communities both large and small are feeling this pressure across the country, and we are not immune from these trends.

Summer Point-in-Time Count Data*



Your support of the DRM helps us ensure that we can continue to provide the best services possible to those experiencing homelessness in our community. Together, we can support the men, women, and children currently experiencing homelessness and work to lower these numbers.



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Help Prepare for Winter

Help the Dubuque Rescue Mission raise \$250,000 before winter to fight hunger and homelessness!

We are preparing for the freezing temperatures of winter when an increasing number of people seek beds indoors. In addition, homelessness has risen in Dubuque over the past four years, leading to more people utilizing our food and shelter services.

With the rising need, as well as increasing food prices, we are seeking your help! Help us raise \$250,000 by October 31st to make sure no one goes hungry and no one has to sleep outside. Donations support additional beds and meals.

Support Our Services

- Overnight shelter for 80 men.
- More than 4,000 meals monthly for people in need.
- Fresh fruits and vegetables from our urban garden.
- Rehousing assistance, social services, and job development.
- Clothing and other material goods for those with no means to pay.
- Thrift Stores and Repair Shop.



dubuquerescue.org/donate

More than 33,221
meals served so far
this year.

Over 1,700 pounds of
produce harvested
from our urban garden.

19 residents mentored
this summer in our pre-
employment program.