2020 Fact Sheet

MISSION: To lead the fight against hunger throughout the 10 coastal counties of South Carolina


The Lowcountry Food Bank serves the 10 coastal counties of South Carolina and distributed more than 39 million pounds of food, water and essential products in 2020. The Lowcountry Food Bank helps fight hunger by distributing food to nearly 300 partner agencies including on-site meal programs, homeless shelters and emergency food pantries. The Lowcountry Food Bank advocates on behalf of those who experience hunger and helps empower people to make healthy and nutritious food choices. For more information go to http://www.lowcountryfoodbank.org and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

OVERVIEW

- 39.7 million pounds of food and personal products distributed in ten coastal counties of South Carolina
- Distributed 14.5 million lbs. of fresh produce - 36% of all food distributed was fresh produce
- 33,076,067 meals provided
  - 211,070 meals prepared in the Lowcountry Food Bank Zucker Family Production Kitchen
  - Rescued and distributed 12.4 million pounds of edible food from retailers that would otherwise go to waste
  - Covers 9,000 square miles on the coast of South Carolina
- More than 200,000 individuals served
- 1 in 5 children is food insecure
- Nearly 50% of the people served by LCFB are children and seniors
- 97% of our charitable dollars are spent on direct programs and services
- 4-star rating from Charity Navigator based on financial health, efficiency and capacity
- $1 can help provide 6 meals
- LCFB is 38 years old

TRANSPORTATION

- 15 drivers on staff
- LCFB fleet includes 15 refrigerated box trucks, four 53’ refrigerated trailers, one 38’ refrigerated trailer, three tractors, three cargo vans, one passenger van
- LCFB drivers travelled 252,000 miles in 2020
- Drivers pick up food from about 68 retail partners three-four times every week
- Drivers pick up food from farmers during harvest season January through November
PARTNER AGENCIES

- Nearly 300 agencies distribute food to those experiencing hunger and range from faith-based food pantries to on-site feeding programs (soup kitchens and residential facilities) to direct-service, non-profit organizations
- Agencies are responsible for 86% of total pounds distributed by Lowcountry Food Bank
  - 12,930,995 lbs. of produce distributed by partner agencies (8.2 million lbs. in 2019)

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

SENIOR PROGRAMS

- **Senior Meals** - Even through COVID-19, our senior meal production in the Zucker Kitchen did not stop. We continued our partnerships with East Cooper Meals on Wheels, Summerville Meals on Wheels, Charleston Area Senior Center, and First Scots Presbyterian Church. We also brought on a new partner, Help of Beaufort.
  - 134,439 Senior Meals distributed
- **Senior Box Program (CSFP)** - USDA program that provides boxes of staple goods and produce to food insecure or homebound seniors once a month
  - 21,822 boxes distributed to over 2,000 seniors monthly

VETERAN MEALS

- Through our partnership with Patriot Villas in Charleston, we prepared and served 10,660 meals to veterans and distributed over 11,458 pounds of produce to these same families.

CHILDHOOD HUNGER PROGRAMS

- **Kids Café (CACFP)** - Creates supper meals and healthy snacks to food insecure children enrolled in afterschool programs. While we operated normally January thru mid-March, all of our sites closed when schools closed March 16. When school began in the fall, most of our sites remained closed.
  - 42 afterschool programs (in typical, non-Covid year); Fall of 2020: Seven after school programs
  - Served 62,167 supper meals and 19,673 snacks
- **Fresh for Kids** - 24,684 pounds of fresh produce through kid-friendly mini-farmers market distributions
- **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** - Provides free nutritious meals to children and teens in eligible communities throughout the summer. Many of our sites remained closed due to COVID-19 in the summer of 2020.
  - 22,981 meals prepared for 22 sites
  - 32 partners, 28,812 meals and 754 snacks
  - 5,712 lbs. of produce, 235 BackPack Buddies bags, and 205 family boxes distributed through John's Island Pop-Up Picnic sites
- **Mobile Meals Program** – The Williamsburg “Summer Eats’ Grab and Go meal program provides meals to children in hard-to-reach rural communities, thanks to funding from Boeing.
  - 10,600 meals and 1,056 BackPack Buddies bags distributed during summer 2020
- **BackPack Buddies** – Provides children with nutritious, easy-to-prepare food to take home on weekends and school vacations
  - 81,330 the whole year - number of backpacks
  - 50 school sites in all 10 coastal counties (in typical non-Covid year)
  - 2 McKinney-Vento programs in 2 counties for children experiencing homelessness
  - Serves 3,700 children each week
  - 68,394 BPB distributed through school partnerships (Jan, Feb, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec)
  - 30,364 BPB distributed through disaster relief (March-May)
- **School Pantry** – Students and their families are provided with a 20-pound box of staple food items to help stretch their monthly food budget
  - 24 schools in eight counties. Feeds an average of 750 families per month (in a typical, non-COVID year)
  - 5,053 School Pantry boxes distributed through school partnerships (Jan, Feb, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec) 6,029 all of 2020
  - 1,017 School Pantry boxes distributed through disaster relief (March-May)
- **School Market** – A permanent pantry located in the school to provide students and families the opportunity to discretely select food items to take home
  - 12,304 lbs. of food and supplies distributed in Spring 2020
  - Fed an average of 200 families per month
  - In Fall of 2020, School Markets preferred to distribute pre-packed boxes of staple food items for safety of school staff and children and families served
  - Added a new school market in Williamsburg County
  - 1,350 pre-packed boxes (20 lbs) distributed through School Market in Fall 2020
  - Fed an average 325 families per month

**NUTRITION EDUCATION**

- **SNAP Education Implementing Agency** - provides partners with training, materials, and guidance to empower our community to make the best food choices within their budget
- **Share Our Strength’s Cooking Matters** – Six-week evidence-based, culinary nutrition courses that teach clients skills needed to prepare healthy meals on a budget
  - Pre-COVID-19, we were able to start 13 courses completed with 132 participants
  - COVID-19 halted all in-person education. The team regrouped to host virtual education. In the Fall of 2020, 12 30-minute classes were held for parents, adults, and families
Cooking Matters in Your Community videos and education outreach
  - 19 videos developed
  - 17,872 views/or reach
  - 6 safe sampling Fresh for All or mobile distributions

Cooking Matters at the Store Tours - Interactive grocery store tours to provide families with hands-on shopping and budgeting skills to compare foods for cost and nutrition
  - Pre-COVID-19, 12 completed with 153 participants
  - Due to COVID, store tours were modified to be held virtually. In the Fall of 2020, 9 1-hour virtual store tours were held

92,482 contacts reached through nutrition education

Nutrition education activities designed and implemented through senior and child hunger programs.

Adopted a Lowcountry Food Bank Nutrition Policy, which guides organizational decisions and stewards donations that support the well-being of the community.

DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

- More than 42,115 volunteer hours
- 60,729 gifts processed. Average gift size: $254
- More than 180,000 boxes packed in the LCFB volunteer center
- More than 9,800 Facebook followers; 4,387 Twitter followers; 24,000 active emails; 2,750 Instagram followers