



HUNGER RELIEF PLAN

ANNUAL REPORT

March 2020

UnitedWayPBC.org



United Way
of Palm Beach County

THANK YOU!

To the **Work Group members** who have faithfully participated in organizational meetings to create solutions, collaborate, and work on alleviating hunger in Palm Beach County.

To the **generous funders** who support Hunger Relief efforts in our community.

A Special Thank You to our Hunger Relief Advisory Council

Chair: Reverend Pam Cahoon, Advocate
Co-Chair: Dr. Lisa Williams-Taylor, Chief Executive Officer,
Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County

United Way of Palm Beach County Hunger Relief convenes various work groups to address the ten goals of the Hunger Relief Plan. Guided by the Hunger Relief Advisory Council, the Senior, Childhood, Infrastructure, The Glades, and SNAP Outreach/Advocacy Work Groups consist of a diverse group of community partners communicating and collaborating to collectively combat hunger.

Looking ahead, key areas of focus within the plan will be expanded and replicated to additional areas of Palm Beach County identified through data and zip code information, working side by side with residents, community leaders and other stakeholders.

Members: Dr. Alina Alonso, Department of Health; Ricardo Alvarez, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Gus Artau, Department of Children and Families; Dr. Seth Bernstein, United Way of Palm Beach County; Nancy Bolton, Palm Beach County; Dr. Laurie George, United Way of Palm Beach County; Stephanie Glavin, Bank of America; Felicia Goldstein, Office of Congresswoman Lois Frankel; Danielle Hartman, Ruth and Norman Rales Jewish Family Services; Daryl Houston, Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties; Kim Jones, Marsh & McLennan Agency; Dr. Chris Koehn, Achieve Palm Beach County; Jeff Koons, Advocate; Kate Magro, Palm Beach Atlantic University; Ellie Marshall, Perry Marshall Consulting; Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, Palm Beach County; Patrick McNamara, Palm Health Foundation; Allison Monbleau, The School District of PBC; Debbie Pucillo, Palm Beach County Food Bank; Donna Quinlan, United Way of Palm Beach County; Randy Scheid, Quantum Foundation; Houston Tate, Palm Beach County; Paula Triana, The School District of PBC; Board Member, Feeding South Florida; Caroline Villanueva, Florida Crystals; Jillian Vukusich, Lost Tree Foundation; Beth Walton, The Town of Palm Beach United Way; Erica Whitfield, The School District of PBC; Nancy Yarnall, Area Agency on Aging

UnitedWayPBC.org

477 S. Rosemary Ave. | Suite 230 | West Palm Beach, FL 33401
561.375.6600

HUNGER RELIEF GOALS

GOAL 1

All county residents will be aware of hunger in Palm Beach County and solutions at hand.



GOAL 2

The Palm Beach County Hunger Relief Task Force, elected officials, and community members will advocate for the strengthening of public policies at all levels of government to systemically fight hunger and reduce food hardship.

GOAL 3

Hunger in the Glades will be reduced through intensive, focused outreach and attention.



GOAL 4

All Palm Beach County children will have access to the nutritious food they need to build healthy bodies and strong minds.

GOAL 5

Low-income older residents of Palm Beach County will have balanced nutritious diets.

GOAL 6

Participation in SNAP will increase substantially to benefit more residents of Palm Beach County, and SNAP benefits will be enhanced.



GOAL 7

All Palm Beach County residents will be able to access healthy, affordable food in their community.

GOAL 8

Food banks, pantries, and other charitable agencies will partner to connect families to nutritious food and resources.

GOAL 9

All Palm Beach County families will have the knowledge to make the best possible healthy food choices.



GOAL 10

Low-income families in Palm Beach County will achieve higher incomes to purchase food and household crisis hunger will decrease.

OVERVIEW HUNGER



IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

Recognizing the unacceptable consequences of local hunger, United Way of Palm Beach County and the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, backed by a group of 180 organizations, convened the Hunger Relief Initiative and identified the need to create a comprehensive plan to reduce local hunger. The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) and the University of South Carolina (USC) Center for Research in Nutrition and Health Disparities were commissioned to create the Hunger Relief Plan. Since its inception in 2015, United Way of Palm Beach County has worked alongside community partners to address food insecurity in the county. The five focus areas that our Hunger Relief work groups seeks to improve are: Childhood Hunger, Seniors, The Glades, Building Infrastructure and SNAP Outreach/Advocacy.

Coordination and collaboration are key for success of the Hunger Relief Initiative. Agencies that have had little contact before are now working together more efficiently and funders are contributing financially. The achievements of the Hunger Relief Initiative's work to create lasting change using a collective impact model would not be possible without the support of 180 volunteers and strong partnerships throughout the community.

To learn more about the Hunger Relief Plan and its 10 goals, visit:

UnitedWayPBC.org/Hunger



Number of Food Insecure Individuals in PBC

2015	2019
200,000 residents	184,000 residents
64,000 children	53,000 children

8% Reduction in Food Insecure Residents
17.2% Reduction in Food Insecure Children

Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2019

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Increased Cold Storage in Food Pantries



Healthy Corner Stores



Nutrition Education



Increased Home Delivered Meals to Seniors

Summer Meal Outreach



Family Weekend Backpack Programs



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

CHILDHOOD Hunger

SUMMARY OF WORK GROUP

The Childhood Work Group aims to address Goal #4 of the Hunger Relief Plan and ensure that all Palm Beach County children have access to the nutritious food they need to build healthy bodies and strong minds. This group focuses on the following three areas: Afterschool Meals, Summer BreakSpot and Family Weekend Backpacks.

AFTERSCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM

This program provides reimbursement for nutritious meals and snacks served at eligible afterschool program sites.

SUMMER BREAKSPOT PROGRAM

This program provides nutritious meals at no cost to children 18 and under while school is out for the summer. Many meal sites are located at places like parks, libraries and churches and offer breakfasts, lunches, snacks or supper. This group participated in an outreach campaign in partnership with the CRA of Riviera Beach, to increase the number of children participating in Riviera Beach Summer BreakSpot meal sites.

Outreach results showed a 50% increase in children participating in Riviera Beach Summer BreakSpot meal sites.

FAMILY WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Weekend Backpack Program provides healthy, non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food for homeless and low-income students and their families in The Glades and western areas of Palm Beach County.

Chair: Erica Whitfield, School Board Member, The School District of Palm Beach County



“Students who have received Super Power Packs for three years have improved grades, better attendance, and more ability to focus in the classroom. Students and parents are grateful for the help. They have so much to worry about and food now isn’t one of those things.”

*Ms. Garcia
South Grade Elementary Teacher*

AFTERSCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM – PALM BEACH COUNTY

	2018-2019	% increase 2015 - 2019
Avg. # children served daily	74,541	+122.78%
Total # of all snacks and meals	1,497,441	+102.54%
Total # of suppers served	1,204,502	+127.74%
Number of sites	87	+163.65%
Amount of reimbursement	\$4,578,909	+137.56%

Source: Florida Hunger Data Center

SUMMER BREAKSPOT – PALM BEACH COUNTY

	2019	% increase 2015 - 2019
Total # of all snacks and meals provided	1,248,347	+1.8%

Source: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

FAMILY WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Weekend Backpack	Weekend Backpack	Family Weekend Backpack
Total: 893	Total: 829	Total: 1,116

Weekend vs. Family Weekend Backpack Program
18 servings vs. 30 servings | 40% increase in serving size

All backpack programs follow USDA Guidelines

In FY 18/19 United Way Hunger Relief expanded the weekend backpack program to a family weekend backpack program offering a mixture of single serving and family size meals, funded by the Jim Moran Foundation and The Batchelor Foundation through grants to Pan-Florida Challenge.

SENIOR Hunger

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

In Palm Beach County, our growing senior population is expected to increase by 29% for those ages 60 and older and by 72.6% for those 85 and older by the year 2040.

Period	60+ 2020 to 2040	85+ 2020 to 2040
Percent Increase	29%	72.6%

In the State of Florida, Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast have the largest number of seniors that are age 60 and over, age 85 and older, and the largest number of seniors diagnosed with probable Alzheimer's cases.

SENIOR SNAP PARTICIPATION INCREASE

2015	2016	2017	2018
54%	52.4%	53.6%	72%

Targeted outreach in three identified zip codes (33433, 33484, 33417) for SNAP participation using fliers created by Senior Hunger Team in collaboration with United Way of Palm Beach County. The number of seniors participating in SNAP increased 38% from 2015 - 2019.

CONGREGATE MEALS SERVED

2017-2018	2018-2019
187,520 meals served	315,562 meals served

In 2018/2019 two new congregate meal sites were opened. The Volen Center opened a congregate meal site in Pompey Park, Delray Beach. PBC Division of Senior Services (DOSS) opened a congregate meal site in Belle Glade, The Glades Pioneer Terrace Meal Site.



SUMMARY OF WORK GROUP

The Senior Hunger Work Group aims to address Goal #5 of the Hunger Relief Plan and ensure that all low-income older residents of Palm Beach County will have balanced and nutritious diets. Specifically, that all eligible Palm Beach County senior citizens at risk of hunger will receive federal benefits and other life-saving hunger supports, such as: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Home Delivered Meals (HDM), and Congregate Meals.

Within the Senior Hunger Work Group, a group of key stakeholders developed a comprehensive, five-year plan to end senior hunger, titled *Senior Hunger Solutions*. This plan outlines the following keys to success: maximize senior participation in SNAP and expand the Congregate Meal and Home Delivered Meals Programs. (Plan is currently on hold pending funding.)

*Chair: Nancy Yarnall,
Director, Consumer Care & Planning
Area Agency on Aging*



INFRASTRUCTURE

SUMMARY OF WORK GROUP

The Infrastructure Work Group aims to address Goal #7: All Palm Beach County residents will be able to access healthy, affordable food in their community, and Goal #8: Food banks, pantries, and other charitable agencies will partner to connect families to nutritious food and resources. This group has been focused on building food pantries' capacity to store fresh foods and launching the Healthy Corner Store Initiative.

*Chair: Kate Magro,
Assistant Dean of Students,
Palm Beach Atlantic University*

Refrigerators/freezers installed at 23 food pantries increased cold storage capacity by 1,152 cu. ft., increased the number of people served by 48%, and decreased food waste by 64%.

COLD STORAGE CAPACITY INITIATIVE

Funding was secured and distributed through the Cold Storage Capacity Grant from The Celia Lipton Farris & Victor W. Farris Foundation in order to minimize food waste and increase storage capacity of food pantries and other nonprofit organizations that address food insecurity. The extra storage space has enabled the recipient agencies to provide a consistent supply of perishable items, including produce, to a greater number of Palm Beach County residents.

2018-2019	2019-2020
23 food pantries funded	9 nonprofit organizations funded
\$48,114 funded	Over \$57,000 funded
Served 21,830 individuals	Seven commercial refrigerators
Increased the number served by 48%	Six freezers
Decreased food waste by 64%	One walk-in refrigerator
	One walk-in freezer

HEALTHY CORNER STORE INITIATIVE

The purpose of the Healthy Corner Store Initiative is to increase access to affordable fresh produce in areas of high need. The initiative works with community partners, residents and small-scale store owners to assist them with introducing fresh produce as part of their store merchandise and provide residents with healthy food options.

- The Hunger Relief Team partnered with Healthier Glades, The American Heart Association and UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program to increase the availability of healthy, affordable foods through Sam's Food Store in Canal Point.
- As requested by Canal Point residents, the initiative introduced eggs, apples, bananas, onions, limes, and blueberries.
- Residents participated in healthy cooking demonstrations to learn how to prepare the products available at Sam's Food Store.

UPCOMING PROJECT

Pantry Project/Pantry Focus Groups

- Partner with Palm Beach County on creation of an interactive web-based GIS (Geographic Information System) application pertaining to food banks and pantries hosted on the Palm Beach County server.

- Divide County by the six Emergency Operating Areas (EOA) and conduct in-person focus group studies.



MOBILE SUMMER BREAKSPOT

- Mobile unit served meals at several residential facilities in the Glades area:
 - Pahokee – Padget Island and Fremd Village
 - Belle Glade – Covenant Villas, Calusa Estates, Okeechobee Housing
 - South Bay – South Bay Villas
- Partnered with Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County to deliver 600 books at Summer BreakSpot Sites.

“Children get to sit down at the table with family and friends and actually bring that whole unity together and sit down to eat and laugh and have fun. The staff is so incredibly great it’s almost like being home because they all joke and play with the kids and talk so they give them that whole family dinner time or lunch time.” - *Catrina Graddick, Resident Service Coordinator*

MOBILE SUMMER BREAKSPOT IN THE GLADES

Summer 2018	Summer 2019	<div style="border: 2px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> % increase in meals served +259% </div>
11 Sites	15 Sites	
No Nutrition Education offered	24 Nutrition Education Sessions (Funded by Florida Blue & Farris Foundation)	
6,000 meals served	15,543 meals served	

Source: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Mobile unit served meals at several residential and community facilities in The Glades area.



THE GLADES

SUMMARY OF WORK GROUP

The Glades Work Group focuses on special projects in The Glades area that address building capacity and infrastructure, engaging residents, community partners, elected officials and other stakeholders. These community groups work closely together to develop and implement initiatives that provide access to affordable nutritious food, nutrition education, and business opportunities.

Co-Chairs:

*Melissa McKinlay,
Palm Beach County Commissioner*

*Caroline Villanueva,
South Florida External Affairs Manager,
Florida Crystals Corporation*

“The Farmers Market is a one-of-a-kind hands on learning experience, and students look forward to the event each year. The community has the opportunity to buy fresh, local produce from the school gardens and local farmers at a discounted price. Since The Glades is a food desert it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality fresh food.”

*Mari Orsenigo,
Glades Central FFA teacher*



SNAP OUTREACH/ ADVOCACY

SUMMARY OF WORK GROUP

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach/Advocacy Work Group aims to advocate for the strengthening of public policies at all levels of government to systematically fight hunger and reduce food hardship. This Work Group consists of over 20 community agencies focused on substantially increasing SNAP participation to benefit more residents of Palm Beach County and enhancing SNAP benefits.

*Chair: Nancy Bolton,
Assistant County Administrator,
Palm Beach County Board of
County Commissioners*

SNAP OUTREACH

SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency.

- SNAP provides an average benefit of \$4.18 a day for millions of low-income Americans.
- Funded a SNAP Outreach Specialist through the Palm Beach County Food Bank to increase outreach to more Palm Beach County residents that qualify for the program. Communities that are most in need will be identified and targeted to focus on increasing SNAP participation.
- Volunteers and United Way of Palm Beach County staff participated in a SNAP Challenge in September 2019. The group posted videos about their experiences living on a \$4.18 per day food budget for five days.

ADVOCACY

On August 14, 2019, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published drastic changes relating to the “public charge” inadmissibility test. **The proposed changes would eliminate SNAP benefits for 3.1 million individuals nationwide, 200,000 Floridians, and more than 15,000 Palm Beach County residents.**

The SNAP Outreach/Advocacy Work Group members submitted seven comments to the USDA to advocate against public charge, which is known as Categorical Eligibility.

**SNAP generates \$18,000,000
monthly for the local economy.**





A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS!

