



Baylor University

COLLABORATIVE ON HUNGER AND POVERTY

Incorporating Community Voices as Your Coalition Plans for Action

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Hunger Free
Communities
Network

2021 Hunger Free Communities Virtual Summit

Agenda

BCHP Overview

Engaging the community in assessment and planning

Strategies + Getting Started

Hunger Free Communities – Bastrop County: Prior and Current Efforts

Group Activity

What We Do



Research – strategies informed by data & evaluation

- Hunger Data Lab
- Research Fellows

Policy – identify & create solutions

- Provide testimony + connect community leaders
- Develop solutions based on data and practice

Practice – working alongside communities

- Hunger Free Community Coalitions
- Child nutrition programs + Meals to You
- SNAP Community Plan

Learn more: [TexasHunger.org](https://www.texas-hunger.org)

BCHP Hunger Free Community Coalitions bring people together to build collective responses to food insecurity

- ❖ Take action together
- ❖ Strategically assess food system
- ❖ Identify resources and gaps
- ❖ Make decisions for change
- ❖ Implement action plans
- ❖ Galvanize the community
- ❖ Empower community leaders
- ❖ Build long-term bonds of **collaboration**
- ❖ Maximize **effective** use of resources
- ❖ Ensure **mutual accountability** for results



BCHP Hunger Free Community Coalitions Programmatic Strategies



EXPERTISE &
CAPACITY BUILDING



RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT



FEEDBACK AND
EVALUATION



BCHP HFCC Program Expertise & Capacity Building Support Strategies

Provide expertise and support to foster collaboration, sustainability, and impact

- Initiate new coalitions
- Backbone support
- Consulting support
- Development Cohorts
- Expert Leadership:
 - Serve on boards/leadership teams
 - Active participant
- FSI VISTA Program – Capacity building within coalitions



BAYLOR COLLABORATIVE ON HUNGER AND POVERTY'S NETWORK of
HUNGER FREE
COMMUNITY COALITIONS

BCHP HHFC Program Resource Development Support Strategy

BCHP's Network of Hunger Free Community Coalitions

Currently 20 Network Coalitions across Texas

- ✓ Hunger or healthy food access is a priority
- ✓ Action-oriented
- ✓ Multi-organization in leadership and participation

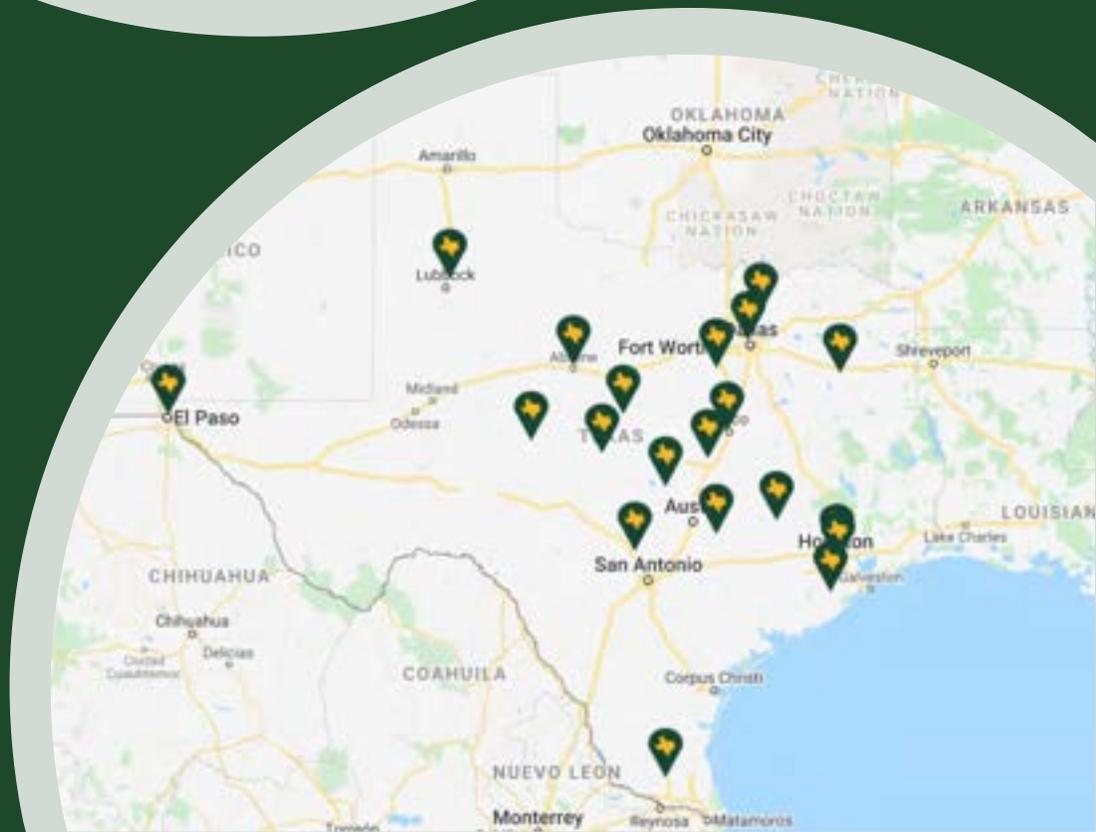
HFCC Network Website + Newsletter

Webinars/Trainings/Cohorts

Document Development + Support

Funding opportunities

TexasHungerNetwork.org



BCHP HFCC Program Feedback and Evaluation Strategy

Informal

- Ongoing feedback through direct interaction

Formal

- Online Surveys – Qualtrics
- In-person/phone interviews

Currently re-assessing strategies + processes



Why do we engage the community in assessment and planning?



The development and implementation of any activities by your coalition are responsive to the community WANTS and NEEDS

Increase the coalitions knowledge of the assets and gaps in the community

Increase the likelihood that your developed solution will be reflective of the needs of your community and thus more impactful as an intervention

It will help your coalition more effectively take action together because you have developed a shared knowledge of the issue you are trying to tackle

Builds foundational relationships with community members that can increase further engagement throughout the project

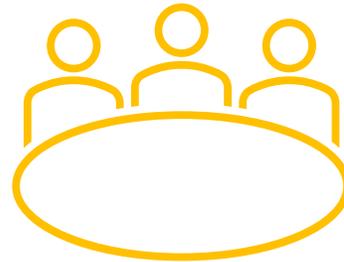
Methods of Engagement

Surveys: hear from people individually, lots of flexibility and variation in how surveys can be administered

One-on-one interviews: more time intensive, but can provide more in-depth information

Group interviews or focus groups: reach more people in less time by having multiple-people in one place

Community forum or other existing community gatherings: hear from many people at one time



Get Started!

Form a steering committee/workgroup

Recruit leaders who are diverse and representative of the community being served AND community members

Determine **Goals, Objectives and Scope**

Research what similar **efforts have been done before** in your target area?

What has **already been asked** of the community?

Define the **geographic area** with clear boundaries

Determine your **goals and objectives**





Develop a Plan *Make sure your plan connects directly to your GOAL*

What **method/s** will you use?

How will you **recruit and compensate** participants?

- Who do you already know who can help?
- Consider childcare, transportation costs, or providing a meal

Develop a **work plan** for implementation

- Identify tasks, assign responsibilities, create a timeline and identify the process for assessing progress

Carefully consider how you frame your questions

Implement & Integrate!

❖ **Implement** your strategies

- ❖ Be prepared and clear in your communications with participants
 - ❖ What are you doing? Why are you asking them to participate? How will this information be used? When will they see any follow up or expect any next steps?
 - ❖ Ask for consent – what will your process be?
- ❖ Document/take notes
- ❖ Follow through on any commitments made

❖ **Analyze and Integrate** your findings

- ❖ Examine quantitative data – connect what you have learned with existing data
- ❖ Document your findings in a memo or report
- ❖ Consider how you will share the findings with the community
- ❖ Use what you learned to inform the goals of the coalition and the strategies to achieve those goals



Case Study: Bastrop Community Voices

[Community Voices Project – HFC – Bastrop County](#)



Geographic scope: Bastrop County, TX

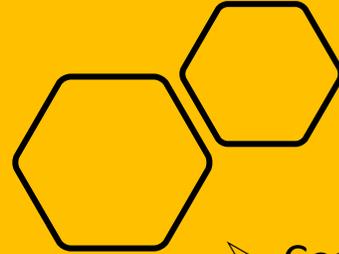
October 2018 to March 2019

- 2 focus groups
- 3 group interviews/listening sessions
- 62 surveys

4 themes emerged:

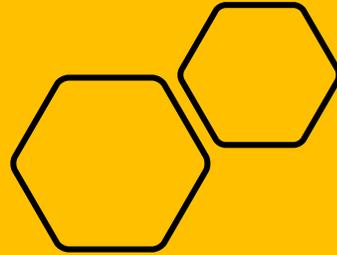
- Food Variety
- Transportation Issues
- Education on healthy eating
- Community Resource networking

Successes



- Community partnerships: Local community groups and University students
- Engaged seniors, veterans, and non-English speakers
- Feedback illuminated existing quantitative issues:
 - 76.9% of food pantries replied that transportation is the greatest barrier to food access
 - However, only 33% of food pantries assist with transportation or provide delivery.

Limitations



- We did not vet the questions/tool with community members before implementing.
 - Ex: using the term “barrier.”
- We did not think to gather data on zip code or age until after beginning our interviews.
- Interviewers were not bilingual.
- Our scope was limited to those who could attend a food pantry distribution

Outcomes



Be thoughtful in framing your questions!

- HOW would you start in reaching out to folks with lived experience in your community?
- Who would you reach out to?
- What do you want to know?

Example:

- How are people in the community finding food resources? Where do they go to find this information?
- Consider Asking: If you or your family need more food than you can purchase at the store, how do you find other food resources?

Does your question connect back to the goal of this engagement?

Or is it stretching beyond the scope?

Bastrop County Hunger Free Communities Coalition

-How Community Voice is Helping Us Do Our Work Better-

Data doesn't give us complete picture

Food insecurity rate in Bastrop County: 12.6%
State food insecurity rate: 14.1%

SNAP participation rate in Bastrop County: 65.6%
State SNAP participation rate: 75%

Over 20 food pantries and food assistance sites
in Bastrop County

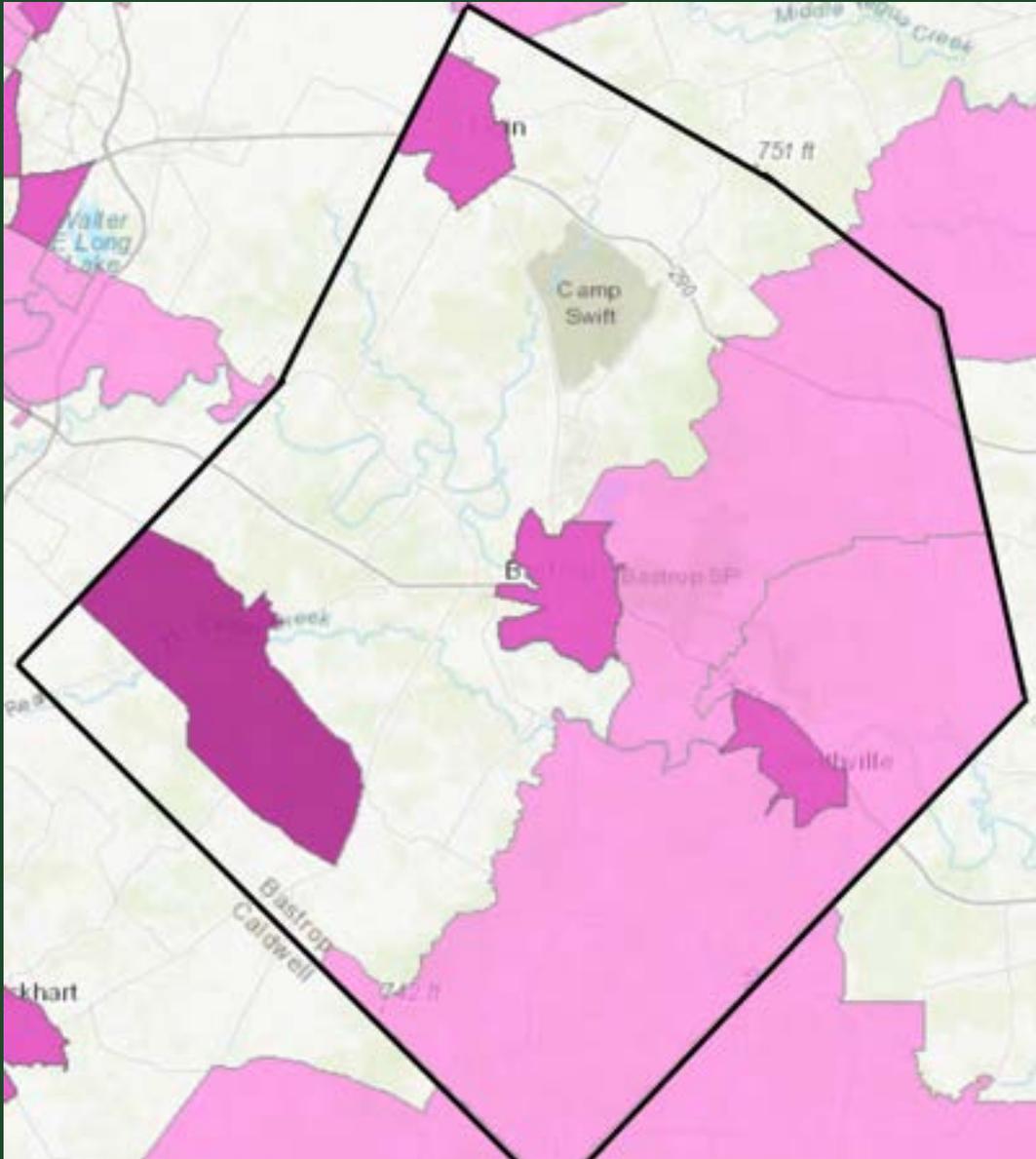
So why aren't people getting assistance?





Integrating Community Voice into Assessment + Planning

- 2018 Report identified desire for more food variety
 - Specifically fresh produce
- Community input-> Lack of information
 - No common resource to find food assistance sites
 - 2017 (211) calls for Bastrop County:
 - Food Pantry Inquiries = #3 Reason for calls
 - 71% of Food Needs calls about Food Pantries
 - Many community food access sites do not have websites or are outdated



Where We're Going

-How Community Voice is Guiding our Future Plans-

2018 Report identified major transportation issue
77% responded transportation = biggest barrier to food access
Only 33% able to provide transportation assistance or delivery

Census Tracts illuminate low access and food desert issues

Calendar illustrated schedule gap

Community members willing to assist neighbors with food pick-up

Data + Community Voice

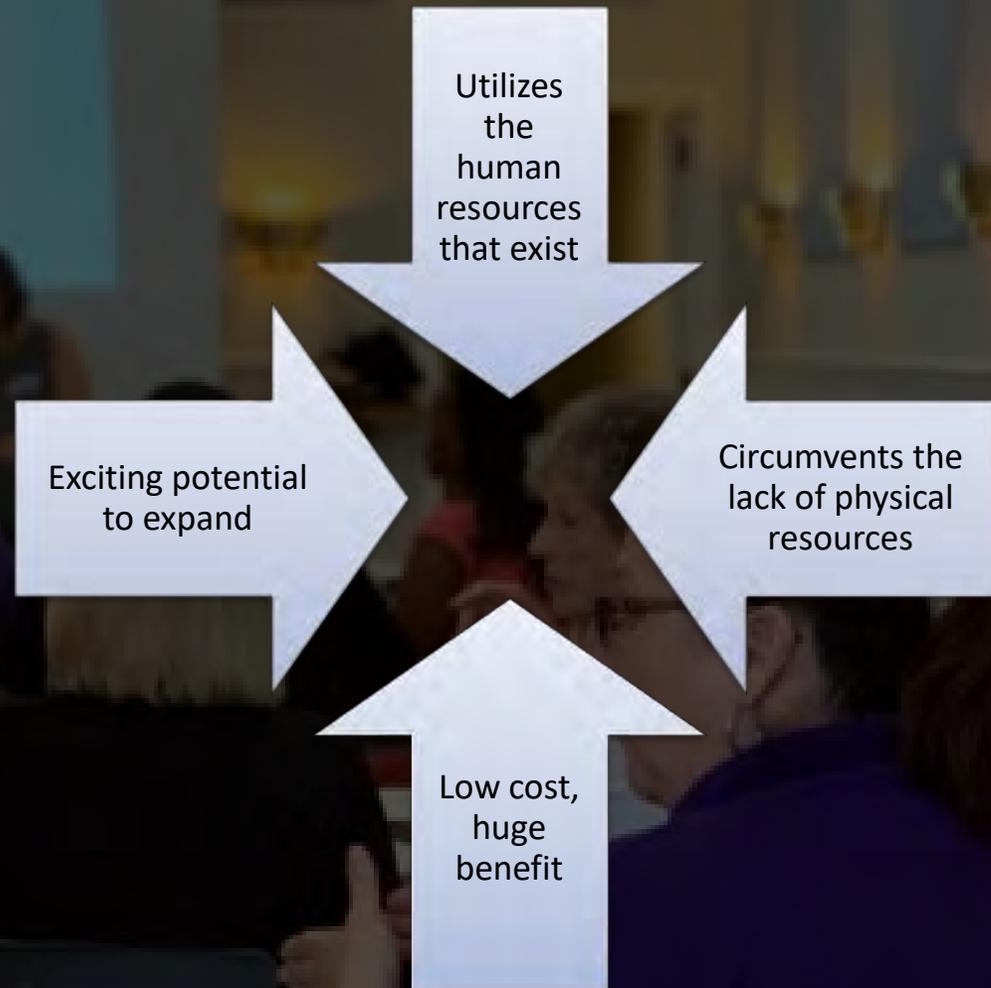
What the Data Told Us:

- Low vehicle access
- Food desert
- Lack of transportation infrastructure

What the Community Told Us:

- Pantries unable to provide transportation assistance
- Food assistance sites are primarily open 9-5, M-F
- Community members willing to help with food pick-up

Up Next: Volunteer Transportation Network



Share in the Chat!

If you **have engaged** community voice
in assessment and/or planning:

What have you done?

How did you do it?

What did you learn?

If you **have not** engaged community voice
in assessment and/or planning:

Do you have plans to do so? If so, what?

If not, why? What is holding your coalition back?



Discussion Activity

What are the roadblocks that have kept you from incorporating community voices into your work?

OR

If you have incorporated community voice in past or current efforts, what challenges have you encountered?

What can you do to move forward?



Discussion Activity

What method/s of engagement will you consider or are planning on using to incorporate community voice into your coalition's assessment and planning in the next year?

How will you start?

What do you want to know?



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