

Addressing Food Insecurity

Food Insecurity Task Force
Initial Report to the Congregation
September 22, 2019

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well aged wines strained clear.
Isaiah 25:6

Background

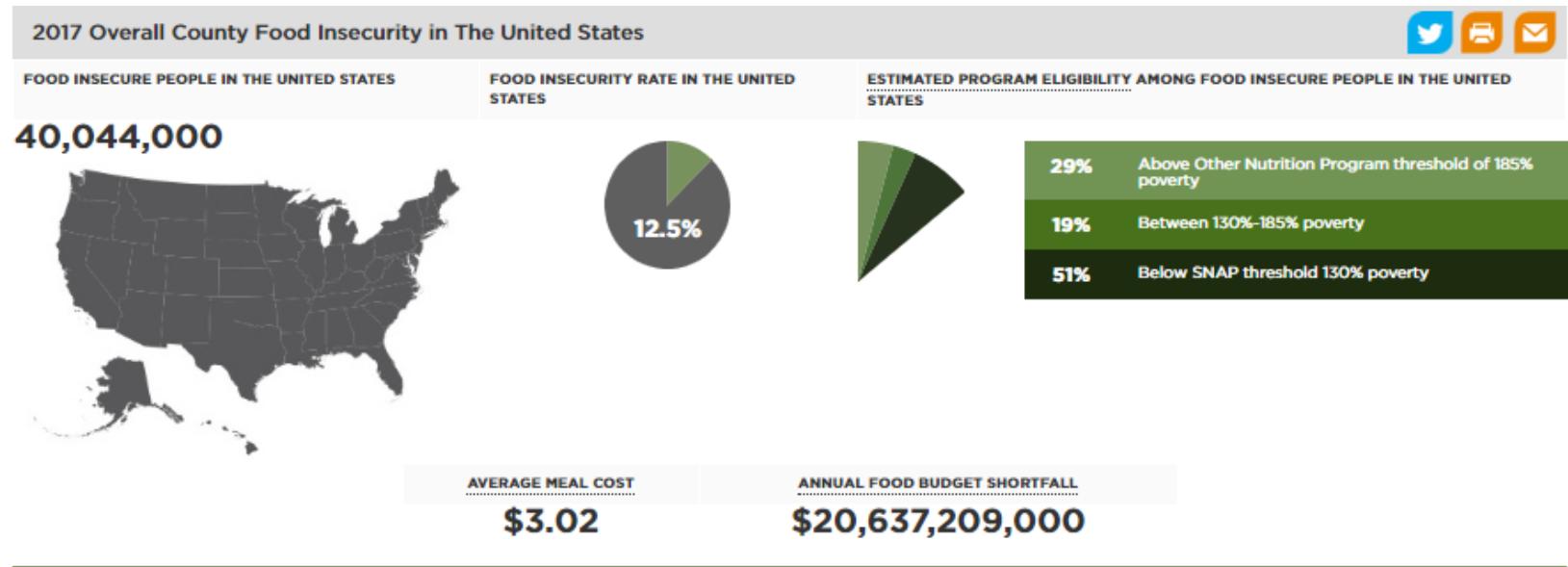
- Session charged the Mission Committee to recommend a church-wide mission focus.
- Survey sent to all members of HMPG. Results were tabulated and reviewed.
- Food Insecurity/hunger was the top concern.
- Survey results presented to session – food insecurity approved to be Hudson's focus for mission and outreach.
- Task force formed to develop the vision, mission, implementation plan and support structure for the congregation.
- Task force members: Beth Billman, Glenn Schindo, JoLee Carpenito, Carolyn Scott, Mitch Perry, Carol Clemens (session liaison), Debbie Kirk (staff liaison).

Understanding of concern:

Food insecurity

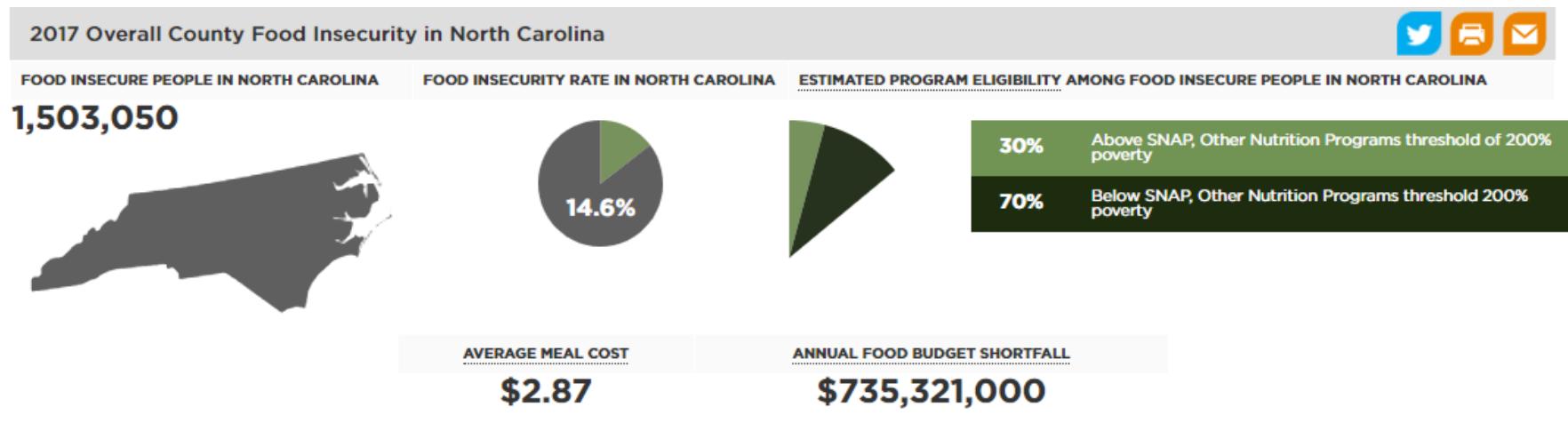
- refers to the lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.
- Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods (e.g., food deserts).
- May reflect a household's need to make trade-offs between important basic needs such as housing or medical bills.

Food Insecurity in the United States



Source: Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC

Hunger in North Carolina

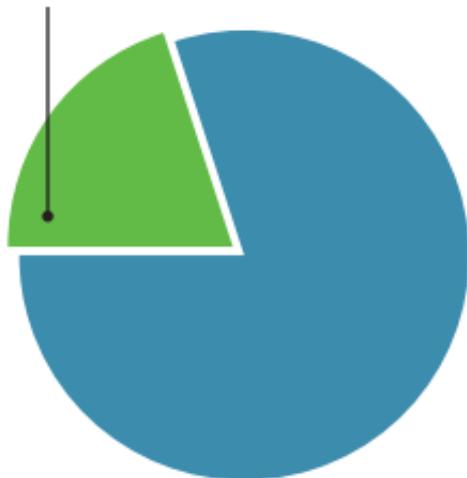


Source: Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC

Why Focus on Hunger Locally?

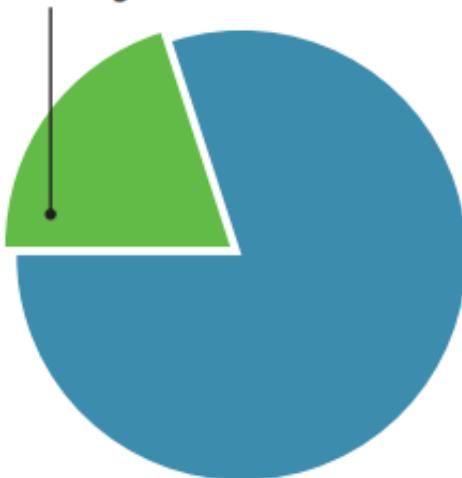
17.2%

255,970 people are food
insecure in the Raleigh
service area.



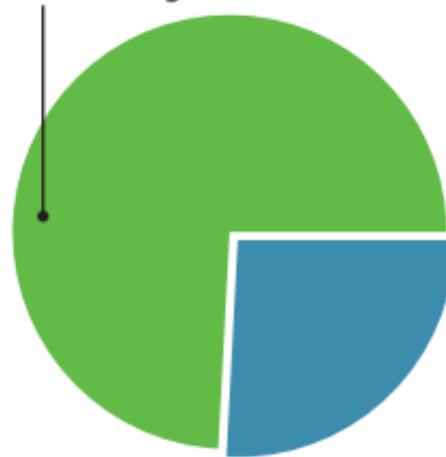
22.3%

83,900 children under 18
are food insecure in the
Raleigh service area.



75%

141,905 children receiving
free/reduced school meals in
the Raleigh service area.



Notes: 5% unemployment (June 2018); Individuals over 65 living below poverty level – 19604

What part of North Carolina does the Raleigh Branch of the Food Bank serve?

Duplin, Franklin, Halifax, Harnett, Johnston, Nash, Sampson, Wake, Warren, and Wayne counties. Edgecombe and Wilson are shared with the Greenville Branch. Lee is shared with the Sandhills branch.

What we have learned about food insecurity

- Hunger is harmful to health and well being.
- No one is ever just hungry—Food insecurity can have serious implications for a child’s physical and mental health.
- Hunger exists everywhere—The reasons are complex, varied, and often interconnected.

Source: Feeding America

People fighting food insecurity are making tough choices:



69%

Had to choose
between food and
utilities

67%

Had to choose
between food and
transportation

66%

Had to choose
between food and
medical care

57%

Had to choose
between food and
housing

31%

Had to choose
between food and
education

They also told us about the many ways they stretch their food budget or work to supplement it:



79%

Purchase
inexpensive,
unhealthy food

53%

Receive help from
friends or family

40%

Water down food
or drinks

35%

Sell or pawn
personal property

23%

Grow food in a
garden

What Others are Doing to Address Hunger

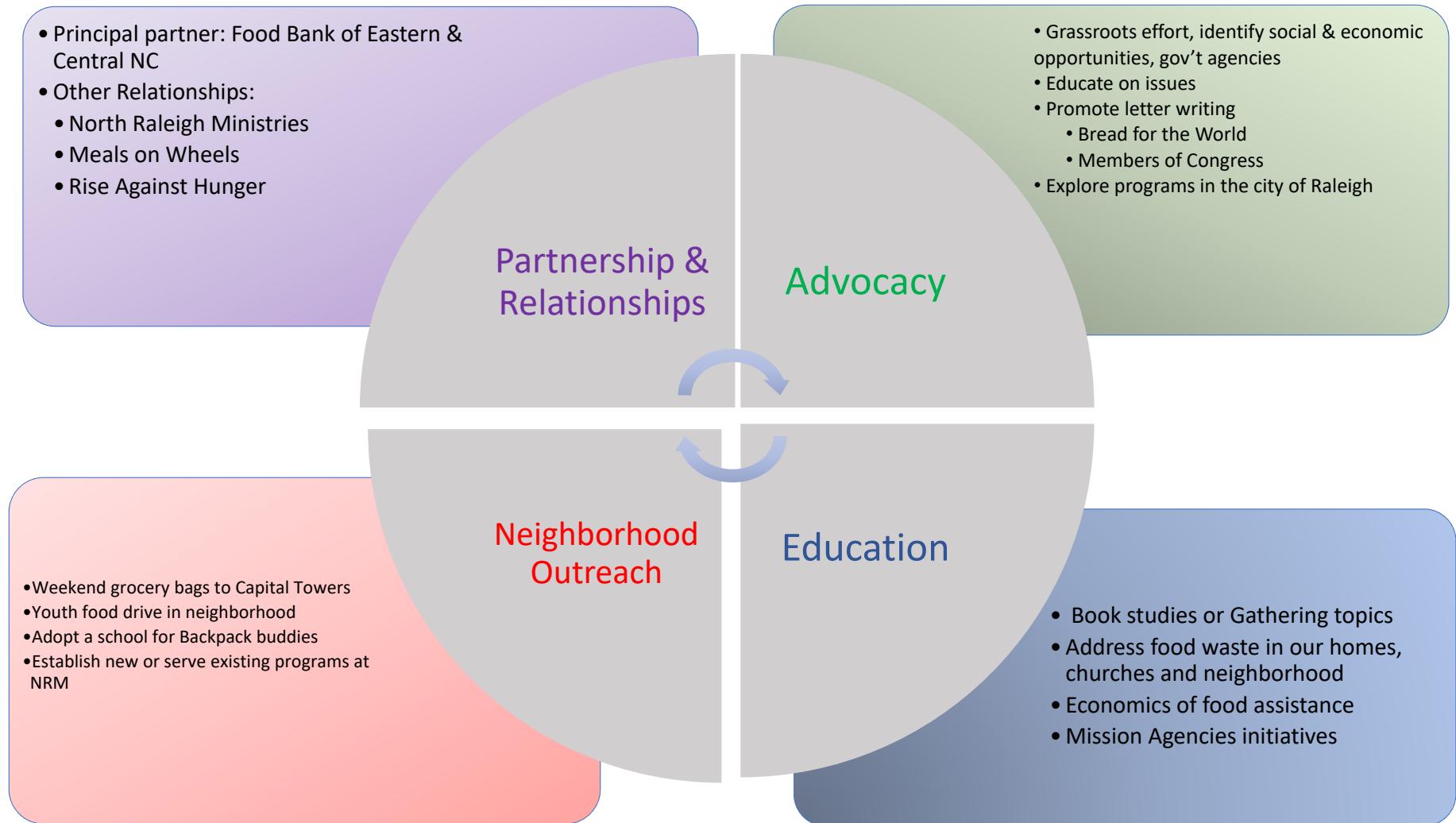
On their own and with partner agencies, local faith communities are addressing hunger in many ways including:

- securing grants from the USDA to provide nutritious meals for neighborhood children
- committing to a single focus of growing and sharing healthy food
- donating food and volunteers who prepare and serve meals in food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters
- supporting new initiatives including those using the *One World Everyone Eats Café* model
- creating community gardens that provide produce to partner agencies
- providing weekend and emergency food for children and their families through the public school system
- holding “community cafes” in neighborhoods identified as a “food desert”
- delivering meals to seniors in their homes
- hosting “healthy meal preparation” classes for those using donations as a primary source of food
- advocating for just public policy practices

Hudson's Road Map



Four Pillars of our Strategy



PRIMARY PARTNERSHIP



What Makes the Food Bank a Good Partner

- Founded in 1980
- Serves 34 counties in Central & Eastern NC
- One of largest food banks in the country
- Stocks shelves at network of more than 800 partner agencies (e.g., soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and family programs)
- In 2018, distributed about 68 million pounds of food and non-food essentials

Next Steps:

1. Taking the Hunger Action Congregation Pledge - the Hunger Action Congregation pledge and designation is to acknowledge the faithful work of Presbyterians around the country who are responding to the biblical call to help alleviate hunger and end its causes.
2. Building out structure for congregation to support hunger initiatives in coordinated fashion.
3. Building out plans for congregation engagement with Food Bank.

Upcoming Opportunities

Official Kickoff of Mission Focus – January 1, 2020

Mark your Calendars!

- January 5 - Rise Against Hunger meal packing with the Youth
 - Saturday, February 1 - Food Bank – introduction and volunteer shift
 - Date TBD - Adult Education program – Food and Faith workshop