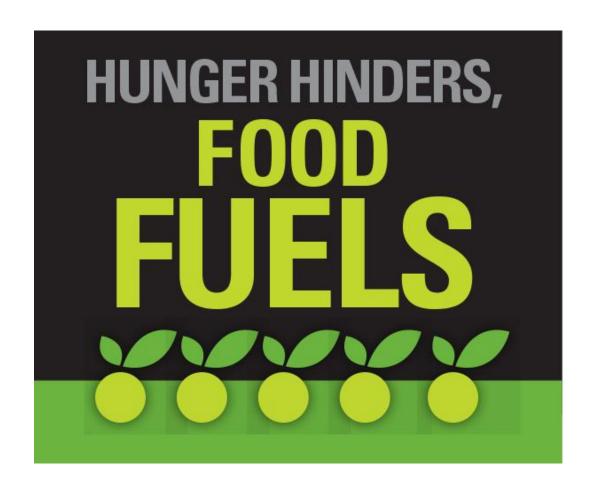
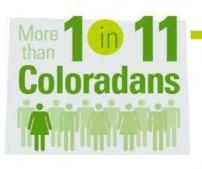


Why Access to Food Matters?





What Does Hunger Look Like in Colorado?



STRUGGLE WITH HUNGER, facing times when there is

NOT ENOUGH MONEY
TO BUY FOOD.

A Coloradan, on average, only receives about



in food stamp benefits, making it a challenge to put healthy food on the table."



1 108 KIDS ARE HUNGRY AND

THOSE UNDER THE AGE OF 6 ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE IN POVERTY.

2003 FOOD STAMP PARTICIPANTS
ARE CHILDREN, OLDER ADULTS, OR HAVE A DISABILITY





FOOD SECURITY FOR CHILDREN LEADS TO:

- Healthier babies, longer gestation, higher birth weights, lower infant mortality
- Improved educational outcomes and higher test scores
- Improved early childhood development and higher long-term returns on human capital
- Significantly lower rates of obesity
- Secure attachments and better mental proficiency at 24 months of age
- Fewer school absences and fewer visits to the school nurse







FOOD SECURITY FOR ADULTS LEADS TO:

- Reduced Obesity, Diabetes, and Malnutrition
- Lowered Risk for Heart Disease & High Blood Pressure
- Lower levels of stress, anxiety, depression
- Decreased depression in seniors
- Higher educational attainment





FOOD SECURITY FOR SENIORS LEADS TO:

- Substantially lower rates of diabetes
- Significantly lower rates of depression
- Greater independence with fewer limitations on daily living activities
- Reduced rates of preventable hospitalizations
- Significantly reduced health care and Medicaid costs
- Lower rates of nursing home utilization





FOOD SECURITY AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Reduced anxiety,
depression, anxiety and
sucidal ideation in children
and teenagers

Improved attachment and mental proficency at 24 months

eenagers
are 5x more likely
to commit suicide

Seniors less likely to be depressed

ALL AGES:

Decreased stress
 Decreased depression
 Reduced Cortisol





FOOD SECURITY AND OUR ECONOMY

- Estimated \$1.2 \$2.1 Billion in health care costs due to hunger in Colorado per year
- SNAP directly saves \$1409 in health care costs per person per year
- WIC: For every \$1 we save \$2 in health care the 1 year; \$4 by age 18
- SNAP and WIC generated about \$1.4 Billion in CO economic development
- Increased enrollment= \$500 Million more per year









- Food
- Electricity
- Heat
- Shelter
- Medicine
- Doctor visits
- Childcare
- Transportation





COLORADO BLUEPRINT TO END HUNGER

Erin Ulric November 18th, 2019

Background & Presentation Overview

- Background on the Blueprint
- Colorado Vision and Goals
- Progress to date

"All Coloradans have access to affordable and healthy food in their communities"



Background and Timeline

- 2015-2016 Statewide listening tour
- October 2016-February 2017: In-depth analysis on Hunger in Colorado
- June-July 2017
 - Funder Engagement Meeting
 - Large Stakeholder Meeting (100+)
- The time was right to coordinate efforts
- Collaborative process launched in August 2017
- Blueprint released January 2018





What is a Blueprint to End Hunger?

- Collective, Aspirational Document
 - High-level Goals
 - Recommended Strategies
 - Context for Colorado
- Catalyze leadership around the issue
- Outline the positive impacts of food security on health, education, economy, etc.
- Leverage existing work and data



Blueprint Steering Committee: 37 Members

- Arapahoe County Human Services Colorado Prevention Alliance
- Benefits Data Trust
- Care & Share Food Banks for Southern Colorado
- Centura Hospital
- Children's Hospital Colorado
- · City and County of Denver
- Colorado Center on Law & Policy
- Colorado Department of Education
- Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
- Colorado Department of Human Services
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Colorado Human Services **Directors Association**

- Community Foundation of Boulder County
- Consumers/Constituents
- Covering Kids & Families
- Denver County Human Services
- Family Resource Center Association
- Feeding America
- Feeding Colorado
- Food Bank of the Rockies
- Food Policy Network
- Hunger Free Colorado



- Kaiser Permanente
- Jefferson County School District
- Larimer County Human Services
- Leever's Supermarkets, Inc.
- LiveWell Colorado
- Metro Caring
- Mile High Health Alliance
- Montbello Organizing Committee
- Office of Governor Hickenlooper
- Pitkin County Human Services
- Share Our Strength
- Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union
- The Colorado Health Foundation
- The Denver Foundation
- Weld Food Bank

Blueprint Commitment: Community & Constituent Voice



- Story Telling and Data
- Personal and Policy
- Communities and Systems
- People *and* Programs
- Do the systems, policies, and programs work for people with lived experience?



OUR VISION AND GOALS

All Coloradans have access to affordable and healthy food in their communities



Increase public understanding and awareness that solving hunger is vital to the health and well-being of all individuals and families, the Colorado economy, and every local community



Increase the number of Coloradans who can access affordable, nutritious food in their communities



Increase the number of Coloradans who can access food assistance and nutritious food through community-based organizations



Maximize SNAP and WIC enrollment to propel Colorado to become a leading state for enrollment in these health and nutrition benefits



Maximize participation in Federal Child Nutrition programs, moving Colorado to become a national leader in delivery of these vital programs





Policy

- Hunger Free Colorado has convened a broad group of stakeholders to discuss a common policy agenda
 - Organizing a large, joint anti-hunger Day at the Capitol
 - Developing a shared anti-hunger platform, similar to the Blueprint's CNR platform
 - Creating cross-cutting awareness and educational messaging that would support the platform
 - Determining how and when this group will fall under the Blueprint
- The Blueprint has also hired a lobbyist to support our policy efforts.



State Legislative Policy Priorities

- Increasing state funding for SNAP Outreach, specifically focused on the student population (early childhood through higher education)
- Supporting healthy food incentives for families participating in WIC and SNAP
- Increasing the food pantry assistance grant, allowing food banks and pantries to purchase local meat, dairy and produce





Increase public
understanding and
awareness that solving
hunger is vital to the
health and well-being
of all individuals and
families, the Colorado
economy, and every local
community



Increase the number of Coloradans who can access affordable, nutritious food in their communities





Workgroup 1 – Building public and political will

Building out baseline data on public opinion and political will

Communications support for policy team

Increasing SNAP/WIC Awareness



Workgroup 2/3 – Increasing access to food in communities

Healthy food to pantries (HFC leading food pantry assistance grant)

Incentives for healthy food to families (LiveWell leading work on this)

Increasing # of WIC/SNAP retailers and improving customer experience

Increasing access to Nutrition Education where Coloradans access food



Workgroup 4 – Increasing enrollment in WIC and SNAP

Legislative policy – Increasing \$ for SNAP Outreach (2020 session), Increasing min benefit (2021 session)

Technology – piloting telephonic signature for counties, interest in texting

Cross Program Alignment – focusing on streamlining access to Medicaid, WIC and SNAP



Workgroup 5 – Increasing access to Child Nutrition Programs

Asset mapping – Identifying areas of the state where there are gaps in child nutrition

Marketing – increasing marketing of school meals

Time to Eat – Ensuring adequate time to eat (monitoring as there is a team already working on this)

Universal Meals – School Food Directors putting together data on this (may or may not result in a project team)



NEXT STEPS FOR SUCCESS

SYSTEMS

Federal/State/County/City

.....

- Health/Human Services
- Health Care
- Schools
- Agriculture

STRATEGY

- Analysis
- Engagement
- Policy

FUNDING

- Foundations
- State-Federal-County-City
- Social Impact Investing
- Health Care
- Private Donors

COMMUNITY

- Consumers/Neighbors
- Food Pantries/Food Banks
- Nonprofits
- · Advocacy/Policy/Legal

RESOURCES

- Federal Food Programs
- Farming/Agriculture
- Human Capital
- Food Producers

CAPACITY

- Training
- Technical Assistance
- Leadership
- Evaluation
- Governance





Paola Babb

Community Engagement and Child Nutrition Manager



- Vision: Every Coloradan has equitable access to the nutritious food needed to thrive and reach their full potential.
- Mission: Connect people to food resources to meet existing needs and drive policy, systems and social change to end hunger.





The Societal Impact

Improved health, well-being and development



Highly-educated and productive workforce



Stronger communities



Thriving economy



Equitable access





Food Resource Hotline

- Screens and enrolls community members in federal nutrition programs, including Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Women Infants and Children (WIC), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and Summer Food Programs
- Connects to other food resources: local food pantries, farmer's markets, Meals on Wheels, soup kitchens, senior centers with meals
- Follows up to support enrollment or referrals
- Connects community members to free nutrition classes





Fueling Colorado Kids

School breakfast and lunch

 After-school meals and snacks

Summer meals

• WIC (Women, Infants and Children)







Collaborating for Innovative Solutions

Colorado Food Pantry Network



Hungry for Change Summit



 Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger







- Eliminating barriers to nutrition programs:
 - Improving Colorado's Food Assistance
 Program (SNAP/food stamps)
 - Breakfast After the Bell
 - Funding for food pantries to purchase
 Colorado Proud products





Educating & Advocating

- Amplifying the voice of hunger
 - Hunger Through My Lens
 - Community Council



- Increase awareness and mobilize action:
 - Understanding the impact
 - Talking about the issue and solutions
 - Taking action to end hunger







- Join the Hunger Free Colorado action network, because your voice matters!
 - Connect with elected officials via email, phone and/or social media
 - Sign up: HungerFreeColorado.org/Advocate
- Donate to Hunger Free Colorado
- Volunteer with a nonprofit
- **Share** our hotline: 855-855-4626
- Talk about the issue of hunger











HungerFreeColorado.org

(303) 228-7944 paola@hungerfreecolorado.org



Denver Community Food Access Coalition DCFAC























Addressing Food Insecurity in Denver: From Vision to Action

Mondi Mason, Food Policy Program Administrator November 18, 2019



Childhood Food Insecurity in Denver

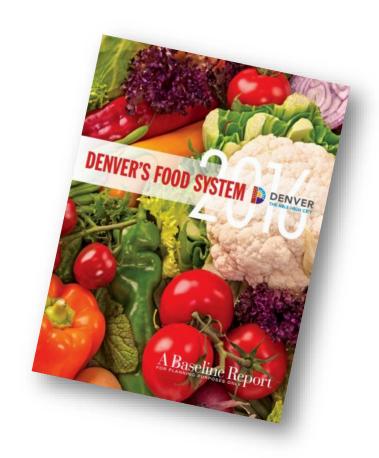


- 20,740 (15%) children are food insecure in Denver, a 27% decrease from 2009 (Feeding America 2017)
- * 11.9% of overall population (Feeding America 2017)
- * 68.51% of DPS students qualified for reduced price lunch in 2015-16 (DPS)
- * 37,000 of households with children under age 19 receive SNAP (DHS, 2018)
- * 14,000 children under 5 are enrolled in WIC, a 24% decline since 2011. (Denver Office of Children's Affairs)
- A 2018 study found that 40% of college student survey respondents experienced food insecurity in the 30 days prior to taking the survey (N=3000 students from CCD, MSU, UCD, DU)















Overview of Baseline Findings

Economy

\$7Bper year industry generating

\$312M in tax revenue

 $56,000+_{\text{workers in the}}$

Denver Food System, 10% of

all Denver jobs

Health

More than 1 in 3 children in Denver are overweight or obese

33.2% of Denver families eat

< 1 serving of fruits and vegetables per day

Obesity-related diseases cost Denver an

\$284M per year

Community

1 in 4 children/youth in are food insecurity or hungry

49% of Denver low and moderate income neighborhoods lack convenient access to grocery stores

69.7% of DPS students qualify for free or reduced priced lunch

Denver's Food Vision

https://www.denvergov.org/foodplan

INCLUSIVE HEALTHY

VIBRANT

RESILIENT

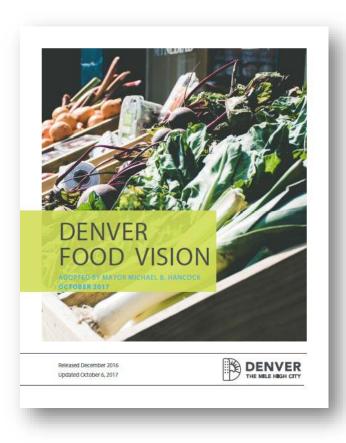
GUIDING

Inclusive cities require strong neighborhoods that reflect unique food cultures

Healthy, productive populations require food systems that promote healthy food for everyone

Vibrant economies require strong regional food systems

Resilient cities require diverse and environmentally responsible food systems







Inclusive cities require strong neighborhoods that reflect unique food cultures

A **Complete Food Environment** is a community-defined set of food assets (e.g., grocery stores, farmers markets, school gardens, etc.) that together provide for the food needs of community members, integrating the cultures and values of each community.

2030 WINNABLE FOOD GOALS

- 5 low-income or underserved neighborhoods reach self-defined goals for Complete Food Environment
- 7% increase in number of community and school gardens
- 15% increase in residential sales and food producing animals permits





Healthy, productive populations require food systems that promote healthy food for everyone

FOOD GOALS

- Reduce percentage of food insecure households by 45% (from 18% to 8%)
- Increase enrollment in SNAP for eligible populations by 52% (from 59% eligible enrolled to 80%)
- Increase adult and child fruit and vegetable consumption by 14% (from 2.8 servings per day to 3.2 per day)
- Reduce the number of children drinking sugary drinks daily by 35% (from 26% to 17%)





Vibrant economies require strong regional food systems

2030 WINNABLE FOOD GOALS

- Increase size of the Denver food economy by \$500M (from \$6.9-7.4B per year)
- Attract \$100M of new capital to Denver food businesses
- 25% of all food purchased by public institutions come from Colorado





Resilient cities require diverse and environmentally responsible food systems

2030 WINNABLE FOOD GOALS

- Preserve and maintain 100 acres of prime regional agricultural working lands in active production
- 34% reduction in residential food waste collected through municipal solid waste services (from 20,000 tons in 2008)



Food in Communities

Addressing food insecurity by increasing equitable access to healthy, affordable, culturally relevant food at the neighborhood level.

We do this through community-driven policy, systems, and environmental change strategies locally and regionally

 $Funding\ provided\ by\ the\ Cancer,\ Cardiovascular,\ and\ Chronic\ Pulmonary\ Disease\ Grants\ Program$



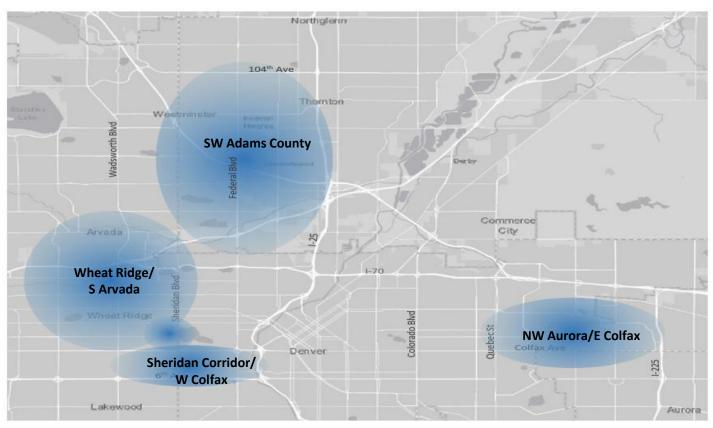








Food in Communities Focus Areas





Key Activities

Partner with community members and organizations to identify assets and needs related to food in our communities

Collaborate with new or existing neighborhood groups to design and test food access, food justice, or food business pilot projects.

Support local food policy councils or coalitions to advocate for food policies that support community food needs and priorities.







Community Food Assessments

Talk to organizational leaders and residents

Surveys

Listening Sessions

Secondary Sources/Data

Past Food Assessments





Community Residents and Organizational Partners





Community Ideas for Improving Food Access

- Improve Transportation
 Options to Get To/From Food
- 2. Develop or Expand Mobile Markets and Mobile Groceries
- 3. Improve Food Pantry Services, Outreach, and Access to Services
- 4. Leverage Local, Regional, and Statewide Efforts
- 5. Increase Community Food Production
- Food Access 6. Coordinate Food Assistance with Other Services
 - 7. Support Farmers and Food Businesses
 - 8. Improve Food Options at School
 - Increase Food Rescue and Distribution





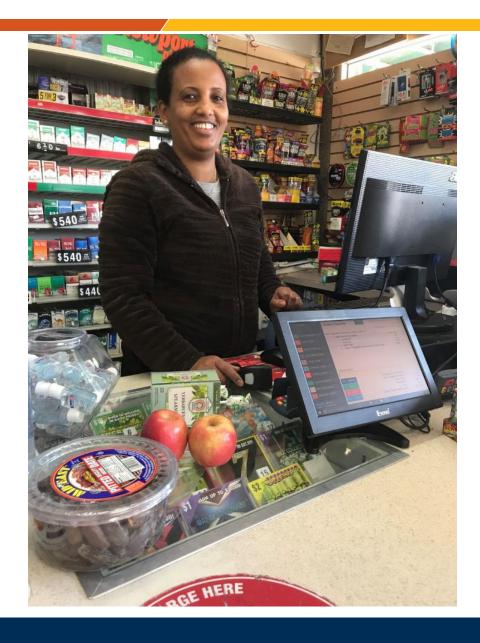
Next Steps

Finalize community action plans

Increase capacity for leadership, advocacy and influence over local food policy

Implement community-level pilot projects

Seek additional funding opportunities to scale up and expand community-level efforts







https://youtu.be/zPvO2wmHqsM





Mobile Markets or Pantries

Innovative way to increase access to healthy, affordable food in neighborhoods

This strategy aligns with Denver's: 1) Food Vision 2030, 2) Neighborhood Planning Initiative & 3) Mobility Action Plan





Get involved

- Plant a garden
- Donate a row to your local food pantry
- Volunteer at a local food pantry





Get involved

 Shop local, support your locally independently owned corner stores, especially those that accept SNAP and offer Double Up Food Bucks





Get involved

- Support your local farmer
- Donate to off-set cost of community supported agriculture boxes for local residents who are food insecure







Questions? Want more information?

City and County of Denver
Department of Public Health & Environment

Mondi Mason 720-865-5463 mondi.mason@denvergov.org



Discussion

- How are you or your organization currently engaging in antihunger work?
- Are there ways to shift the work you are doing to help end hunger in Colorado?