2019 RESULTS!

MINNESOTA FOOD SHELF MANAGER SURVEY

WHO WE HEARD FROM

- 178 food shelf managers across Minnesota
  - 53% were located in rural areas
  - 47% were located in urban areas
  - 30% urban metro areas
  - 70% non-urban metro areas

WHAT WE HEARD

HEALTHIER FOODS CAN BE CHALLENGING TO SOURCE

PERCENTAGE OF MANAGERS THAT SAID THESE HEALTHY FOODS WERE ALWAYS ABLE TO BE SOURCED FROM ANY FOOD SOURCE

- 81% meat, poultry, fish
- 50% fresh fruit & veggies
- 60% dairy
- 51% eggs
- 35% cooking & baking

PERCENTAGE OF MANAGERS THAT SAID THESE HEALTHY FOODS WERE CONSISTENTLY AVAILABLE FROM THEIR FOOD BANK

- 79% meat, poultry, fish
- 63% fresh fruit & veggies
- 64% dairy
- 40% eggs
- 52% cooking & baking

FOOD SHELVES ARE PRIORITIZING FRESH PRODUCE

- 77% of managers can provide fresh produce year-round. (1% prefer not to answer)

MANAGERS REPORT USING THE FOLLOWING SOURCES FOR FRESH PRODUCE

- 85% donation from farmer/grower
- 84% food bank order
- 58% food/retail rescue
- 24% purchase from local retailers
- 8% purchase wholesale

(14% report using other sources; 1% prefer not to answer; 1% missing)

Readers should note that these data were collected prior to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic and do not reflect the potential impacts of COVID-19 on food shelves in 2020. Evidence from national data suggests that food insecurity has increased since the start of the pandemic*. 


Brought to you by Hunger Solutions Minnesota, MN Dept of Human Services, & SuperShelf
MORE RESOURCES ARE NEEDED FOR SERVICE EXPANSION

PERCENTAGE OF MANAGERS THAT SAID THEY NEED MORE OF THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES TO EXPAND THEIR FOOD SERVICES

1. Freezer/cooler space 55%
2. Volunteers 37%
3. Dry storage 30%
4. Paid staff 19%
5. Fleet or service vehicle 13%
6. Community, board, or staff buy-in 11%

(20% report needing other resources; 3% prefer not to answer; 1% missing.)

THE INCREASE IN 2019 TEFAP FOODS HAVE IMPACTED FOOD SHELVES IN A VARIETY OF WAYS

81% SAID IT INCREASED THE AMOUNT OF FOOD THEY HAVE

PERCENTAGE OF MANAGERS THAT SAID TEFAP CHANGES HAD ADDITIONAL IMPACTS

- Reduced food purchasing budget: 69%
- Increased healthfulness of foods: 65%
- More food than they could take: 33%
- Created storage/distribution challenges: 30%
- Had no impact: 2%

(1% report other impacts not specified; 2% report not using TEFAP; 1% prefer not to answer; 3% missing.)

BUILDING A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOOD BANK AND FOOD SHELF IS IMPORTANT

83% said their food bank is a TRUSTED PARTNER
10% said their food bank is SIMPLY A SOURCE FOR FOOD
0% said their food bank is a COMPETITOR

(6% responded other; 1% prefer not to answer.)

PERCENTAGE OF MANAGERS THAT SAID THEY MOSTLY AND STRONGLY AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ABOUT THEIR FOOD BANK EXPERIENCE

- I know what food is available at my food bank: 99%
- Communication from my food bank is clear and timely: 94%
- Ordering process from my food bank is easy: 93%
- Food bank deliveries are on time and include everything I order: 92%
- I learn info from my food bank that is helpful: 89%
- I wish my food bank offered more frequent deliveries: 31%

(0% prefer not to answer; 1% prefer not to answer; 2% prefer not to answer; 3% prefer not to answer; 3% prefer not to answer; 11% prefer not to answer.)