

June 1, 2021

To whom it may concern,

Thinking of the neighbors we serve through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), I write to you with my most sincere and enthusiastic support for the construction of the proposed new joint facility.

The CSFP program has been a long-running food distribution initiative in Brookings. At the time I was invited to take over the coordination of the program, it was being taken care of by the Brookings Police Department. Their lead person was soon to retire and that would leave a gap in service to all that relied on the shelf-stable food items contained in this 25# box.

The coordination of the "Senior Box" program has been in my care since February 2011. Initially, we could distribute the boxes from Ascension Lutheran Church. The common thread here is that I began and managed Feeding Brookings while I worked at Ascension – I had the connection to Feeding SD in Sioux Falls which supplies, packs and delivers the food for both programs.

Distribution of the boxes has moved locations two times since September 2016. Our site hosts have been most kind and accommodating for great lengths at a time. However, the structure of the buildings we've been in have had their limitations.

Currently there are 68 households receiving the foodstuffs each month by either picking up the box from our central location or are getting the box delivered to them at their home. The population that is served by the CSFP program are persons 60+ years of age and at 130% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. (To be clear, this means a qualifying individual earns \$16,744 or less annually.) It is of utmost importance to treat all with dignity and respect. Offer a place of hospitality. Provide accessible entrance and ease of distribution for both the giver and the receiver. Life is hard enough sometimes and it's not easy to ask for help. We need to do our part to help however we can.

From the architect drawings that I have been privileged to see and comment on, this building is destined to bless those we serve and for those that serve.

With genuine appreciation of your time,

Lisa Marotz
Coordinator, Brookings Commodity Supplemental Food Program