

King County Collaboration

“Overnight we were able to switch models. We nearly doubled the number of people we are serving. At the same time, we have brought in new volunteers, partnered in different ways, and continued to create a space that felt welcoming to many new people.” – Ballard Food Bank

“We were able to negotiate with our funders and advocate for unspent program funds and piece them together, so we could meet both families' needs and funders' requirements. We are proud of our passionate bilingual/bicultural direct service staff for their dedication, energy and time to provide desperately needed COVID-19 basic needs support to more than 700 families within 2 -1/2 months of time.” – Open Doors for Multicultural Families

“People are stepping up - it isn't perfect, but the connections have been made and I think will be longer lasting to support other efforts in the community.” – City of Kent

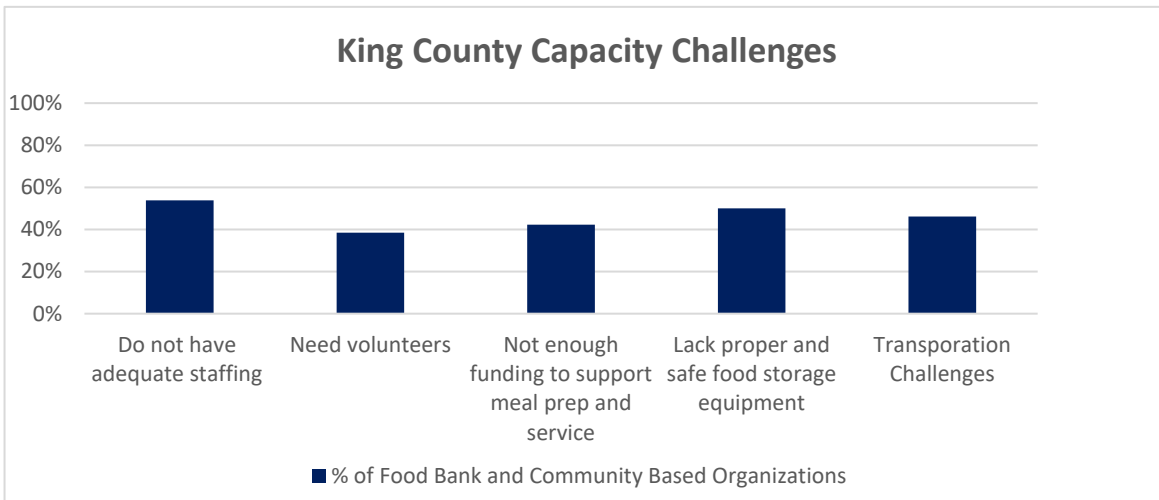
County Highlights

King County is a coordinated county of Washington State and had the highest number of survey respondents spanning community-based organizations, food banks, funders, schools, and local government. A large number of organizations increased the number of people that they were serving in response to COVID-19.

Coordination Opportunities

There are two main areas to focus upcoming collaboration efforts in King County.

1. Low-Barrier Funding Opportunities: There is a consistent theme that funding should be provided directly to **community-based organizations** to have the most equitable impact on the many and diverse populations living in King County. Respondents also reference that **funding needs to have less restrictions**, less paperwork, and to broaden eligibility requirements, all of which pose barriers to individuals and organizations.
2. Equity in Service: Some programs elevated the concern that traditional funding models or the current funding and food distribution systems are not equitable and that **entire communities face increasing challenges** to accessing the resources they need. Programs specifically referenced that **non-English speaking communities and homebound seniors** are two populations that are not being adequately served.



About The Data

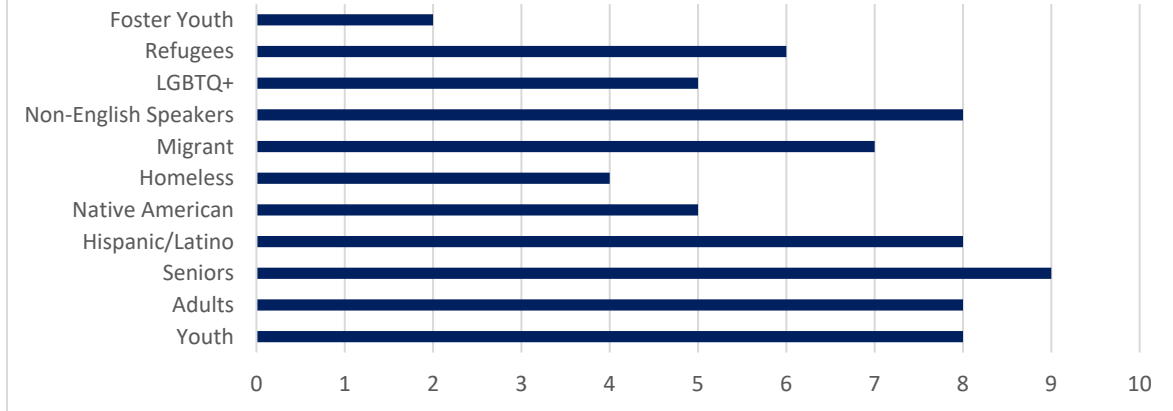
In King County, a total of 41 organizations responded to the Coordinated Community Food Insecurity Survey. Half of the respondents were either food banks, meal or food providers, or community organizations providing food. The other respondents were composed of school districts, county government, community organizations not providing food, and a funder. When asked to rate the level of need from 1 to 5, organizations had an average rating 3.2 but the averages ranged between regions in King County with averages of 3 in Seattle, 3.2 in South King County, and 4.5 in North and East King County.

24 organizations responded to the Coordinated Community Food Insecurity Survey from South King County. Four of the 24 respondents were schools, five were city government, one funder, and 12 organizations that identified as either food banks, meal or food providers, or community organizations. South King County has a high overlap rate of programs providing food even if they identified as a community organization. It is unknown how many programs provided food prior to COVID-19. When asked to rate the level of need from 1 to 5, the food banks and community organizations had an average rating of 3.25 compared to an average of 2.66 for all other sectors. Interestingly, the discrepancy between the two rates is much narrower than in other counties indicating higher levels of awareness and multi-sector collaboration.

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 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.

Respondents Serving Each Population



Contact Information for Coordination

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