

Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota Strategic Plan

Vision: A Hunger-free North Dakota

To attain this vision, individuals seeking food assistance will:

- ***Be aware of available resources;***
- ***Have reasonable access to services;***
- ***Receive an adequate amount of food; and***
- ***Gain support through a client friendly experience.***

Key Findings and Strategic Goals

#1: Key Finding - Significant portions of North Dakota are under-served by the charitable feeding network.

Goal #1.0: To establish the resources necessary to make North Dakota hunger free in 2019 by achieving specific, successive levels of service and food availability in all North Dakota counties:

- ***Minimum Service Level**** - provide 50% of the statewide average pounds of food per person in need, and serve 50% of the individuals needing food assistance (requires a 6.19% increase in food availability from the current baseline) - Target Date - December 31, 2013.
- ***Standard Service Level**** - provide 100% of the statewide average pounds of food per person in need, and serve 65% of the individuals needing food assistance (requires a 30.09% increase in food availability from the current baseline) - Target Date - December 31, 2016.
- ***Hunger-Free Level**** - 100% of projected food need with 85% of the individuals needing food assistance choosing to utilize the service (requires a 98.33% increase in food availability from the current baseline) - Target Date - December 31, 2019.

**These levels will be determined on a county-by-county basis, utilizing an established formula (see "Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota" study) for identifying the number of individuals in each county who are in need of food assistance divided by the total number of pounds of food available in that county*

#2: Key Finding - Clients encounter barriers in accessing the network.

Goal #2.0: To reduce the identified barriers that consumers/clients experience when accessing the local food assistance system.

#3: Key Finding - Providers are strained by increased demand and limited resources.

Goal #3.0: To provide training, assistance and support to the local food assistance providers so that they are able to locate, access and develop the resources that they require (financial, human and other) to meet the feeding challenges in their respective areas.

#4: Key Finding - Providers expand and adapt their services to meet client needs.

Goal #4.0: To empower the local food assistance providers to utilize new and effective practices to meet consumer/client needs.

#5: Key Finding - Sources and types of food utilized by the network are in major transition.

Goal #5.0: To identify and implement efficient, effective methods to recover and utilize the increasing amounts of perishable, prepared and frozen food.

#6: Key Finding - Opportunity exists for heightened collaboration between the charitable feeding network and federal nutrition programs.

Goal #6.0: To establish collaborative and mutually supportive partnerships with governmental programs, agencies and services at all levels (local, state and federal) of the food assistance system.

<p>1.14- To increase efficiency, availability and amounts of food product by collaboration in the ordering, warehousing and distribution of product (TEFAP, FDPIR and CSFP).</p> <p>1.1.5- Advocate for increased funding for USDA commodity programs (TEFAP, CSFP, FDPIR) and other federal nutrition programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact, advocate and serve as resource for congressional delegation • Encourage partners and supporters to advocate for nutrition related legislation <p><u>Resource/Budgetary Needs:</u> Staff time, travel.</p>	<p>Department of Public Instruction (DPI)</p> <p>Great Plains Food Bank lead</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>1.1.6- To maintain and/or increase the overall percentage of North Dakota’s food allocation on a national basis – address the “Feeding America” distribution formula.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for revising current allocation models • Serve on allocation revision task force <p><u>Resource/Budgetary Needs:</u> Staff time, travel.</p>	<p>Great Plains Food Bank</p>	
<p>1.2. - To improve the distribution options to make the available food more accessible including the establishment of a geographical distance objective of 20 miles (40 mile round trip).</p> <p>1.2.1- To increase/expand the use and availability of the Mobile Food Pantry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze underserved counties and identify potential communities for Mobile Food Pantry distributions. • Secure food resources. • Secure program funding. • Engage volunteers to pack food boxes. • Execute public awareness efforts in selected communities. • Partner with churches or community organizations to host distributions <p><u>Resource/Budgetary Needs:</u> FY10: \$37,000*/160,000 pounds of food; FY11: \$50,000*/240,000 pounds of food; FY12 and beyond: \$65,000*/320,000 pounds of food (*salary, benefits, transportation and supplies).</p>	<p>Great Plains Food Bank, DPI, Community Action Programs, Aging Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>1.2.2- To increase/expand the use and availability of the Rural Restock Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze underserved counties and identify potential charitable feeding sites with capacity to handle additional product. • Secure food resources. • Secure program funding. • Select, pick, load, transport and deliver product shipments. <p><u>Resource/Budgetary Needs:</u> \$11,000 annually for salary, benefits and transportation expenses / 50,000 pounds of food annually.</p>	<p>Great Plains Food Bank, DPI</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>1.2.3- To increase/expand the use and availability of the Outreach Pantry Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze underserved counties and identify potential communities for Outreach Pantry Program services. • Identify churches or other partners to host sites. • Secure food resources. • Engage volunteers to pack food boxes. • Transport product to host sites. 	<p>Great Plains Food Bank, DPI, Community Action Programs, Aging Services, Department of Transportation</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p><u>Resource/Budgetary Needs:</u> FY10: \$20,000*/56,0,000 pounds of food; FY11: \$26,000*/80,000 pounds of food; FY12 and beyond: \$33,000*/100,000 pounds of food (*salary, benefits, transportation and supplies).</p> <p>1.2.4- To increase/expand delivery sites and routes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify additional regional product delivery sites and potential direct drops to charitable feeding programs along existing delivery routes to minimize the distances agencies must travel to pick up food orders. Establish and implement new delivery routes and schedules. <p><u>Resource/Budgetary Needs:</u> \$27,000 annually for salary, benefits and transportation expenses</p> <p>1.2.5- To assist local food assistance providers in securing a proper location, storage space and equipment [Great Plains Food Bank pass-through grants] (see Goal #3)</p> <p>1.3- To review, revise and implement a systematic, statewide allocation plan for donated food product and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities distributed through the Great Plains Food Bank (GPFB), Department of Public Instruction (DPI), and Community Actions Program (CAPs) to achieve equitable statewide distribution based on need at the county level.</p> <p>1.3.1 Review current allocation models and pounds supplied per person in need for each county.</p> <p>1.3.2 Research new allocation models to achieve more equitable distribution, including consideration of capacity to handle/distribute perishable vs. nonperishable products.</p> <p>1.3.3 Educate the food assistance network on rationale for any proposed new model and assist in its implementation.</p> <p><u>Resource/Budgetary Needs:</u> Staff time, travel, meeting costs.</p>	<p>Great Plains Food Bank, DPI, Community Action Programs</p> <p>DPI, Community Action Programs, Great Plains Food Bank</p>	<p>December 2009</p> <p>June 2010</p>
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Accountability Measures:

Utilization of a three-level assessment as measured by the pounds of food provided and the total number of individuals served.

- Pounds of food/person;
- Geographical proximity to food distribution/availability (20 mile trip – 40 mile round trip); and
- Logistics/infrastructure for delivery and distribution.

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Goal #2.0:

To reduce the identified barriers that consumers/clients experience when accessing the local food assistance system.

Objectives/Action Steps:	Responsible Party:	T-Date:
<p>2.1- To increase access to available food (see Goal #1). 2.1.1- To increase number of deliveries (see Goal #1). 2.1.2- To increase the numbers, sites and times of distribution (see Goal #1). 2.1.3- To identify potential partners and existing options (senior rides/buses, school bus routes, DOT regional coordination hubs) and collaborate for efficient and effective utilization of resources. 2.1.4- To explore the option of incorporating existing sites and service centers to make food deliveries more accessible (county social service offices and their satellite offices, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension offices and services, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) sites, Tribal College Land Grant Program, senior centers, and public health.</p> <p>2.2- Reduce the amount of paperwork and “red tape” required for consumers to secure food. 2.2.1- To work with stakeholders and partners to develop a relevant, standardized and consistent food pantry assistance application and reporting system – a system that would be functional for the food assistance system. 2.2.2- To provide a readily accessible process to assist consumers to identify, secure and complete the necessary applications (provide the client with their own copy of the completed materials for their records and reference). <u>Resource/Budgetary Needs:</u> Travel and staff time.</p> <p>2.3- To establish a process to provide information, training, and assistance to consumers. 2.3.1- To provide clear, understandable, and readily available information about the process, eligibility criteria, expectations, client rights, schedules and locations of food sites. This may be accomplished by use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A website (utilize links to and from other relevant Internet sites); • The development of a template (brochure with the types, locations, dates, and times for site access); • Coordination of information with other referral sources (211 Line, centers for independent living, Senior Info Line, potential Aging and Disability Resource Link (ADRL), etc.); • To develop, distribute and post a client rights document; • Utilize community access options – T.V., radio, and newspapers (USDA’s public service announcements); and • Utilize “web-based social networking” technology and options. <p><u>Resource/Budgetary Needs:</u> Staff time and possible grant.</p>	<p>Hunger Coalition Committee</p> <p>Hunger Coalition Committee</p>	
<p>2.4- To develop and implement an information, education and marketing program that projects an accurate, positive</p>		

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Goal #5.0:

To identify and implement efficient, effective methods to recover and utilize the increasing amounts of perishable, prepared and frozen food.

Objectives/Action Steps:	Responsible Party:	T-Date:
<p>5.1- To expand services to rural areas through mobile food pantry program, township drops and other “hub” distribution efforts (see Goal #1).</p> <p>5.2- To increase the numbers and effectiveness of recovery programs</p> <p>5.2.1- To develop food rescue programs in Bismarck and Minot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with key agencies and secure participation. • Meet with key donors and secure participation. • Purchase or secure donation of refrigerated truck. • Procure equipment, supplies, and storage space. • Hire driver. • Secure operating funding for program. • Facilitate media coverage, public awareness. 	<p>Great Plains Food Bank</p>	<p>Bismarck Sept. 2009 Minot Nov. 2009</p>
<p><u>Resource/Budgetary Needs:</u> \$60,000 start-up per program (truck, equipment, staff time, travel), \$75,000 - \$85,000 annual operating costs per program.</p> <p>5.2.2- To link feeding programs with local food retailers in communities without full-scale recovery programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify communities with both local food retailers and charitable feeding programs. • Determine if there are existing relationships. • Provide local agency with material/templates to secure partnership and/or provide staff assistance in facilitating partnership. • Arrange and implement pick-up schedule. 	<p>Great Plains Food Bank</p>	<p>July 2010</p>
<p><u>Resource/Budgetary Needs:</u> Staff time and materials.</p> <p>5.2.3- To partner and coordinate efforts with the “Local Foods Initiative” to identify, secure, and distribute fresh produce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going Local Initiative program staff will continue to encourage the inclusion of charitable feeding actions such as “Plant a Row for the Hungry,” donation of produce and other foods to charitable feeding programs. • Great Plains Food Bank and Going Local Initiative program staff will maintain communication regarding local communities with comprehensive plans that include charitable feeding components. • Great Plains Food Bank will assist, where needed and possible, with strategic distribution of locally produced foods. <p><u>Resource/Budgetary Needs:</u> Staff time, materials, travel.</p>	<p>Going Local Initiative, Great Plains Food Bank</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>5.2.4- To assess the current status of “perishable only” sites and develop and initiate additional sites offering product weekly or more frequently. <u>Resource/Budgetary Needs:</u> Staff time, materials.</p> <p>5.3- To assist local food assistance programs in securing needed equipment, appliances and storage facilities and training their staff and volunteers in their operation and proper use (see Goal #3). 5.3.1- To provide local food assistance providers the opportunity and the support that they need to access funding for equipment. 5.3.2 To provide effective training to develop staff skills and expertise in equipment procurement, use and management, processing, storage and safe handling (see Goal #3).</p>	<p>Great Plains Food Bank</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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Accountability Measures:

- Identification and monitoring of the amount of perishable, prepared frozen food that is recovered.
- Tracking how the food is distributed (sites and amounts) across the state.
- Future monitoring of the nutritional mix (inclusion of types and quantities of foods to ensure a “nutritionally rich” diet – i.e., the inclusion of more fresh fruits and vegetables) of the foods distributed.

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Goal #6.0:

To establish collaborative and mutually supportive partnerships with governmental programs, agencies and services at all levels (local, state and federal) of the food assistance system.

Objectives/Action Steps:	Responsible Party:	T-Date:
<p>6.1- To establish a CHFND Transition Committee (TC) that will assume organizational and coordination responsibilities to move the CHFND initiative forward on a long-term, permanent basis.</p> <p>6.1.1 To identify and empower a volunteer committee to assume responsibility of the Hunger Free North Dakota Initiative and strategic plan effective June 16, 2009.</p> <p>6.1.2-To identify the specific responsibilities, policies and expectations of the Transition Committee.</p> <p>6.1.3- To establish a long-term, permanent CHFND (Hunger Coalition) structure and organization.</p> <p>6.1.4- To establish and maintain an ongoing, consistent and effective communication link with CHFND/Hunger Coalition members.</p> <p>6.1.5- To identify and secure the resources necessary to continue the efforts of the CHFND initiative (budget/funds, staff, etc.).</p> <p>6.1.6- To explore the potential of a Governor’s Commission on Hunger.</p> <p>6.1.7- To monitor, evaluate and revise the Hunger Free North Dakota strategic plan.</p> <p>6.2- To identify and share information regarding the services and programs within the food assistance system (what is actually being offered/provided on a county down to local level– see Goal #2).</p> <p>6.2.1- To develop, distribute and maintain a summary list of the services and programs in the food network (local, state and federal providers). The list may include eligibility requirements, summaries of the services provided/offered, locations and dates and times of operation. These materials could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website information and links; • Brochures and program descriptions; • Outlines of eligibility requirements; • Interagency presentations; • Posters and mail-out materials; and • Access to applications and other referral information. <p>6.3- To establish linkages for information purposes and to allow for the effective referral of clients/consumers to other programs for ancillary/complimentary services.</p>	<p>Hunger Free North Dakota Transition Committee</p>	

<p>6.4- To identify other groups throughout the state that may share and support the food network goals (seniors, schools, health and disabilities related, poverty and low income issues, transportation, etc. –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/child/new/08annual_report.pdf; • http://www.ndhealth.gov/wic/; and • https://carechoice.nd.assistguide.net/site/371/find_organizations.aspx). <p>6.5- To foster a communications network to share progress, ideas and best practices. (See Goal # 3 and Goal #4).</p>		
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Accountability Measures:

- Maintain a baseline/comparative total of the groups and organizations that are active in the service network.
- Conduct periodic provider surveys.
- Self-reporting of joint and several accomplishments, achievements and contributions.

