

A large white plate and a silver fork are positioned on the left side of the image. The plate is a simple white circle with a thin grey border, and the fork is a simple grey silhouette. The background is a solid red color that transitions to a lighter orange at the bottom.

Ending Food Insecurity:

It Will Take Us All

A project of the Lift a Life Foundation and the
Community Foundation of Louisville

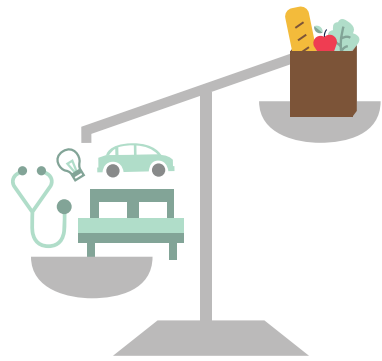
Food Insecurity Persists

Food insecurity is a community wide problem that requires a community wide response. This often unspoken problem affects our neighbors, co-workers, friends, and families. It's more than hunger. Food insecurity affects working families and seniors and is not limited to those living below the poverty line. For some Louisvillians it is a longstanding, daily experience. Others cope with it for a short time. All it takes is a simple life change. A job loss, increased educational expenses, or unexpected home or auto repairs can lead to food insecurity.

FOOD INSECURITY

means not having enough food to live a happy, healthy life

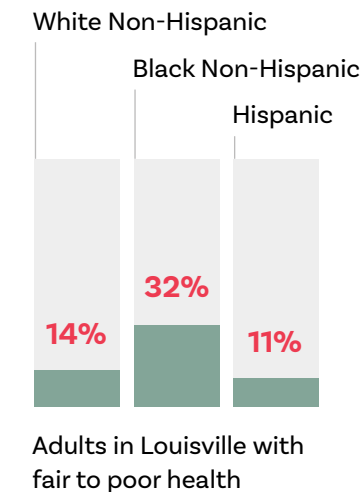
Many Louisvillians must choose between food and other essential life needs.



The Hunger Innovation Fellowship is raising awareness of food insecurity in Louisville and elevating local efforts to inspire innovative partnerships that accelerate progress. It is the result of deep and ongoing community engagement. This data represents Jefferson County, KY, but solutions that grow from this work will positively impact residents regionally. These efforts can encourage our community to build on past successes and lead us to a better understanding of less-understood needs.

Who Experiences Food Insecurity?

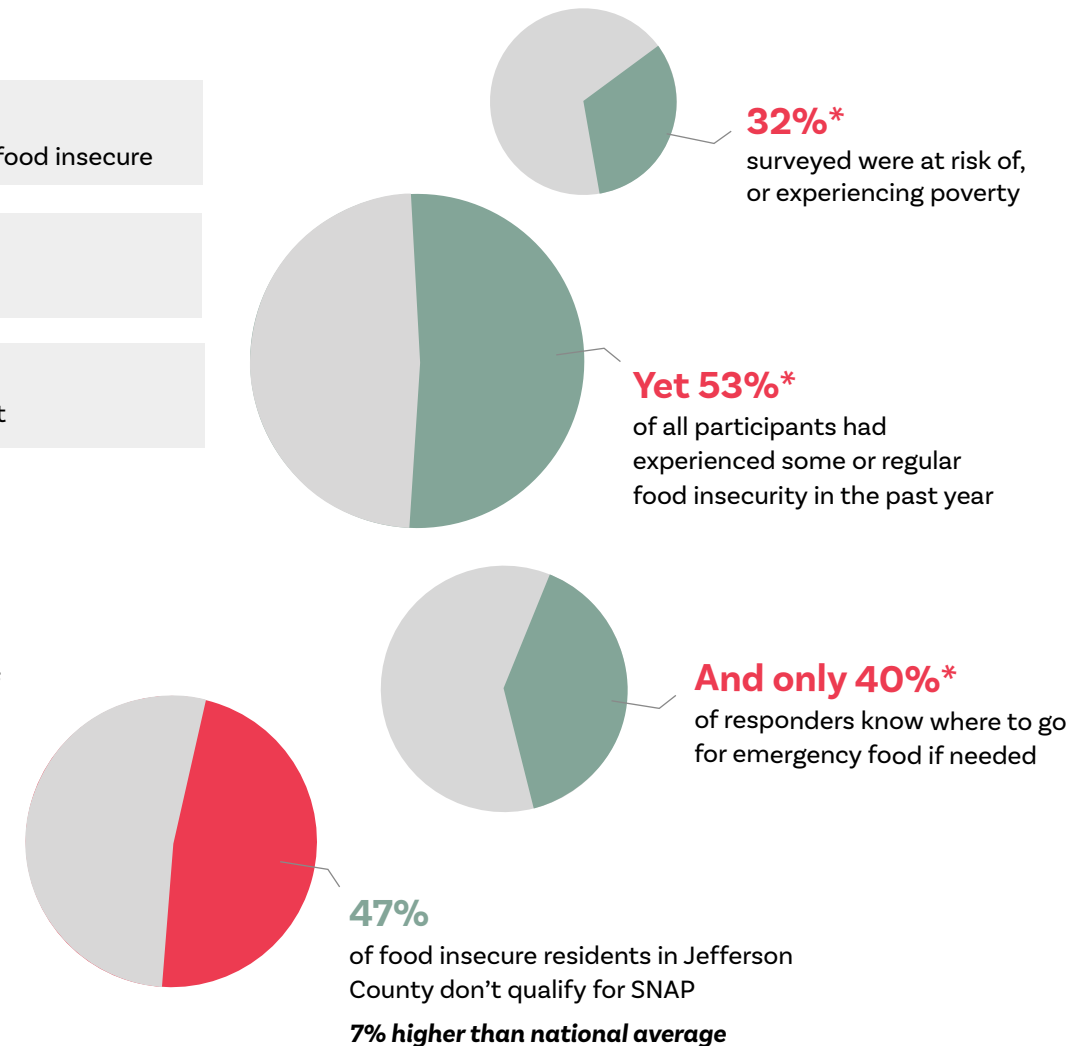
Jefferson County, Kentucky



1 in 6 Children, College Students, and Adults are affected by food insecurity

Neighborhoods with the highest % of households **without a car** have

0 major full service grocery stores



*Survey conducted by IQS Research

A Shared Language

EBT: Electronic Benefits Transfer. A debit card used to pay stores in SNAP benefits.

EMERGENCY FOOD: Food provided to people who lack resources to purchase the food they need.

FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES: Guidelines, based on family size and income, issued annually to determine financial eligibility for federal programs. In 2018, guidelines for a household of four is annual income below \$25,100.

FOOD DESERT: Underserved areas that lack fresh, healthy food options.

FOOD INSECURITY: An economic or social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food.

FOOD PANTRY: An organization that provides donated food to people in need.

FOOD SYSTEMS: Includes all the stages of keeping people fed: growing, harvesting, packing, processing, transforming, marketing, consuming, and disposing of food.

FOOD WASTE: Food that is fit for human consumption but is not consumed because it spoils or is discarded before it can be eaten.

SNAP: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, a federal government program that provides financial assistance for food to people in need, more commonly known as food stamps. Several factors, including family size, monthly income and expenses, determine eligibility.

WIC: Women, Infants, and Children provides supplemental nutritious food and nutrition education to low-income, nutritionally at risk pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age 5.

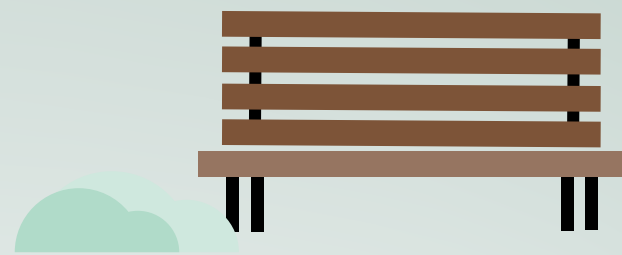
Overcoming Barriers

Jefferson County currently needs

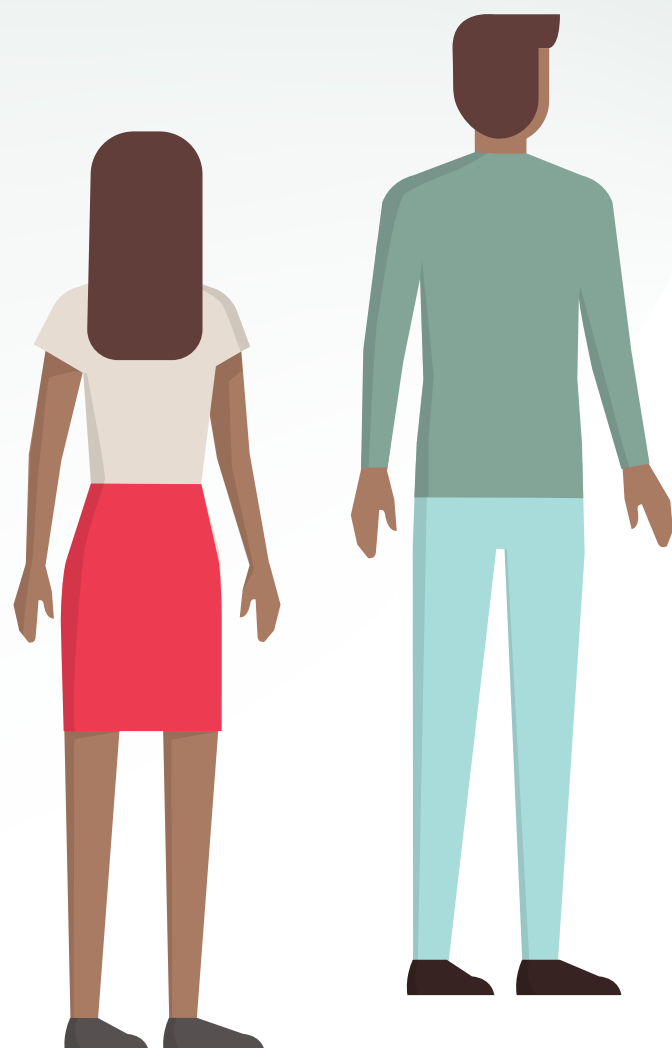
\$60,428,000

annually to meet the needs of those experiencing food insecurity.

Affordability, Access, and Awareness are major barriers to food. Cost, distance, and quality determines what Louisvillians eat. We believe those who are unserved or underserved by local resources remain so due to unfamiliar information, inconsistent eligibility, inconvenient resources, or inadequate treatment. Some may avoid using food support services because they perceive these services are not meant for them.



Receiving emergency food is challenging, because requirements at food pantries vary. Food assistance services can require combinations of proof of address, employment, or dependents. Some locations may limit the number of times someone can receive assistance, or limit assistance only to those living in a certain geographic area.



Strides Forward



AFFORDABILITY AWARENESS

In 2017, Dare to Care and its 300 food pantry, shelter, and emergency kitchen partners provided 19.9 million meals.

The [Community Farm Alliance](#) and Bluegrass Farm to Table expanded [Kentucky Double Dollars](#), so SNAP eligible families could buy even more locally-grown produce.

In 2017, [Facilities Management Services](#) and [New Roots](#) provided the ability for 62 families to purchase weekly fresh fruits and vegetables, subsidized by FMS.

ACCESS

Louisville's 14 farmers markets, 10 New Roots Fresh Stop Market locations, and [51 community gardens](#) are making fresh food available in food deserts.

Small retailers learned ways to sell fresh, affordable fruits and vegetables in food deserts thanks to Louisville's Center for Health Equity and the [YMCA Healthy in a Hurry Corner Stores initiative](#).

Over 2,600 Louisville seniors received meals thanks to programs like [Louisville Metro Senior Nutrition](#) and [Shively Area Ministries Meals on Wheels](#).

[Oasis](#), an innovative store concept, offers frozen, fresh foods in a local food desert thanks to [Buehler's Cash Saver Market](#), [Catholic Charities of Louisville](#), and [Dare to Care Food Bank](#).

[New Legacy](#) distributed nearly 10,000 free lunches in local parks in 2018 funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered through [Jefferson County Public Schools](#).

[Bellarmine University's](#) chapter of the [Food Recovery Network](#) provided over 10,300 pounds of food to partner agencies in Louisville.



Families can quickly locate emergency services on their digital device using [LouieConnect](#) thanks to [Metro United Way](#) and [Family Scholar House](#).

People gathered over a meal to share ideas for providing healthy food to more people at the 2018 Dinners & Dialogue series sponsored by [Passport Health](#), [Louisville Urban League](#), [American Heart Association](#), [Jewish Community Center of Louisville](#), and the [Louisville Association for Cooperative Economics](#).

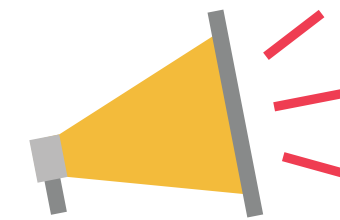
[Louisville Metro Office of Resilience and Community Services](#) is investigating the impact of Louisville's food waste and changing consumer behaviors through a "Save the Food" campaign thanks to receiving federal funding.

ChooseWell and Freedom House provide weekly [Chop-n-Chats](#) where families, healthcare professionals, business leaders, and community partners promote nutritious food choices, home cooking, and strategies for building a culture of health and well-being.

Providing enough food for our community is everyone's responsibility. No single organization or sector can tackle this issue alone.

Needed partners:

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
PRIVATE COMPANIES
GOVERNMENT ENTITIES
GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZATIONS
COMPASSIONATE CITIZENS
LOCAL ADVOCATES
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS



Next Steps



Food insecurity is complex. It requires us to better understand people's needs and meet multiple, interconnected challenges. With increased awareness, more segments of our community can actively contribute. Innovative ideas can come from youth, entrepreneurs, physicians, educators, bankers, and others who serve families. Our successes are promising and point to future opportunities. Through partnership, we can do more to address systematic barriers limiting food access.



These ideas are a starting point. We have collected over 300 promising practices from across the country that can serve as models. Learn more at hungerinnovationfellowship.org.

Having enough food to live an active and productive life should be everyone's reality. As a community, we can engage our neighbors to link together in large and small ways to identify paths forward and commit to collective action.

Together, we can accelerate our progress toward greater food security for all.

The Hunger Innovation Fellowship carries forward the bold goal of working to end food insecurity in our community. The Fellowship is designed and sponsored by the Lift a Life Foundation and the Community Foundation of Louisville, with Monique Kuykendoll Quarterman serving as the 2018 Fellow.

Visit our website for full citations and sources, additional data, and research on promising practices from other communities.

hungerinnovationfellowship.org

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