2022 was a time of continued stress from the COVID-19 pandemic, record-setting food shelf visits and challenging food sourcing. In this context, food shelf leaders prioritized capturing client feedback and sharing their own experiences through statewide surveys. Key insights point to the current strengths, challenges and needs for further investment in this essential community asset.

**COMMON CHALLENGES REPORTED BY MANAGERS**

- Food sourcing and supply chain challenges: 74%
- Increased client visits and demand for food: 71%
- Decreased volunteer capacity: 44%
- Reduced donations from the community: 40%

**HOW OFTEN THESE FOODS WERE ALWAYS AVAILABLE FROM FOOD BANKS**

- Fresh fruits and vegetables: 45%
- Meat, poultry, and fish: 47%
- Dairy: 49%
- Eggs: 18%

**YEAR-ROUND PRODUCE**

- 70% of managers can provide fresh produce year-round.

**IMPACT OF REDUCED USDA COMMODITY FOOD AVAILABILITY**

- 65% reported increased food costs.
- 56% reported decreased food variety.
- 51% reported decreased amount of food offered.

**MANY FOOD SHELVES INTEGRATED PREVIOUS CLIENT INSIGHTS INTO THEIR WORK.**

- 78% aware of results.
- 71% shared with others.
- 61% used results to inform food program changes and decisions.

For more information, visit [https://www.supershelfmn.org/minnesota-statewide-survey](https://www.supershelfmn.org/minnesota-statewide-survey).
VARIABILITY IN PROGRAM LONGEVITY, STAFFING, AND INFRASTRUCTURE CAN IMPACT CAPACITY.

NUMBER OF PAID STAFF AT FOOD PROGRAM
- Volunteer run and led: 35%
- 1-3 paid staff: 45%
- 4+ paid staff: 19%

YEARS MANAGER HAS BEEN AT FOOD PROGRAM
- 0-3 years: 31%
- 4-5 years: 18%
- 6-15 years: 38%
- 16+ years: 13%

YEARS FOOD PROGRAM HAS BEEN OPERATING
- 0-5 years: 15%
- 6-15 years: 22%
- 16+ years: 64%

FOOD SHELF INFRASTRUCTURE
- 99% have a stable location.
- 76% have an annual budget to purchase food.
- 72% have a website.

SERVICE MODELS
Comments across multiple questions point to evolving choice and hybrid food models that creatively increase food access and decrease barriers.

FOOD BANKS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN FOOD SOURCING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE.

PERCENTAGE OF MANAGERS THAT AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE WITH THESE STATEMENTS
- I know what food is available: 85%
- Ordering process is easy: 78%
- Deliveries are on time and include everything I order: 79%
- Communication is clear and timely: 82%
- Food bank staff listen to my feedback and perspective: 83%
- I learn information from the food bank that helps me run my food program: 70%

25% I wish my food bank offered more frequent deliveries.
83% My food shelf is satisfied with my regional food bank.

MORE IS NEEDED FOR FOOD SHELVES TO SUSTAIN AND EXPAND FOOD ACCESS.

INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS
1. More cooler capacity
2. More freezer capacity
3. Vehicles to move and distribute food
4. Expanded space for the food program

TIME AND FUNDING NEEDS
1. Increased donors and fundraising
2. More volunteers
3. More paid staff
4. Increased community support and engagement

EXPERTISE NEEDS
1. Fundraising support, including grant writing
2. Food sourcing strategies
3. Volunteer management
4. Marketing my program and impact

FOOD BANKS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN FOOD SOURCING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE.

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