

FY22 IMPACT REPORT

(October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022)



Greater Cleveland
Food Bank



Our Year in Review

This year, as we began to recover from the pandemic, our community faced a new set of unexpected challenges. Skyrocketing prices for food, gas, and other essentials have affected families and seniors who are already struggling with tight budgets, forcing many people to choose between food or other critical necessities like medicine and rent. At the same time, most pandemic benefits have been reduced or ended. These factors have led to an increased demand for emergency food assistance. In fact, we served more people this year than in fiscal year 2021. With our 1,000+ program partners, we strive to get nutritious food to those in need every day.

The Food Bank is also feeling the effects of inflation as well as continued supply chain issues. Dozens of food shipments have been cancelled. Federal and state food donations are down, as are private food donations, forcing us to purchase more food – at higher prices than ever before.

Because of your generosity, and our 1,000+ program partners, we have been able to meet this perfect storm of higher need and challenging food resourcing. Thank you!

GCFB FY22 HIGHLIGHTS



Served **349,200+** unduplicated individuals.



Served **84,000+** unduplicated seniors.



Served **93,700+** unduplicated children.



Distributed **48.1+** million pounds of food, including fresh produce, lean proteins, and whole grains.



Provided **\$600,000+** in capacity building grants to partners.



287,000+ miles driven by our fleet of 20+ trucks.

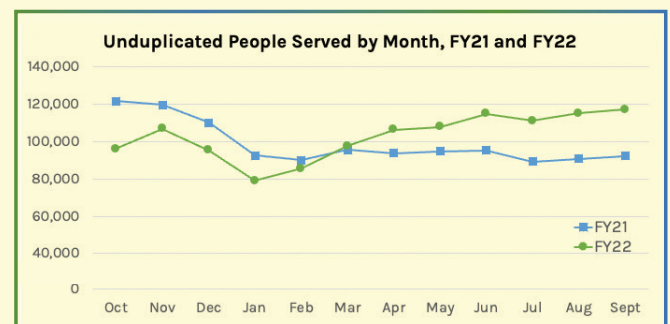


Assisted **39,500** clients with public benefits applications.



\$445

The additional amount families are spending per month on food, utilities and housing, compared to one year ago.



Over the last seven months, the need for emergency food assistance has increased. Inflation continues to drive food insecurity in Northeast Ohio.

Innovation & Expansion

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank improved access to nutritious food by beginning new services and improving programming to better connect where and how we provided help. Due to continued high need, our weekly distributions continue at the City of Cleveland Municipal Lot. In addition to our traditional program partners, we have also explored new innovative and flexible ways to serve people in need.



13,500+
unduplicated
people served.
2,000
visits on average
every month.

EUCLID FOOD PANTRY

In December 2021, the Food Bank opened our first client-choice, GCFB-run food pantry in Euclid. This area has high food insecurity but not enough services. The Euclid Food Pantry provides clients the dignity of choosing their own food. Community partners join us to provide additional assistance, such as MetroHealth clinic pop-ups, voter registration, and more.



15
Partner
Agencies
246,600+
Pounds
Delivered

DIRECT DROP RETAIL DONATION PROGRAM

This year, our Direct Drop Program was expanded. Our fleet picks up donated food from retailers and delivers it directly to agency partners, as well as transports it to our distribution center. In addition to being more efficient, we now can get perishable food, such as produce and fresh meat, to people in need faster and with less waste.

Reaching People Where They Are

We continue to build partnerships that help us reach folks in places where there are fewer resources.



MOBILE PANTRIES AND OUR NEW FOOD TRUCK distribute fresh produce across our six-county service area, reaching more people in hard to reach communities.

WE'VE ALSO PARTNERED WITH DOOR DASH to continue our home delivery program for seniors and adults with disabilities who are unable to visit food pantries. This partnership has enabled us to exponentially increase deliveries for this program.

Partner Grantmaking

Our Capacity Grant program supports our partners to build capacity to serve more individuals in need, provide more food, and expand food distribution. This may include additional refrigeration to accept more produce



\$600,000
In Total
Capacity Grants
69
Total Grants

and perishable product, stoves to prepare meals through a hot meal program, and purchasing a van to help deliver food to home bound individuals. As just one example, a hot meal partner, St. Herman's FOCUS, received \$25,000 to help purchase a walk-in refrigerator and freezer, increasing the clients served to over 39,000 people in FY22, 18% more than in 2021.

Client & Community Empowerment

We celebrated our Help Center Outreach Team's 10th Anniversary this year! We are one of the few food banks nationwide offering comprehensive assistance to help clients apply for SNAP and other benefits, connecting them to partners specializing in critical social services to address the root causes of food insecurity.



IN 10 YEARS:
148,000+ SNAP Applications Submitted
340,000+ Individuals Served
105,228,000+ SNAP Meals Provided
111,100+ Additional Client Connections

Listening & Learning

Centering the lives, experiences, needs, and dignity of our clients is a cornerstone of our work at the Food Bank. This year we expanded and improved the ways clients drive community-centric solutions to ending food insecurity.



WE HOSTED two listening sessions with clients to hear about their lived experiences with food insecurity.

WE SURVEYED Euclid Food Pantry clients every week to adjust our services to meet the community's need.

WE ESTABLISHED our first Client Experience Council which brings clients together to provide a platform to co-create intentional strategies and services, develop opportunities for dialogue and build relationships.

WE WORKED with Case Western Reserve University to more deeply understand our community's experience with food insecurity and connect clients to share their experience in their own words and photographs with local leaders.

Advocacy for Our Community

Our Advocacy Team has been in constant communication with local, state, and federal leaders, including USDA leadership. This year:

WE HOSTED Xochitl Torres Small, USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development, Congresswoman Shontel Brown, Dr. Sara Bleich, USDA Director of Nutrition Security and Health Equity, and staff from numerous political leaders' offices.

OUR TEAM'S EFFORTS helped persuade the USDA to provide \$1 billion in additional funding for food banks, including \$50 million for Ohio, to connect American-grown food to our neighbors in need.



Left to right: Noel Rivera, GCFB Advocacy and Education Analyst; Jonathan McCracken, Ohio Director of Rural Development; Xochitl Torres Small, Under Secretary for Rural Development; US Congresswoman Shontel Brown; Kristin Warzocha, GCFB CEO & President; Kimberly LoVano, GCFB Director of Advocacy & Public Education.

Feeding Our Community Today, Tomorrow, and For a Lifetime

PHASE ONE: PARTNER DISTRIBUTION HUB AT COIT ROAD

In FY18, we began planning for expanded capacity to enable us to better meet significant unmet need in Northeast Ohio. Then, the pandemic – and our current battle with inflation and economic uncertainty increased the need and demonstrated how precarious obtaining food is for too many people.

We have undertaken the largest expansion in our history to build a new Partner Distribution Hub at Coit Road. Just minutes from our current warehouse, this new expanded facility has the capacity to provide significantly more healthy food and prepared meals to our 1,000+ program partners.



PHASE TWO: COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER AT SOUTH WATERLOO ROAD

To help our clients become food secure in the long-term, we are investing in fighting the root causes of hunger. Hunger does not happen in a vacuum. With this transformational project, we will help clients address the complex issues that impact food insecurity at one convenient location, perfect for busy families and those with limited transportation. Our South Waterloo Road facility is being transformed into a Community Resource Center. A new client-choice food pantry will offer extended hours for busy families and individuals. This reimagined space will provide wrap-around services to help our clients with a one-stop shop with strategic nonprofit partners on site to help connect clients with the resources they need to thrive, including healthcare, housing, employment and other social services.



THANK YOU

You have made a difference for so many of our neighbors who face food insecurity. We are honored to continue to fight hunger – together – in 2023.