



Finding Funding for Congregate Nutrition Programs

Perspectives on Nutrition and Aging: A National Summit
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Summary of Problem

- Nutrition programs need additional funding
- Opportunity exists to generate revenue by renting kitchen facilities when not in use
- Iowa Food Systems Council explored connecting kitchens with local fruit and vegetable farmers



4 Step Process

1. Survey Iowa congregate meal kitchens
2. Survey specialty crop producers
3. Convene two meetings
4. Complete a feasibility study
 - survey results
 - meeting results
 - lessons learned
 - recommendations for agreements between producers and congregate meal





Results

1. There is interest among kitchen managers and specialty crop producers in Iowa to process Iowa specialty crops and to make licensed processing facilities more readily available.
2. Department of Inspections and Appeals involvement is important from the beginning.
3. There are many regulations and licensing considerations but they are not insurmountable.

Kitchen Manager

Questions for DIA

- (kitchen has license and is assuming responsibility for the facility)
- 1. Specific products to be processed
- 2. Is there sufficient equipment for the process?
- 3. Would storage of ingredients and finished product be offered?
- 4. Are there food security/food defense concerns?
 - Segregated section that is locked
 - Allergen considerations

Producer

Questions for DIA

- (Farmer has license and is assuming liability for their activities)
- 1. Product(s) to be processed
- 2. Where will product be sold (the intended customer)?
- 3. What is the step-by-step process for each product?

Action Steps: Kitchens

1. Board of Directors approval
2. Meet with Department of Inspections and Appeals
3. Decide on products that will be accepted for processing
4. Check with insurance agent
5. Develop a rental agreement

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5. Determine days and hours that kitchen will be available for processing.
6. Develop a promotional piece brochure
7. Department of Inspections and Appeals review
8. Start small and expand as appropriate

