

Yakima County Collaboration

“Some of our clients have become friends over the years. They share their stories with us and we look forward to seeing them on Fridays.” – St. Michael’s Food Pantry

County Highlights

Yakima County quickly responded to the challenges that COVID-19 brought and creatively found new ways to provide access to food. The local food banks reported quickly changing their distribution models with the support of local volunteers and that school districts found ways to efficiently and creatively serve their students who needed food.

Coordination Opportunities

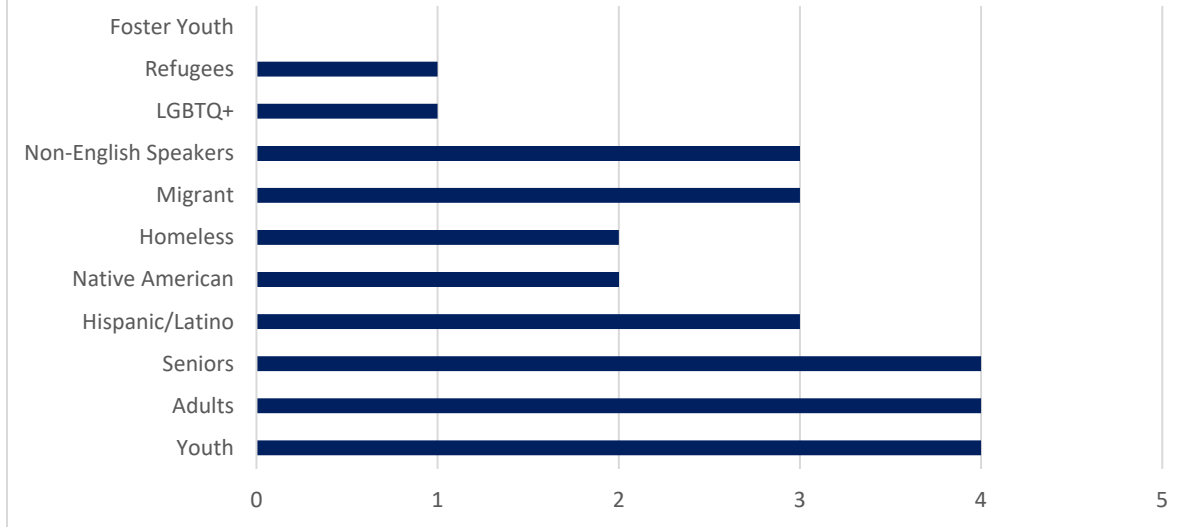
While individual programs within Yakima County were able to respond extremely well to COVID-19, there is an opportunity to coordinate across sectors and organizations and to share existing and future resources.

1. Increased Coordination and Resource Sharing: Respondents rarely mentioned collaboration with entities outside their sector. While we know that there are an incredible number of strong partnerships happening, there is likely a **need to share ideas, food resources, and knowledge** of the many cultures and language in the Yakima valley. Many of the responses indicate that what some organizations site as needs, other organizations excel in providing. For example, some programs reported having ample amounts of food while others reported food shortages.
2. Funding for Program Capacity and Engagement: Many **programs do not have enough funding** to support their food distribution work and a number of agencies from food banks to schools are facing a need for funding to cover refrigeration, storage, staffing and infrastructure. Additionally, organizations **need unrestricted funding for general operations and key community outreach opportunities** that would provide platforms for community education, voter registration, and promote the sense of community that is needed during this time.

About The Data

Eleven organizations responded to the Coordinated Community Food Insecurity Survey. Three of the eleven respondents were food banks, seven were schools or the school district, and one was a community organization. Unlike some other areas of the state, there were no government officials from the local, county, or state level.

Respondents Serving Each Population



Contact Information for Coordination

For more information, contact Christina Wong at christinaw@northwestharvest.org.