

Central, East, and North King County Collaboration

"I feel as though, through my efforts, creating authentic and trustworthy relationships, I am connecting multiple food source agencies together to determine where the gaps exist in our most vulnerable populations. I am also proud to be part of an innovative way to support the food truck industry, help church and faith-based organizations continue outreach efforts by providing free meals for the community." – Nourishing Networks

"When we are open, we normally serve 80-100 meals on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. Currently, we are delivering 220-240 meals 3 times a week and lunch on Tuesdays (65 meals). We know that if we were not providing our cohort with meals, they would be going hungry."- South Park Senior Center

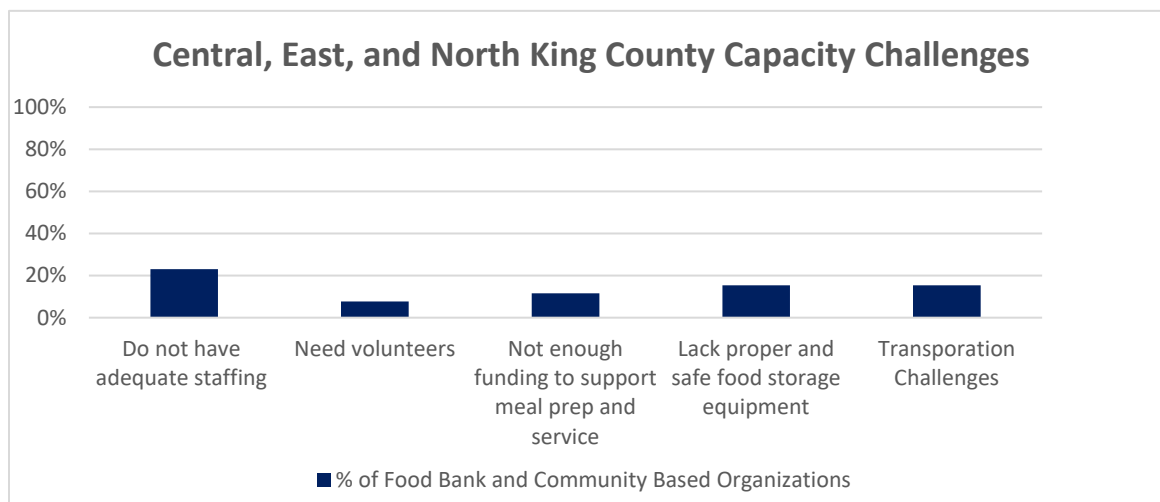
County Highlights

Central, East, and North King County (including Seattle) quickly responded to the challenges of COVID-19 and many programs increased the number of people they were serving and their number of community connections, reaching new people in different ways than ever before.

Coordination Opportunities

Many programs report that their organization has made collaborative connections however there is an opportunity to increase collaboration on the regional level.

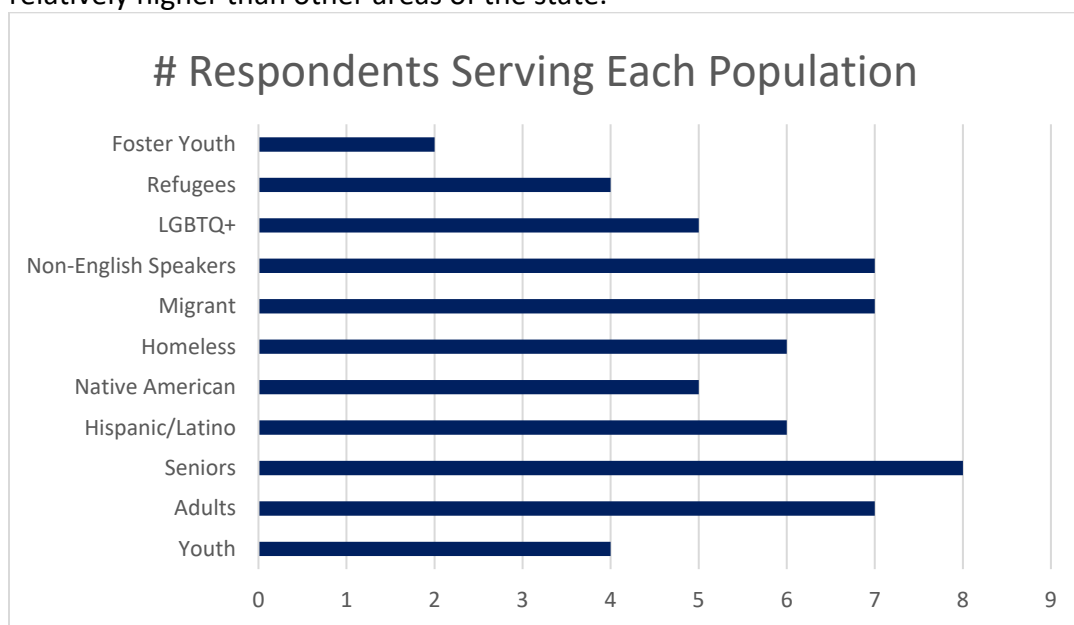
1. Funding for Program Capacity and Engagement: Many **programs do not have enough funding** to support their food distribution work and a number of agencies are facing a need for funding to cover refrigeration, transportation, staffing and infrastructure. Organizations report over-relying on volunteers, a workforce which can be unpredictable especially as people return to work. Additionally, organizations emphasized the need for funding to be low barrier and without restrictions so that that organizations can apply funding where it is needed most.
2. Focus on Culturally Relevant Food and Nutritious In-Demand Food: Programs are asking for **culturally relevant food** for the many diverse communities they are serving. A large number of programs in this region indicated that the method of prepackaged boxes of food did not work for their organization or for the people they serve. Programs indicated the desire to have funders and food distributors, **"listen to the food banks** on the ground as they are the ones that understand what their clients need.... Understand that **people need to eat healthy now more than ever."**



About The Data

A total of 18 organizations serving Central, East, and North King County (including Seattle) responded to the Coordinated Community Food Insecurity Survey. 12 organizations specifically serving Central King County (including Seattle) responded to the Coordinated Community Food Insecurity Survey. Seven organizations identified as food banks or meal programs, four were community organizations, and one was a school district nutrition manager. When asked to rate the level of need from 1 to 5, the respondents had an average rating of 3.

In North and East King County, five organizations responded to this survey. Two identified as emergency food providers, two were community organizations, and one school. When asked to rate the level of need from 1 to 5, the respondents had an average rating of 4.5 which is relatively higher than other areas of the state.



Contact Information for Coordination

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