



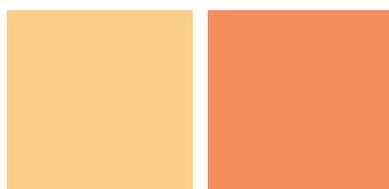
MOVING PHILADELPHIA FORWARD

A PATH TOWARDS STRENGTHENING
FOOD ACCESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

AUGUST 2012
MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON
OUTDOOR SERVING OF FOOD



PRESENTED TO
MICHAEL A. NUTTER, MAYOR
& THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA



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Dear Mayor Nutter,

In May of 2012, you convened this 90-day Task Force on Outdoor Serving of Food to increase access to indoor food services in Center City and develop recommendations to better serve and assist individuals who experience hunger and food insecurity, reaffirming the City's commitment to the health, safety, and well-being of all Philadelphians. Serving and sharing food has always been a powerful symbol of inclusion, conciliation, and goodwill. Accordingly, the Task Force believes the way in which we serve our neighbors in need reflects the regard in which we hold them as individuals and as members of the community. We believe, through a unified effort, all Philadelphians can have secure access to nutritious foods and vital services in healthy settings—and that ensuring this access will honor our best traditions as the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection. To that end, the members of this Task Force are prepared to assist you and the City in the fight against hunger.

Poverty and hunger have been intractable concerns in our City for many years. A remarkable number of dedicated, kind-hearted individuals and groups have established meal service operations at various places and times in Philadelphia to address those needs, and to use food to reach out to individuals in need. We honor and respect the very important work accomplished by the people who serve, and we recognize the tension that has sometimes formed between their laudable efforts and the challenges of accommodating those efforts. This tension is not irresolvable, however, and not without precedent in our City.

Philadelphia has a rich history of independence and innovation used to advance the quality of life for all its citizens. In 1739, the charismatic preacher George Whitefield traveled to Philadelphia to begin his preaching tour of the New World. No church could accommodate the thousands of listeners his compelling sermons attracted, so Reverend Whitefield preached outdoors. The community soon found itself stuck between the great desire of its citizens to hear the preacher, and the material challenges posed by hosting him. The “unsticking” of this issue came in the form of a new space and a new way of doing things. The community banded together to erect the New Building—a new shared space for everyone's use. When Reverend Whitefield's visit came to an end, the new space and what it represented remained. The New Building became a charitable school, and later hosted the beginning of the University of Pennsylvania, the country's first university and an indelible feature of Philadelphia's rich history and culture.

We, the Task Force, propose the establishment of a New Space in Philadelphia for the fight against hunger—a space that is not just physical, but also conceptual. A need exists for both physical space and for willingness to approach the problem of hunger in novel and unaccustomed ways, and to that end the Task Force has set forth recommendations. Making lasting improvements to our community's response to hunger will require the same concerted effort that the construction of the New Building did, but such an effort is no more outside our capabilities today than it was in 1739.

Sincerely,



Arthur C. Evans, Ph.D., Task Force Chair
Commissioner, Department of Behavioral Health and disAbility Services

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In May of 2012, Mayor Nutter convened individuals from City departments, philanthropic and faith-based organizations, foundations, and individuals who have used free food services in Philadelphia for a 90-day Task Force. Mayor Nutter charged them with developing recommendations on how to serve more individuals indoors and to better serve and assist individuals who experience hunger and food insecurity. Serving and sharing of food is a powerful symbol of inclusion, goodwill, and community. The Task Force universally agreed that, as a City, we can improve the current state of free food services, both indoor and outdoor, to better address the significant number of people who experience hunger and food insecurity in Philadelphia. Thus, the group examined methods to increase access to indoor meal options, how we as a City can help to connect individuals who experience hunger to resources to stabilize their lives, become self-sufficient and reduce food insecurity, as well as examine the broader issues surrounding hunger that lead people to seek free meals.

Although issues of food insecurity and hunger are complex, we believe access to free food services is a solvable challenge. This will require a unified effort in Philadelphia. Philadelphia has a rich history of innovation used to advance the quality of life for all its citizens and we believe the issue of hunger requires us to approach this issue in a new way. Through a new approach, we believe we can create a new space, both physically and metaphorically, where all Philadelphians can have secure access to nutritious foods and vital services in healthy settings.

Five Main Recommendations

The Task Force identified five main recommendations that will help to move the City forward in its effort to increase access to food indoors. The Task Force found these five recommendations a comprehensive approach to a complex and difficult yet, solvable issue.

1. **Establish consensus, leadership & capacity to move the City forward to address hunger and food insecurity.**
 - Engage providers in a collaborative process to establish a trusting, working partnership
 - Establish a coordinating body to lead initiatives that address issues of hunger
 - Lead efforts to coordinate food services, provider organizations and volunteers
 - Establish effective methods to disseminate information
 - Identify existing resources and services
 - Assist in providing information and training
 - Designate a full-time dedicated person in the City to track and lead the recommendations set forth in this report
 - Lead ongoing data collection in collaboration with coordinating body
2. **Increase and improve food access, options, and other needed services and supports for individuals in need.**
 - Establish methods to increase enrollment in food assistance programs
 - Increase access to variety and choice of food
 - Advocate for state and federal policy changes that reduce restrictions on food access programs
 - Increase access to basic services (e.g., restroom and shower facilities)
 - Increase access to supportive and social services

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3. Use existing infrastructure and resources to build additional capacity for addressing issues of hunger and food insecurity.
 - Strengthen current indoor food serving organizations
 - Engage philanthropic and business organizations to assist in funding and sustainability
 - Expand existing innovative food service models
4. Create opportunities for organizations and the public to better help individuals in need.
 - Equip providers and the public with necessary skills to help individuals in need
 - Remove barriers to providing food indoors
5. Establish innovative food serving models to increase access to food indoors and address food insecurity.
 - Establish a “new space” that offers a safe, healthy environment for individuals to access food with indoor and outdoor seating options
 - Utilize unused and underutilized indoor space to serve food
 - Establish innovative, integrated models
 - Participate in federal food access demonstration projects

Basis for Recommendation

In order to better understand the issues that led to the Task Force recommendations, the Task Force believed it was vital to collect information on the use and capacity of free food services, both indoors and outdoors, in Philadelphia. The Task Force solicited the perspectives of individuals involved in all aspects of serving and sharing of food. The input of individuals who use free meal services was particularly valued and specifically sought.

We acknowledge that this information is from a snapshot in time and thus, may not provide a completely accurate picture of the guests served. Nor does it reflect the array of meal service that the Task Force knows is happening all across the City. The data does provide additional insights into the issues of food insecurity. Given the limited time of the Task Force, we focused our information gathering on Center City, although we believe our findings have applications to other areas in the city.

Here are some key facts identified from those surveys and observations (more details are provided in the Information Gathering Section in the report):

- There appears to be a range between 19 and 200 people per meal being served outdoors in Center City, with a daily average between 33 to 129 people per meal. Given that information was collected during the City's new regulations on meal services, and the fact that the number of outdoor food services fluctuates during the week, it is difficult to determine the exact number of meals served each week. In some instances, guests receive multiple meals at a single outdoor serving and most guests frequent more than one outdoor food service per week. We are also aware of individuals being served outdoors in other parts of the City, such as Hunting Park and Kensington, but lacked the time to investigate this further.
- Significant numbers of free meals are being provided at 23 indoor locations in Center City, approximately 1,859 meals each day. With increased resources, these organizations have the physical capacity to serve 50 percent more meals than are currently provided.

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- While the indoor provider data, taken together with observations of outdoor meal sites, suggests that the existing indoor provider locations could serve those who are currently using outdoor meal sites with increased resources, the recommendations include the addition of new indoor space to be established not due to physical capacity needs, but for several other reasons discussed in this report (e.g., allowing individual and provider choice).
- Individuals seeking meals outdoors tended to be overwhelmingly male, African American, and middle aged, although they ranged in age from 20 to 81 years old.
- The slim majority of the 83 people surveyed live on the street. Those not living on the street either lived at a shelter, stayed with friends or relatives, or some combination of these options. Very few of those surveyed had a permanent residence. Most did not have a place to prepare food, which likely speaks to issues of habitability or access to a kitchen.
- Many individuals rely on both the indoor and outdoor food system for meals. Individuals report using an average of nine (8.7) free meals per week.
- Less than half are currently enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); slightly over half of those not enrolled believe they are eligible for food stamps.
- Individuals travel from across the City to take advantage of indoor and outdoor emergency food assistance. The average person interviewed traveled almost two miles, with some traveling more than eight miles. Most individuals were traveling from either within Center City or from West Philadelphia to Center City.
- While participating individuals indicated that both indoor and outdoor sites had advantages and drawbacks, many expressed a preference for indoor sites, provided that they were safe, orderly, and dignified.

Six Core Issues

The Task Force recommendations were also based on the identification of six core issues that drive the current use and provision of outdoor meal services. While over 400,000 people in Philadelphia experience food insecurity at any given time, the core issues focus on the experience of individuals primarily seeking food services in the Center City district. The issues described below were evidenced from information gathered through the Task Force, as well as other reports and information available. For each core issue, we recognized the complexity driving the issue.

1. Individual Needs

Individuals require comprehensive services ranging from access to food to basic necessities to services that foster autonomy and independence.

2. Provider Needs

Outdoor free food providers in Philadelphia have a long history of commitment and service. Providers will need assistance to continue their commitment to help individuals in need, including support to serve food indoors.

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3. Capacity & Infrastructure

Increased resources and expanded infrastructure are needed to provide food services indoors.

4. Cooperation, Coordination & Collaboration

Duplication of free food services and gaps exist in the availability of free food.

5. Resources & Sustainability

Addressing hunger and food insecurity are complex issues that require sustained efforts.

6. Community Consensus and Unity

A shared vision and consensus is needed across the Philadelphia community on how to best serve individuals who experience hunger and food insecurity.

To address the issues highlighted above and ensure the successful implementation of the recommendations, the Task Force considered how best to oversee the ongoing efforts of the City and its partners to increase access to indoor meal services and better serve individuals who experience hunger and food insecurity. We have begun conversations with community and City leaders around these recommendations and include several immediate action steps.

We hope that the information gathered and the proposed recommendations in this report become a framework for moving the city forward around this, and a catalyst for continued conversation and implementation of strategies. Once again, we believe this is a solvable issue, one that requires our City to work together to better address the significant number of people who experience hunger and food insecurity in Philadelphia.

BACKGROUND

At the initial meeting of the 90-day Outdoor Serving Task Force, the group unanimously agreed to take a comprehensive and holistic approach to examine and resolve the issues surrounding the serving and partaking of meals outdoors. This meant that the group looked at what could be done to increase access to indoor meal options and how we as a City might help connect individuals experiencing hunger to resources that would stabilize their lives and enable them to become self-sufficient and reduce their food insecurity. We also examined broader issues that surround hunger and lead people to seek free meals.

To understand those issues and inform our recommendations, the Task Force looked at hunger and food insecurity in the context of what is happening across the country and in Philadelphia. We should note that, even as we dug more deeply into particular issues, the Task Force focused information gathering efforts on Center City, due to the time-limited nature of the Task Force, and because Center City food serving locations draw people from across Philadelphia. We recognize that issues of hunger are not limited by any means to Center City, and that both indoor and outdoor food serving happens throughout the city. The need to continue gathering information, and assessing the needs of, and resources in, other parts of Philadelphia is one of the Task Force's recommendations described below.

Poverty in Philadelphia in Context

Over the last several years, due to the economic downturn, we have seen a significant increase in the number of people in poverty in Philadelphia. In 2007, the number of Philadelphians living in poverty was 333,142 or 23.8%¹. In 2010, the number had increased by over 60,000 people to 397,083, or nearly 27%.² Although this trend was exacerbated by the economic downturn, high poverty rates have been a persistent problem for Philadelphia for decades. Philadelphia has had the highest poverty rate among the country's 10 largest cities for the last 20 years.

Hunger in the United States

Across the country, hunger has become a growing challenge. The trend of seeing a rising number of individuals and families who struggle to keep food on their table was accelerated by the recession in 2008, but also reflects an ongoing challenge across the country that has worsened over the last 25 years.

In 2008, the number of individuals who were food insecure was 49 million (or 17.1 million households), a 36% increase over the prior year.³ In 2010, that number increased to 17.2 million households⁴. Feeding America, the largest domestic hunger-relief charity in the country, saw a 46% increase in the number of unique individuals served from 2006 to 2010⁵.

Across the United States, too many of our citizens are going hungry⁶:

- In 2010, 14.5% (17.2 million) of households in the United States experienced food insecurity at some point during the year.
- Fifty million Americans, including one in five children, reported going to bed and waking up hungry.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2010) *American FactFinder fact sheet Philadelphia, PA*.

² U.S. Census Bureau. (2010) *American FactFinder fact sheet: Philadelphia, PA*.

³ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service (2009) *Household Food Security in the United States, 2008*.

⁴ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. (2009) *Household Food Security in the United States, 2008*.

⁵ Feeding America (2009). *Hunger in America 2010, Executive Summary*.

⁶ National Coalition for the Homeless (2011). *Hunger and Food Insecurity Fact Sheet*

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Single parent households and households with children are more likely to be food insecure⁷:

- Households with children have almost twice the rate of food insecurity as households without children.
- Almost 14% of households experiencing food insecurity consist of a married couple with children, but 35.1% of households consist of a single woman with children, and 25.4% of households with a single father and children experience food insecurity.

Hunger strikes all races and ethnicities⁸:

- 26.1% of Hispanic households, 25.2% of black households and 10.8% of white households experience food insecurity.

Who seeks emergency food assistance⁹:

Across the country, a wide variety of people rely on soup kitchens, shelters, and pantries to provide the food they need to survive:

- Low income – The average monthly income for a household seeking emergency food is \$940. The average yearly income was \$13,030.
- Resource poor – 10% of client households are homeless; 60% do not have access to a working car; 46% have been forced to choose between food and utilities; 40%, between food and rent or mortgage.
- Children – 38% of individuals served by the emergency food system are under the age of 18; 9% are under the age of five.
- Seniors – In surveys of emergency food systems nationwide, 8% of individuals are over the age of 60.

It should also be noted that homelessness has also increased since the onset of the recession. Many men and women who live in temporary shelters may not have ready access to kitchens, necessitating a daily search for already prepared food.

Hunger in Philadelphia

The same challenges related to hunger and homelessness seen across the country are prevalent in Philadelphia, only more so.

Philadelphia has one of the highest rates of food insecurity in the country. Over 400,000 people in Philadelphia, more than one in four, are food insecure, and nearly 130,000 of them are children¹⁰.

Hunger is affecting more people throughout the city, including children:

- The 1st Congressional district, much of which is in Philadelphia, is the 2nd hungriest district in the country, with nearly 50% of households with children identified as food insecure¹¹.
- Almost 150,000 school-aged children rely on free or reduced cost meals for at least one of their meals¹².

⁷National Coalition for the Homeless (2011). *Hunger and Food Insecurity Fact Sheet*

⁸National Coalition for the Homeless (2011). *Hunger and Food Insecurity Fact Sheet*

⁹Feeding America (2009). *Hunger in America 2010, Executive Summary*.

¹⁰United States. USDA. Economic Research Service. *Household Food Security in the United States 2010*. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, 2011.

¹¹Cooper, Rachel et al. (2011), Food Research & Action Ctr., *Food Hardship in America 2010: Households with and without Children*

¹²United States. USDA. Economic Research Service. *Household Food Security in the United States 2010*. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, 2011.

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- During 2010, food pantries helped more than 411,000 Philadelphians – a 30% increase from the previous year¹³. More than one-third of them were children. Most food pantries serve people whose household income falls below 150% of the federal poverty line¹⁴.
 - 56% of food pantries and soup kitchens served more children in 2010 than in the previous year, and 54% of programs served more elderly individuals in 2010.
 - 27% of programs reported an increase in the number of individuals who were employed.

Provider Perspective

"...I used to just picture bums and drunks, but have learned that there are many who are poor, hungry, and complicated. Our group, Philly Restart, aims to treat other people as we would want to be treated."

-Adam Bruckner, Philly Restart

There are opportunities to better utilize existing supports and increase capacity to meet additional need:

- Approximately 475,000 individuals in Philadelphia are enrolled in food stamps (SNAP), while another

170,000 are eligible but do not utilize the program .

- On an average day in Philadelphia, approximately 10 organizations serve approximately 1,859 meals in indoor facilities in Center City and University City neighborhoods. Several soup kitchens and community dining rooms indicated to the Task Force that they would be able to serve hundreds more individuals each day with increased resources, such as funding, additional food and volunteers.
- The Task Force is also aware that the City government and other charitable organizations provide free meals indoors to those in need in other City neighborhoods, although the Task Force did not have time to fully investigate where and how many meals.
- We discuss these issues in more detail in the information gathering section below.

History of Outdoor Serving in Philadelphia

Although the Task Force recognizes the significant number of individuals in Philadelphia that experience food insecurity, hunger, and poverty, given the limited time frame, the Task Force focused on the issue of free meals provided outdoors and indoors in Center City. The Task Force recognizes that its work over the past 90 days is part of a longer history of outdoor serving of food in the City. Over the last 20 years, outdoor food service in Philadelphia has evolved into what it is today. Previous Mayoral administrations examined the issue and worked to improve it by reaching out to churches, community leaders and other stakeholders and suggesting regulations or legislation. Nevertheless, these past efforts resulted in few lasting changes to the system.

This Task Force brought together stakeholders from across the system – indoor and outdoor servers, individuals that rely on free meals, City officials, and community advocates. Through such collaborative

¹³ Coalition Against Hunger (2010). Fact Sheet: Hunger in Philadelphia.

¹⁴ Coalition Against Hunger (2010). FAQs: Food Pantries.

¹⁵ United States. USDA. Economic Research Service. Household Food Security in the United States 2010. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, 2011.

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approaches, the Task Force hopes that Philadelphia will be able to ensure that no Philadelphian goes hungry, and that everyone has access to the services they need to improve their lives.

As we strive to generate solutions, we need to create a new space, both literally and symbolically, in

Provider Perspective

"Taking up the challenge confronting the City of Philadelphia on the issue of food provision for the most vulnerable among us is at the core of who we need to be as a City...We have opened our doors to those who are hungry for a lot of things--nourishment, a sense of belonging and a way back to becoming a productive member of society.

A table that is welcoming, warm and hospitable can be the key to addressing so many of the manifold issues and intractable, interconnected problems that are keeping our most vulnerable brothers and sisters down."

–Bill Golderer, Broad Street Ministry

order to develop new ways of addressing this issue. Thus, the Task Force hopes that together we can develop innovative strategies that we can one day laud as another significant advancement born here in Philadelphia.

Key Terms Used In This Report

Emergency Food Assistance – Charitable feeding programs, operated by government or non-profits, whose services are provided to individuals who are typically in short-term need of emergency assistance. Emergency food programs include food pantries and soup kitchens.

Food Insecurity – USDA’s measure of a lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members; limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods.

Food Pantry – A charitable distribution agency that provides individuals food and grocery products for home preparation and consumption.

Free Meal Provider – A group or organization that provides free meals indoors or outdoors. The report distinguishes indoor and outdoor providers as needed.

Guest – An individual who uses free food services. We have chosen to use the word guest to emphasize the need for hospitality for everyone. We understand that individuals and organizations may have different preferred terms for individuals who use free food services, including consumer.

Soup Kitchen – A charitable program whose primary purpose is to provide prepared meals, served in the kitchen, to individuals in need.

INFORMATION GATHERING

In order to better understand these issues, confirm available information, and make informed recommendations, the Task Force believed it was vital to collect information on the use and capacity of free food services, both indoors and outdoors, in Philadelphia.

Because the Task Force collected opinions from a sample group and did not count guests in locations other than Center City, we acknowledge that this information may not give a completely accurate picture of individuals served and may not reflect the array of meal service happening across the City. It does, however, provide useful insights into the issues of food insecurity in Philadelphia.

Goals and Rationale

The primary goals of the information gathering process were threefold:

1. To produce an estimate of the demand for free meal services in Center City,
2. To describe the characteristics of those in need, and
3. To gather ideas and lessons learned from efforts to combat hunger in Philadelphia and elsewhere.

Throughout this process, the Task Force made a deliberate effort to include the perspectives and voices of individuals involved in all aspects of serving and sharing food. The input of individuals who use free meal services was particularly valued and specifically sought, since their perspectives are essential to improving food access and addressing food insecurity. The information gathering process was conducted between June 4 and June 18, 2012. Comprehensive tables of the information gathered may be found in the appendices. All individual responses were kept anonymous and confidential to protect the individual's privacy.

Information Gathering Approach

Various methods were used in the course of information gathering. To estimate the quantity of need for free meal services, observers associated with the Task Force:

- Visited and conducted informal headcount censuses at mealtimes daily for three weeks at three known outdoor free meal sites in Center City. This information was combined with observations completed by homeless outreach teams.
- Surveyed indoor meal service sites in Center City about their food-serving capacity and current utilization.
- Surveyed individuals using free meal services about the number of meals they receive from indoor and outdoor free meal operations weekly and how their needs change throughout the week and month.

Observers obtained information about the characteristics of free meal services in part through the inclusion of open-ended questions about needs, preferences, and food-related challenges in the individual survey instrument (see Appendix A for survey questions). Additionally, Task Force members conducted two focus group discussions with individuals using free meal services, centering largely upon the experience of hunger and food service (see Appendix B for focus group questions).

Finally, to gather ideas and lessons learned from efforts to combat hunger, the Task Force communicated extensively with meal service providers in Philadelphia and elsewhere. Additionally, the Task Force reached out to individuals and organizations who had implemented novel and successful hunger interventions in other states and the United Kingdom, and to relevant government agencies. The Task Force used this input

INFORMATION GATHERING

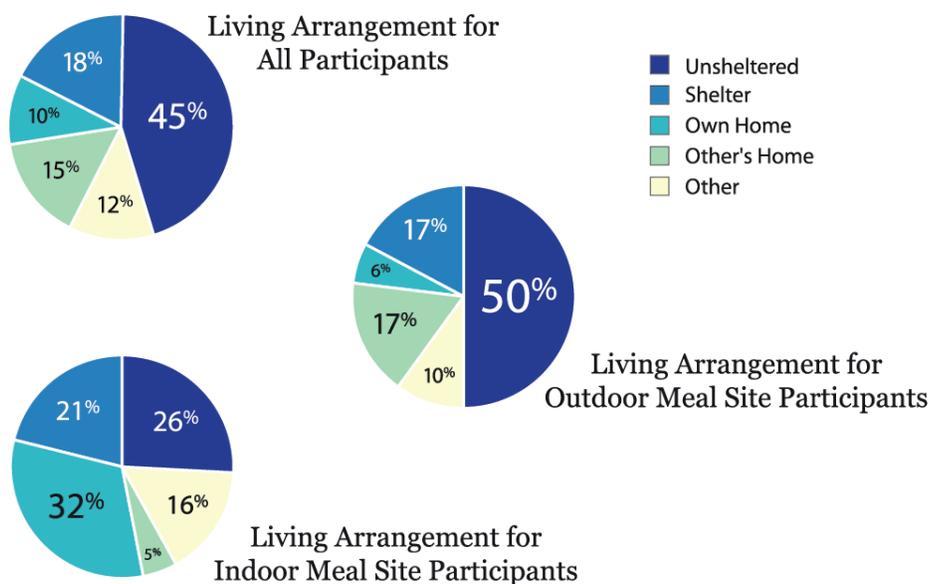
in the developments of its recommendations.

Below is a summary of the observations, surveys with providers, and surveys and meetings with individuals who use free food services.

Characteristics of Individuals Who Use Free Food Services

The characteristics of participants were similar for each of the three structured methods used. The numerical figures in this subsection are drawn from the individual surveys. The 83 participating individuals, who may be taken as roughly representative of the individuals who use free meal services, were overwhelmingly male (84%) and predominately African-American (76%). Most were middle-aged (mean age 46.9 years, standard deviation 12.5 years), with a minority of older individuals and somewhat fewer younger individuals.

Participating individuals were most commonly homeless and living without shelter (45%). A substantial minority lived in shelters (18%) and slightly fewer lived in another's home (15%). A smaller proportion lived in their own homes (10%). Individuals surveyed at outdoor locations reported higher rates of living without shelter, while individuals surveyed at indoor locations reported higher rates of living in a shelter or someone else's home.

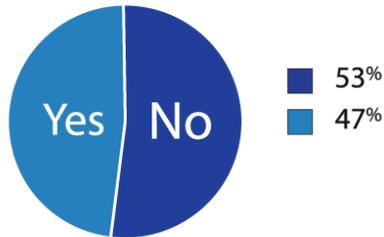


About half (47%) received some government assistance with obtaining food. Of those who did not receive this assistance, about half believed that they were eligible (51%), while the rest believed they were not eligible (28%) or did not know their eligibility (21%).

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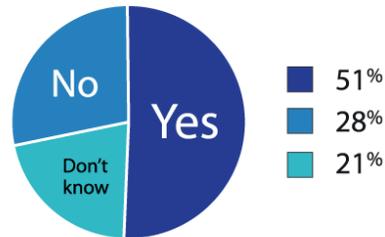
Participants Receiving Government Assistance

81 Participants



Participants Who Believe They are Eligible for Public Assistance

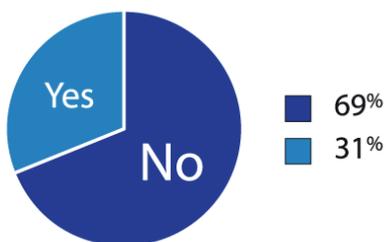
43 Participants



The majority of participating individuals had no place to prepare their own food (69%). People who reported having a place to prepare food tended to live in their own homes or someone else's home. Veteran status and other potentially relevant demographic data could not be collected due to time constraints. Please see Appendix D for complete data on the survey responses.

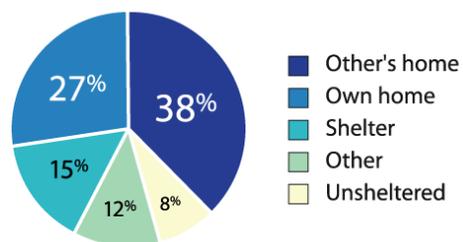
Availability of Place to Prepare Food

83 Participants



Living Arrangement of People Who Have Places to Prepare Food

26 Participants



INFORMATION GATHERING

Estimate of Use of Outdoor Food Providers

It is currently difficult to report exactly how many people are typically served outdoors in Center City each week, given this information has not been routinely documented and has changed over time. Based on previous information collected by the City of Philadelphia in 2008, more than 28 provider organizations served food outdoors on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway each month. The table below shows the schedule of outdoor food providers for 26 of the outdoor providers, based on available information from 2008.

Outdoor Food Provider Schedule (2008)				
Day	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	TOTAL
M	0	0	4	4
T	0	0	1	1
W	0	0	0	0
R	0	0	3	3
F	0	0	1	1
S	4	3	4	11
U	1	3	2	6
TOTAL	5	6	15	26
(M) Monday (T)Tuesday (W)Wednesday (R)Thursday (F)Friday (S)Saturday (U)Sunday				

As is shown, food was served throughout the day on Saturdays, and was available in the afternoon and evenings on other days. One group provides Sunday breakfast. There were no meals served along the Parkway on Wednesdays, according to the available information. Saturday had the most groups serving food along the Parkway and the most meals served.

Providers reported in 2008 that they served approximately 50 to 150 people at each meal. With many providers offering multiple servings to individuals, this means that providers may serve more than 300 meals at one time. Available information suggests that Thursday dinner, Monday dinner, and Sunday lunch and dinner, respectively, served the highest number of people.

Based on 2008 available information, several details emerged:

- Multiple providers served on the same days of the week at different times,
- There were gaps of the week when no one is typically serving,
- Some providers served multiple times a week, while others served weekly, every other week, or monthly,
- There were inconsistent times when meals were offered (e.g., some served breakfast at 7:30 a.m., some at 9:30 a.m.), and
- Some of the meals were provided seasonally (meaning some groups did not serve outside during the winter).

INFORMATION GATHERING

Observation of Outdoor Food Services in Center City

The Task Force decided to conduct its own observations of outdoor meal sites in Center City in an effort to bring the 2008 data up to date (see Appendix C for the observation tool). The homeless outreach teams also began to collect observational data in April 2012. The table below summarizes the thirty three observations of outdoor meals provided at three well know areas around Center City from April 2012 to August 2012.

Observation Days	Number of Meals Observed from April 2012 to August 2012*	Range of Number of People Served	Average Number of People Served
M	5	35-200	99
T	7	19-150	66
W	5	45-100	84
R	6	29-100	58
F	3	60-75	67
S	4	30-175	97
U	3	16-100	50
TOTAL AVERAGE	5	33-129	74

*All meals observed were during dinner, with the exception of breakfast on one Saturday, and three lunches provided on Saturday and Sunday combined.

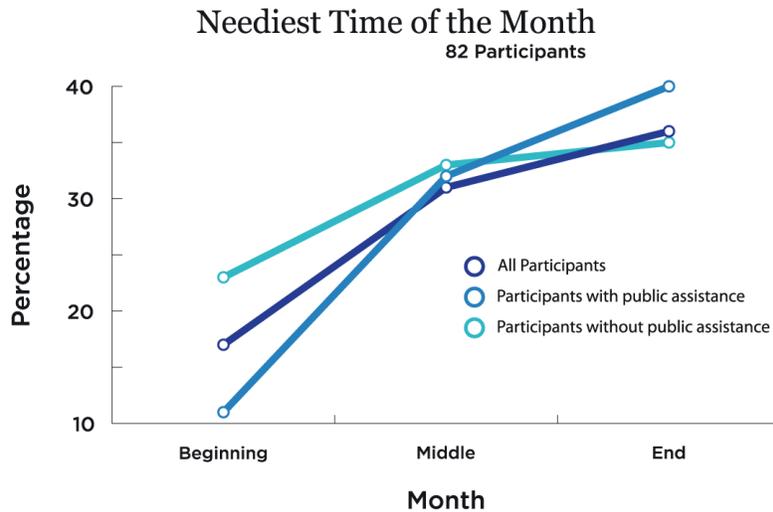
(M) Monday (T)Tuesday (W)Wednesday (R)Thursday (F)Friday (S)Saturday (U)Sunday

Confusion about the location and timing of meal services in the period immediately following the implementation of the City's new regulations on meal services on June 1, 2012 somewhat complicated efforts to collect information for a numerical estimate for the need for meal services through meal site censuses. Also, observation teams were only out for a limited amount of time during each day. Therefore, the daily averages may not reflect the totality of activity related to outdoor serving. However, these numbers should provide some indication of the number of individuals that rely on outside meal providers in Center City. The number of people served range from 19-200, and a daily average is 74.

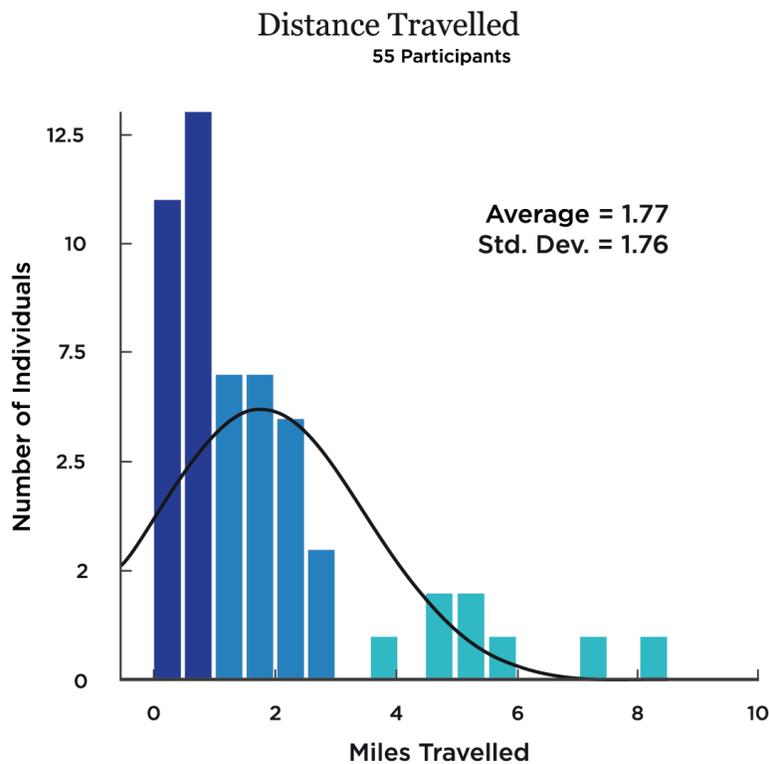
Meal site observers indicate that older, better-established outdoor meal services tended to serve more people than other meal services which were less well-known. At a well-established meal service, such as the Saturday dinner provided by Chosen 300, as many as 175 individuals attended; newer services such as those at the City Hall apron that began in mid-May tended to serve between 20 and 40 people.

Since the announcement of the City's new regulations, the Department of Health has trained 43 people from 27 different organizations in outdoor food safety serving. The City has issued 17 permits to outdoor food providers during this time.

INFORMATION GATHERING



Survey questionnaire respondents reported that they received an average of 8.7 meals per week from a mix of indoor and outdoor food providers. There was considerable variation among individuals, however, with some receiving as many as 30 and others as few as one meal per week. Individuals reported being more likely to need a free meal at the middle or end of the month; this is especially true for individuals receiving public assistance, as shown.



Respondents reported that there were relatively fewer free meals available during the week than on the weekend. Most of the individuals interviewed walked to the meal services, traveling 1.77 miles on average (this average is influenced by some individuals who travelled much farther distances, as shown).

INFORMATION GATHERING

Estimate of Use and Capacity of Indoor Food Providers

The survey of indoor meal providers reflected that some Center City sites had unused capacity, while others reported that they could increase their capacity if they had additional resources (see Appendix E).

Below is the average number of organizations that provide indoor meals on each day of the week, along with the approximate number of meals currently being served on each day. The chart also shows that, on most days, the number of meals served indoors could increase by 50 percent with additional funds and volunteers.

Day	Average # of Organizations that Provide Meals	Approximate # of Meals Currently Being Served	Approximate # of Max Meals That Could Be Served on Physical Capacity
M	8	1950	2610
T	11	1655	2610
W	9	2010	2700
R	11	1920	3250
F	10	1920	2550
S	10	1910	2570
U	8	1650	2310
AVG	10	1859	2657
(M) Monday (T)Tuesday (W)Wednesday (R)Thursday (F)Friday (S)Saturday (U)Sunday			

The data above do not include organizations that provide meals a few times a month, rather than on a regular weekly basis, or organizations that provide meals only to their residents.

Schedule of Indoor Food Services (Includes 23 Food Providers)¹⁶

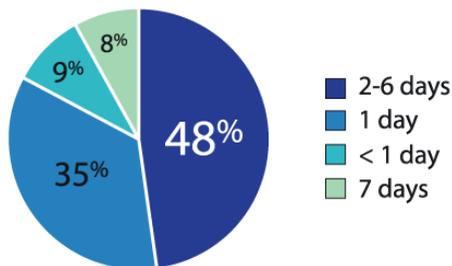
Day	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	TOTAL
M	1	6	3	10
T	1	9	3	13
W	2	5	4	11
R	2	7	4	13
F	2	7	3	12
S	3	7	2	12
U	2	4	4	10
TOTAL	13	45	23	81
(M) Monday (T)Tuesday (W)Wednesday (R)Thursday (F)Friday (S)Saturday (U)Sunday				

Similar to the available outdoor provider schedule, the indoor provider schedule above also reveals a need for better coordination among meal providers to ensure continuous access to meals throughout the week. For instance, there is varying availability of lunches throughout the week with four lunches being served on Sunday and nine lunches being served on Tuesday. In general, several more lunches than breakfast or dinners are being served.

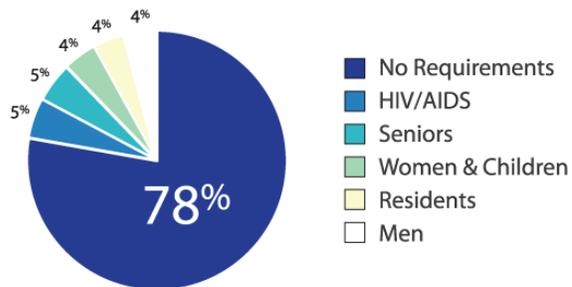
¹⁶ Please note this table, as well as the one above, includes an organization that serves three meals every day. These tables exclude organizations that do not serve meals on a weekly basis or that only serve meals to their residents, but does include organizations that are closed during summer months.

INFORMATION GATHERING

Number of Weekly Indoor Meals Provided



Types of Eligibility Requirements at Indoor Meal Providers



This data, taken together with the impressions from the informal censuses conducted at outdoor meal sites, suggests that the individuals using free outdoor meal services could be numerically accommodated by the presently existing capacity at indoor meal sites in Center City with additional resources.

Conclusions from Individuals Who Use Free Food Services

The focus group discussions and open-ended survey questions elicited a variety of responses from the participating individuals. The sentiment most commonly expressed by far was simple appreciation for the groups and individuals who served them food.

Perspectives from Multiple Individuals Who Use Free Food Services

"All [food providers] do a beautiful job, and they're all different."

"No complaints. I'm not picky, and I appreciate food."

"I'm glad there are places like this to help people."

"Thank them for coming out, showing us love."

Respondents also had a favorable opinion of the quality of the meals they received (mean 1-10 rating of 7.9, standard deviation 1.8), and the overwhelming consensus was that the meal providers were dependable (96%).

Average Outdoor Meal Satisfaction Rating

82 Participants

7.9



INFORMATION GATHERING

Individuals often expressed a preference for hot, healthy, and home-cooked meals, and a number of respondents expressed concerns that there were few alternatives for people whose religious observances or health challenges might require a special diet. Individuals also expressed a desire for a variety of types of foods and having choices of what to eat. Some individuals reported that indoor facilities, including shelters, tended to provide the same meals. Individuals also commonly reported needs for services other than food, ranging from help with obtaining state identification to health services. Numerous participating individuals expressed frustration with the City's responses to hunger and homelessness thus far, and with the new outdoor regulations creating what they see as an unnecessary barrier to serving the individuals who experience hunger and food insecurity.

Particularly in the group discussions, participating individuals expressed a strong preference for those meal service operations at which they felt valued, respected, and held as equals by the servers. Additionally, individuals often reported that they preferred meal services that were orderly and that they felt safe –often these were the indoor sites. While participating individuals indicated that both indoor and outdoor sites had advantages and drawbacks, many expressed a preference for indoor sites, provided that they were safe, orderly, and dignified.

Please see the table for themes that were generated from the open-ended responses to surveys and focus group discussions. Sample questions asked include: “What makes a good meal?”; “What makes one meal service location or operation better than another?”; and “Besides food, what other services would be useful at meal service sites?”. Please see Appendices A and B for a complete list of questions.

Identified Themes for **OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES** to **SURVEYS AND FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS** from Individuals who Access Outdoor Food Services

- ❶ **Appreciation for any food**
- ❷ **General satisfaction with providers**
- ❸ **Need to accommodate specific food preferences**
 - Quality and variety of food
 - Healthy, hot, and balanced meals
 - Special needs (e.g., religious or other dietary restrictions)
- ❹ **Preference for kind, concerned, and hospitable providers**
- ❺ **Desire for a variety of providers and settings**
 - Development of additional food service locations, including use of empty houses and buildings
- ❻ **Dissatisfaction with some indoor provider requirements**
(e.g., identification/checking-in)
- ❼ **Need for settings with tables that are comfortable, safe, clean, and orderly**
- ❽ **Need for other amenities and services beyond food**
 - Basic necessities, housing, identification services, transportation and employment assistance
- ❾ **Negative reactions to banning outdoor serving of food**
 - Reduced providers serving
 - Confusion about when food is available
 - Desire to voice opinion
- ❿ **Feeling of being unwelcome in the city**
(e.g., city government, police, and general public)

INFORMATION GATHERING

Overall Impressions

Through this multi-method process, the Task Force hoped to gain a comprehensive understanding of the dimensions of the challenge at hand, the existing indoor and outdoor meals provided in Center City, and the available resources. In the aggregate, the information gathered depicts a problem that is serious, but by no means insurmountable. By deploying currently existing resources, and developing new tools in accordance with proven methods elsewhere, we can ultimately address the food needs of everyone in Center City safely, holistically, and in a manner consistent with the needs and preferences of individuals.

MOVING FORWARD

Six Core Issues

This Task Force identified six core issues representing a range of needs experienced by individuals suffering from food insecurity. While over 400,000 people in Philadelphia experience food insecurity at any given time, these core issues focus on the experience of individuals primarily seeking food services in the Center City district. These core issues drive the current use and provision of outdoor meal services in Center City. The issues described below were evidenced in information gathered through the methods identified above, as well as other reports and information available. For each, we recognized the complexity driving the issue of outdoor serving of food. Therefore, across the six core issues, we considered different perspectives, including the person receiving free food services, the organizations and volunteers providing services, the structural or facility issues where food is provided, the public and community perspective, and the relevant policies.

I. Individual Needs:

Individuals require comprehensive services ranging from access to food to basic necessities to services that foster autonomy and independence.

Individuals who use free food services often do so because they have limited resources to purchase, store, and prepare food. Additionally, individuals who experience food insecurity frequently require a wide variety of additional supports, ranging from basic necessities to social services and supports, such as financial counseling and job training. In order to best serve the needs of individuals who access free food services, a comprehensive holistic approach should be taken to help individuals overcome other barriers and challenges in their lives.

Through our information collection, we identified a wide range of needs experienced by individuals accessing free food services. Ultimately, meeting this range of needs should provide an opportunity for people to become more self-sufficient and independent.

Access to Food

Formal and informal interviews conducted with individuals who receive food outdoors revealed that many do so for a very simple reason -- 69% of respondents reported that they do not have a place to prepare food. Of the remaining 31% who indicated they have a place to prepare food, some stated that they typically do so in someone else's home or space (e.g. family member or friend's kitchen).

Additionally, many surveyed individuals do not receive federal entitlement programs despite likely eligibility. Our information gathering found that only 47% of respondents were currently receiving food assistance benefits. Of those who did not receive this assistance, about half believed that they were eligible (51%), while the rest believed they were not eligible (28%) or did not know their eligibility (21%).

This response was consistent with other data that estimates 170,000 Philadelphians are eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits but do not currently receiving them. A lack of identification was noted by respondents as one reason they were not currently receiving benefits.

CORE ISSUES

Barriers to food access and other basic necessities include:

- Eligibility requirements for SNAP and other benefits
- Inability to access applications and processes to apply for benefits
- Inability to apply for benefits because of a lack of identification
- Insufficient space to store and prepare food

Needs at Food Serving Settings

Individuals also expressed a need for additional basic services at food service locations that would make for safer, healthier environments for serving food. Specific recommendations identified by survey and focus group participants included:

- Restroom and shower facilities
- Staff that ensured an orderly environment

Other Fundamental Needs

Because individuals seeking free food services often are experiencing multiple life challenges, many also indicated that they needed comprehensive supportive services. Information collected showed that housing was a main concern for individuals accessing free food services. Forty-five percent of respondents were currently “street homeless” or unsheltered. Additionally, 18% reported that they were residing in a shelter, 15% reported residing at someone else’s home, 12% identified their living situation as “other”; only 10% reported that they have their own residence.

In addition to housing, individuals stated a need for other basic necessities. When asked about food service preferences, some individuals stated that they preferred organizations that offered additional, supportive services, specifically:

- Housing services
- Clothes and toiletries
- Laundry services
- Primary care services
- Mental health services
- HIV services
- Social services
- Job training and interviewing skills

Self-Determination, Respect and Community Affiliation

While providing all of the items listed above would support those who experience hunger, the Task Force believes that an environment that provides respect, promotes self-determination and creates a community would be most beneficial to individuals in need and would help address the larger issues surrounding food insecurity, including poverty and homelessness.

Through our collected information, we identified a clear message that individuals wished for choice, respect and community. For example, guests expressed that they would:

- Prefer to choose where and when to receive food
- Like increased food options and variety

CORE ISSUES

- Be better served by increased information about food service options so that they could make informed decisions
- Like to feel that they belong to a community and are welcomed by those who serve them and the broader community

Perspectives from Multiple Individuals Who Use Free Food Services

"Hopefully something nutritional and water. Something to help immune system like fruit – need to take health in perspective."

"It's good to have meal, period! If you're hungry, you're gonna eat. You can't let pride get in the way. I'm Muslim, but I have to eat pork if that's all there is."

"Good to serve it outside, but also good to serve indoors with tables."

"[We] need housing, resources, we need things other than food, more than just food."

"When meals are being served, [we] need order. Service is chaotic sometimes. People breaking in line, etc."

"We're not safe in the parks."

"When I was homeless on the streets on Benjamin Franklin Parkway, I conditioned myself to one meal a day because I knew food would be limited."

Therefore, individuals who use free food services, often experience a myriad of other challenges. Addressing these broader issues, in addition to access to food, will help better serve people and lead to increased self-sufficiency and independence.

II. Provider Needs:

Outdoor free food providers in Philadelphia have a long history of commitment and service.

Organizations that provide outdoor free food services to individuals in need do so for a range of reasons, including a commitment to service, fundraising, engaging volunteers, and because of a moral or religious obligation. In addition to providing food services, providers sometimes conduct spiritual and religious services, while others help guests receive other services such as guidance in obtaining identification cards. Information collected from providers through informal interviews, meetings and other sources revealed the following areas of need: assistance in providing meals, support for addressing the broader needs of individuals, and recognition of history and tradition.

CORE ISSUES

Outdoor Provider Perspective

"We help because we would want to be helped. And we share food because, very simply, we believe that this is the right thing to do, because that is how we would hope that someone would serve us. And through the relationships that we build on the streets, we encourage men and women to connect with social services and to get back on their feet. We have learned that when trust is established, men and women are more likely to move forward with that encouragement."

– Adam Bruckner, Philly Restart

Assistance in Providing Meals

A need exists to engage and include indoor and outdoor food providers in planning and collaborative processes as the City moves forward addressing issues of hunger. Many outdoor providers have expressed an interest in serving food indoors, but need assistance in doing so. For instance, providers may need help identifying an indoor space and securing additional funding for the costs of an indoor facility. Other barriers include the cost of maintaining a kitchen, trash removal, and parking.

Support for Addressing the Broader Needs of Individuals

Information obtained from indoor and outdoor food providers revealed a need for increased support for their service and commitment to helping those in need. Some providers characterized their service of providing outdoor food as a way to engage individuals where they are, as opposed to waiting for individuals to come to them for help. Providers shared a desire to do more than provide food to help individuals in need, but may have difficulty doing so due to limited knowledge of available resources in the City, including assistance with housing and addressing behavioral health conditions (e.g., mental health and substance use) to help individuals in need. Should free food service models transform within a City—as the Task Force hopes will happen as the result of its work—there is a need for continued support of individual provider organizations.

History & Tradition

Outdoor free food providers have a long history of commitment to serving those most in need in our City. The Task Force recognizes that these providers may be reluctant to change and adapt to alternative serving models because of the traditions they have established and because their mission is to help those in need. Many providers and guests report that they have developed relationships and a sense of community among them. Additionally, many outdoor food providers have set serving schedules that individuals in need have come to rely on and expect. Providers expressed to the Task Force that they would like their good work to be valued and that they would like existing schedules to remain in place as new and existing indoor food service models move forward within the City.

III. Capacity & Infrastructure: Increased resources and expanded infrastructure are needed to provide food services indoors.

Available information suggests that the individuals using free outdoor meal services could be numerically accommodated by the presently existing physical capacity at indoor meal sites in Center City. However, indoor food serving organizations require additional human and financial resources in order to serve more individuals.

That said, increasing existing indoor capacity is not sufficient and new indoor space is required in order to accommodate:

- Individual guest preferences for locations and providers
- Providers desire to utilize a space that can be readily identified with their own organization

Information collected from providers and individuals in need showed that buildings exist that could serve as a space for food services (e.g. kitchens that are not used regularly, closed schools, or other abandoned properties).

Food providers' barriers and challenges to meeting the food service needs of individuals that were identified include:

- Insufficient funding to serve additional guests
- Existing cost barriers in establishing and providing indoor food services including utility, maintenance and sanitation costs (trash removal, etc.)
- Identifying existing space within the City that is underutilized (kitchens not in working condition or used irregularly, current indoor food services sites not at capacity) and not currently being used (closed schools) that could serve as a place that organizations and individuals can come to together for food preparation and service

As previously stated, current indoor food serving organizations indicated to the Task Force that based on physical capacity they could increase the number of meals they serve by more than 50 percent, if they had additional money and volunteers.

Perspectives from Multiple Individuals Who Use Free Food Services

"It's the atmosphere—the way people act and the way they treat you. Also, the surroundings and the cleanliness."

"The Parkway area is good, though, because many different groups come out to serve and they serve a lot of different foods."

"There are all these abandoned houses...Why can't we use those houses for something good?"

CORE ISSUES

Indoor food providers identified additional challenges that they face as they seek to help individuals with social and supportive services. Challenges identified include:

- Insufficient knowledge about how to refer individuals to health services
- Insufficient knowledge and understanding of mental health and substance use issues to properly assist individuals
- Insufficient knowledge of how to make appropriate referrals to mental health and substance use treatment providers
- Insufficient knowledge of public benefits programs and how to assist individuals in applications for benefits

IV. Cooperation, Coordination & Collaboration: Both duplication of services and gaps in services exist in the availability of free food.

Because a variety of service-providing entities and organizations operate in Philadelphia, both food providers and guests told the Task Force that more cooperation, coordination and collaboration is needed.

The Task Force identified 23 indoor food service providers in Center City and University City. Each of the organizations hosts meals according to its own schedule. Ten of the organizations serve meals once a week or less often. Additionally, five of the organizations only serve specific populations (e.g. persons with HIV, women and children, men, seniors, and residents). Some of the organizations close for entire months at a time; for example, five of the organizations close during July or August.

Based on available information from 2008, 26 providers served individuals outside in Center City. Each of the organizations also hosts meals according to its own schedule. Multiple providers served on the same days of the week, but at different times. There were gaps in the week when no one is typically serving. Some providers served multiple times a week, while others serve monthly. Some of the organizations do not serve food outside during the winter.

Because there is minimal coordination among the providers, duplication and gaps of indoor and outdoor service times exists. For example, there are nine lunch services offered at indoor provider locations on Tuesdays, but only four are offered on Sundays. While there are 11 meals provided on Saturdays across breakfast, lunch, and dinner, there were no meals being served typically on Wednesdays.

Challenges regarding cooperation, coordination and collaboration include:

- Insufficient knowledge of current food services offered and organizational capacity to serve citywide
- Longstanding existing provider schedules on when meals are served
- Limited volunteers available to serve breakfast and lunch
- Lack of an organizational entity to:
 - Coordinate free food services across different provider organizations
 - Disseminate information on where to access free food to individuals in need in a timely manner
 - Support ongoing data collection to identify use and capacity of free food services, as well as other services and supports that individuals need

CORE ISSUES

Perspectives from Multiple Individuals Who Use Free Food Services

"There's a lot of confusion about where meals are since ban; poor sharing of information. We need to get out information to people in way that they can come and get help."

"It makes a difference when there are a lot of different groups serving food. The last couple of Wednesdays, I went to bed hungry because no one came out to serve."

"When I was on the streets I did not know when or where I would get the next meal."

V. Resources & Sustainability:

Addressing hunger and food insecurity are complex issues that require sustained efforts to provide long-term solutions.

The issues of hunger and food insecurity are complex, as is the history of outdoor serving of food in Center City. Addressing issues of hunger in Philadelphia should be viewed as a long-term mission requiring sustainable resources and community commitment. Stakeholders – individuals in need, community members, organizations that serve individuals experiencing hunger and food insecurity, and corporations—should collaborate to obtain needed resources and funding. Each group has a significant role in achieving sustainable food services. Specific challenges to achieving sustainability within the current food service model in Philadelphia include:

- Decreased funding for services (e.g., cuts to state funding for programs such as General Assistance)
- A lack of volunteers to assist in serving food and other services
- A need for increased provider knowledge and education about obtaining resources
- A need for strengthened leadership within City government to address issues of food insecurity

Therefore, in order to effectively improve access to indoor food services, and address hunger and food insecurity, long-term resources and funding will be needed to sustain efforts.

VI. Community Consensus and Unity: Consensus and unity across Philadelphia is needed in order to best serve individuals.

A shared vision and consensus are needed across the Philadelphia community on how to best serve individuals who experience hunger and food insecurity. A lack of consensus leads to uncoordinated and inefficient efforts that have led stakeholders, at times, to direct their energy towards each other rather than at the problem of hunger and food insecurity.

Specific challenges that exist regarding community engagement and unity include:

- A need for greater understanding about hunger issues and individuals who are in need of food services
- A need for greater trust and collaboration between City government and community members and individuals in need of food services to reduce the number of individuals who experience hunger in Philadelphia
- A lack of knowledge by community members about available resources for individuals in need of services

Perspectives from Multiple Individuals Who Use Free Food Services

"People in this situation should speak out and make themselves heard."

"People just don't want to look at us."

In order to move Philadelphia forward with the goal of reducing hunger and food insecurity, the community and the government need to establish a collaborative relationship that builds trust and partnerships with individuals and organizations that work to address hunger issues related to indoor and outdoor serving.

Because issues of hunger are complex and misunderstood, efforts need to be undertaken by all to better understand the root cause of this issue, to identify solutions and to work together. This will require a significant shift in how people have traditionally related to each other around the issue of serving food and will take time to develop.

Recommendations

The Mayor's Task Force on Outdoor Serving of Food identified five main recommendations that will help move the City forward in its effort to serve more people indoors in healthy, dignified settings. The Task Force found these recommendations to be a broad approach to a complex and difficult yet solvable issue. The recommendations listed are based on the information gathered for this report as well as the recommendations set forth by The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, The National Coalition for the Homeless Report in November 2007, the Outdoor Meal Coalition, and other available resources.

The Task Force acknowledges that the successful implementation of some of these strategies requires a long-term commitment—one that must be undertaken by the entire Philadelphia community. Therefore, we do not expect immediate results in some areas. The following recommendations include short-term (less than 6 months), medium-term (6 months to a year), and long-term (greater than 1 year) strategies. However, we recognize that addressing issues of hunger and food insecurity across Philadelphia requires a multi-year commitment.

These recommendations are respectfully submitted with the expectation that they will assist in facilitating a dialogue about the establishment of “new space,” physical and metaphoric, in the City, where individuals can access food in a safe and healthy manner.

I. Establish Consensus, Leadership & Capacity to Move the City Forward to Address Hunger and Food Insecurity.

The Task Force recommends immediate efforts to build positive working relationships between the City government, providers, guests, and the broader community. With stronger relationships, the development of a coordinating body will be achievable. This group would consist of providers, volunteers, government representatives and guests, who would coordinate services, engage the community, disseminate information, and build community capacity through continuous needs assessments, goal setting, and long-term implementation of identified programs and projects, with the overall goal of reducing hunger in Philadelphia. The Task Force also recommends designating City leadership to provide support to the coordinating body in addition to ensuring the implementation of the recommendations put forth in this report. The City should collaborate with the coordinating body to consistently collect data on needs and capacity to serve individuals inside.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION STEPS

Engage providers in collaborative process to establish a trusting, working partnership

- *Timeframe:* Short-term to Medium-term
- *Issues addressed:* There needs to be trust rebuilt between the City and outdoor servers of food
- *Outcome:* Shared vision and consensus on how to move forward

Establish a coordinating body to lead initiatives addressing issues of hunger

- Lead efforts to coordinate food services, provider organizations and volunteers
 - *Timeframe:* Medium-term
 - *Issues addressed:* Lack of centralized organization to lead coordination of providers, volunteers, and services
 - *Outcome:* A coordinating body assumes leadership in the community to deliver effective meal and supportive services
- Establish effective methods to disseminate information to providers, individuals in need and the community about resources and services
 - *Timeframe:* Short-term to Medium-term
 - *Issues addressed:* Insufficient tools to disseminate information about services to guests, providers, and the public
 - *Outcome:* Information for meals and other services, locations, and schedules are widely known
- Identify existing resources and services within the City
 - *Timeframe:* Short-term
 - *Issues addressed:* Insufficient knowledge of current food services and organizational capacity to serve
 - *Outcome:* There will be a pool of resources and organizations from which to collaborate with
- Assist in providing information and training to increase provider and community knowledge about existing resources, services and requirements
 - *Timeframe:* Medium-term
 - *Issues addressed:* Meal providers who want to be trained do not have the resources or skills
 - *Outcome:* Multi-faceted meal providers who direct guests and provide information for social and supportive services

Establish dedicated City leadership

- Designate leadership to support, and serve on the coordinating body
 - *Timeframe:* Short-term
 - *Issues addressed:* There needs to be a dedicated point person in the City to collaborate with the coordinating body and to focus on key issues related to indoor and outdoor serving of food
 - *Outcome:* City leadership brings long-term planning and sustainability for community initiatives
- Lead on-going data collection to identify areas of need
 - *Timeframe:* Medium-term
 - *Issues addressed:* No consistent, comprehensive data collection, or recurrent community needs assessments
 - *Outcome:* Monthly census reports of meals served, number of guests, demographics, and the needs of the guests are known

Key: *Short-term (< 6 Months); Medium-term (6 Months – 1 Year); Long-term (> 1 Year)*

RECOMMENDATIONS

Engage providers in collaborative process to establish a trusting, working partnership.

In order to move this issue forward, there must be trust between the outdoor food service provider community, guests, and the City of Philadelphia. Competing ideas on how to address hunger and its associated factors contribute to the divide. However, a genuine concern and a common end goal to address issues of hunger and food insecurity can unite the food servers, the City government and the whole community. The Task Force recommends a new way of thinking that not only fosters a trusting working partnership between the City and the outdoor food service provider community, but also moves Philadelphia forward. The partnership will create opportunities for participating in many outreach trainings, reducing certain barriers to service, and facilitating current and new provider services and projects. Working side by side, this partnership between the outdoor and indoor food service providers and the City of Philadelphia can effectively address the issues of hunger and its associated factors.

"We all need to put our differences aside. If there is anger and mistrust at the table then no one will eat."

- Andre Cureton

Develop a coordinating body.

Community leaders, providers, volunteers, guests, and City government representatives should unite to form a coordinating body for Philadelphia. The coordinating body should consist of

religious, non-profit, and food service providers, residents, and guests from the Center City, Philadelphia community (the same can be applied to other neighborhoods in Philadelphia). The initiatives, goals, and desired outcomes should meet the needs of the community and guests.

Through community needs assessments, questionnaires, and uniform data collection, the coordinating body will keep up to date with individuals' needs. For instance, some Center City

"The first step is to sit down and talk with someone who is experiencing hunger and poverty first-hand so you don't make false assumptions on what it's like."

- Tianna Gaines-Turner, Witnesses to Hunger

guests have shared that they would prefer to have vegetables and variety in their meals, to be treated more respectfully by police, and to have job training skills to be better equipped to enter the workforce. One of the key goals would be to improve coordination of services among community organizations and develop more inter-agency efforts within City government to better leverage complementary services.

Lead efforts to coordinate food services, provider organizations and volunteers.

The vision of the group, while always subject to change depending on the community's needs, should be comprehensive. Hunger, food access and insecurity are seen as part of needs related to poverty and access to other social and supportive services. A unified mission will help convey the significance of the services and activities that members provide.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Establish effective methods to disseminate information to providers, individuals in need and the community about resources and services.

The Task Force recommends that information on services and updates in the community be disseminated to guests and providers through traditional, time-tested ways, in addition to creative, new, and innovative methods. Most guests have stated that the best ways to get information are word of mouth and flyers. Since guests and providers interact face-to-face, it is important that information be disseminated at the point of contact. Other information dissemination options that should be explored are marquees; sign posts; and electronic information kiosks displaying services and locations at parks, libraries, SEPTA, and shelters. In addition, there could be the use of applications for mobile devices. The Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, for example, has some excellent examples of mobile applications.

Identify existing resources and services within the city.

Community providers and the coordinating body should identify existing resources and services within the City to direct their guests to services as needed. For instance, Project H.O.M.E. offers a "continuum of care" that is designed to deal with the complex issues of persons with special needs such as mental health and substance use conditions. The continuum consists of street outreach, a range of supportive housing from entry-level to permanent housing, and comprehensive services, including health care, education and employment¹⁷. Project H.O.M.E. also regularly updates a resource manual called "Where to Turn" for individuals in need of emergency services, including information on seeking meals, showers, housing, or other assistance. Other resources are Philadelphia FIGHT (FIGHT), a comprehensive AIDS service organization providing primary care, individual education, advocacy and research on potential treatments and vaccines¹⁸ and the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger. City agencies, including the Office of Supportive Housing and The Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS), can also connect individuals to existing resources and services. DBHIDS works with five community outreach teams to assess individual needs and offer appropriate services and supports. DBHIDS also coordinates a variety of outreach and housing initiatives that address individuals experiencing homelessness and behavioral health conditions¹⁹.

Increase provider and community knowledge about existing resources, services and requirements.

A process should be developed to help identify available resources, trainings, and information in the City that could increase provider and community knowledge. With knowledge about existing resources, providers can refer their guests to needed resources. The coordinating body and the City should explore ways to better publicize their free food safety trainings, and connect providers to other food safety tools needed to serve the community. Additionally, ways to train providers to direct guests to appropriate services once a particular need is identified should be established. Specific trainings that may benefit

¹⁷Please visit the Project H.O.M.E website for more information: <http://www.projecthome.org/about/>

¹⁸Please visit the Philadelphia FIGHT website for more information: <http://fight.org/fight-programs/the-jonathan-lax-center/>

¹⁹Please visit the DBHIDS Outreach website for more information: <http://dbhids.org/outreach-support>

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providers are described below in Recommendation IV. Providers can more effectively serve their guests through increased information and training.

Designate leadership in the City of Philadelphia to support, and serve on the coordinating body.

The Task Force recommends there be a dedicated, full-time position in the City of Philadelphia focused on the implementation of the recommendations put forth in this report, working as part of the coordinating body to organize and execute projects, and engage volunteers and groups.

City leadership should work with the coordinating body to develop an Advisory Board to:

- Oversee implementation of recommendations
- Support identified goals and objectives set forth by the coordinating body
- Identify other policy issues that may need to be addressed
- Help build public support

Lead on-going data collection to identify areas of need.

The ability to continuously collect data on needs, capacity, outcomes, and guest satisfaction is needed. This should be a collaborative effort among the coordinating body and the City. This information should be freely shared with all stakeholders, and be used in an ongoing manner to continuously shape and improve indoor meal services in Center City.

"With the new regulations, we all have to be patient while [providers] work out food service regularly. Hopefully we will find a new place for meals."

-Survey Respondent

RECOMMENDATIONS

II. Increase and improve food access and options, and other needed services and supports for individuals in need.

The Task Force recommends finding ways to increase and improve food options, food access, and other services for individuals in need through current, alternative, and innovative methods. While these recommendations focus on individuals who use free food services in Center City, they are likely to be beneficial to other parts of the city.

ACTION STEPS

Establish methods to increase enrollment in food assistance programs (assist in obtaining identification)

- *Timeframe:* Short-term to medium-term
- *Issues addressed:* To increase the number of people who can use SNAP to purchase food on their own
- *Outcome:* Beneficiaries purchase food on their own time and budget their benefits

Increase access to variety and choice of food

- *Timeframe:* Short-term
- *Issues addressed:* To increase the quality and variety of available foods indoors and outdoors
- *Outcome:* Increase access to preferred foods and reduce the need to travel to other settings

Advocate for state and federal policy changes that reduce restrictions on food access programs (SNAP pilot programs, reducing eligibility requirements, etc.)

- *Timeframe:* Medium-term to long-term
- *Issues addressed:* Need for more advocacy for policies that impact food access
- *Outcome:* Increased advocacy, support, and awareness to policies that address food access/insecurity

Increase access to basic services (restroom and shower facilities, laundry services)

- *Timeframe:* Medium-term
- *Issues addressed:* Insufficient access to basic services
- *Outcome:* Increased access to basic services

Increase access to supportive and social services (housing, employment, mental health, HIV, etc.)

- *Timeframe:* Medium-term
- *Issues addressed:* Insufficient access to supportive and social services
- *Outcome:* Increased access to supportive and social services

Key: *Short-term (< 6 Months); Medium-term (6 Months – 1 Year); Long-term (> 1 Year)*

RECOMMENDATIONS

Establish methods to increase enrollment in available food assistance programs.

As the issue of food insecurity and food access persists, efforts should be made to increase enrollment in existing food assistance programs for those using emergency food services, and the organizations that serve them. Several existing federal programs include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/ Food Stamps), Women Infants and Children (WIC), Summer Food Service Program, National School Lunch Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The City government should collaborate with community organizations and hunger advocates to increase outreach and reduce the number of people who are eligible and not enrolled for these benefits. Lessons learned from other organizations about strengths and barriers to the use of food assistance should be applied.

Increasing SNAP, for example, would allow beneficiaries to purchase food, instead of depending on a meal service. SNAP is a federal entitlement program administered by the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. Increasing SNAP enrollment is an effort that will provide beneficiaries with a monthly benefit to purchase food at grocery stores, farmers markets, convenience stores, and qualifying shelters. Applicants may be eligible for “Expedited Food Stamps”, although this will still not likely provide immediate assistance. Outreach teams, volunteers, and organizations such as the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger can help assist individuals to apply for SNAP.

Steps must be taken to reduce barriers to receiving SNAP. The need for identification is a significant barrier to enrolling in SNAP. Identification programs should be incorporated into meal services so that guests may have a form of identification to present to the county assistance officer when applying for SNAP. It should be made known that SNAP beneficiaries who do not have a mailing address can use the Department of Welfare County Assistance Office as a mailing address for updating personal records. Community-based organizations should be encouraged to include this among the services they offer. Another barrier to using SNAP can be limited access to a place, or the physical capacity, to prepare and store food. It is important to explore ways to increase capacity

for food storage and cooking through food and emergency shelters and by identifying new space, since we know that many shelter kitchens are already operating at capacity for food storage and cooking. Lastly, SNAP beneficiaries who were surveyed,

reported being more likely to need a meal towards the middle and end of the month due to running out of SNAP funds. For instance, a household with one individual receives a maximum of approximately \$200 a month. That is \$50 per week, or around \$7 a day for food. Thus, SNAP may only provide some support to individuals who experience hunger and food insecurity. While barriers may exist to receiving SNAP or other public assistance, efforts should be made to assist individuals throughout the process to ensure that public assistance is an available support to help individuals in need.

"Many people are homeless because they do not have ID....It is a catch-22 because often IDs are needed to access other services and need assistance from other services in order to get ID."

– Focus Group Participant

RECOMMENDATIONS

Advocate for state and federal policy changes that reduce restrictions on food access programs.

The Task Force encourages members of the Philadelphia community to advocate for state and federal policy changes that would reduce restrictions on food access programs. Most importantly, those experiencing hunger could self-advocate to raise awareness of how public policies and their eligibility restrictions impact their lives. For example, Witnesses to Hunger is a research and advocacy project that partners with the real experts on hunger—mothers and caregivers of young children who have experienced hunger and poverty. Through their photographs and stories, witnesses advocate for their own families and others and seek to create lasting changes on a local, state and national level.

There needs to be increased awareness on the impact of SNAP, WIC, Summer Food Service Program, National School Lunch Program, and CACFP. The Children’s Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program (C-SNAP) has found that SNAP has a significant impact on children. They experience less food insecurity and thus less negative impacts to their cognitive and physical development. The Food Trust, Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, Children’s Health Watch, and the Food Research and Action Committee also advocate for increased awareness. Drexel University’s Center for Hunger-Free Communities offers multi-faceted research and action, with the goal of developing innovative, proven solutions to the challenges of hunger and economic insecurity. The Task Force recommends that the public learn about and use these resources to become more aware of current policy issues and, in turn, advocate to promote food access pilot programs, reduce eligibility restrictions that limit people’s food access, and preserve and increase funding to effective federal and state food programs.

Increase access to a variety and choice of food.

Individuals who use free services indicated multiple preferences for foods, including having variety, high-quality, well-balanced, hot and healthy meals. The coordinating body could help outdoor and indoor providers, including shelters, to ensure a variety of foods are available and help identify necessary funding to modify or change the types of meals provided. Individuals may have access to free food where they reside, but may travel to other meal service operations to obtain preferred foods. Improving the quality and availability of preferred food options may reduce the need to travel to other places and locations in the City, including outdoor service operations.

Increase access to basic services.

Individuals who use free food services often need access to other basic necessities including shower/restroom facilities, laundry facilities, toiletries, and clothes. Meal providers could coordinate to provide toiletries, clothes, and other necessity items at the point of service. A coordinating body could help coordinate the donation and collection of some of these resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Increase access to social and supportive services.

The Task Force recommends that providers partner with supportive and social service agencies to provide better access to housing, mental health, HIV/AIDS, and social services, and job/interview training skills. Health care providers and meal providers should connect to identify a need for, and increase access to, primary care. A coordinating body could serve as a reference point for both meal providers and service agencies to connect and form a partnership to better serve the community.

"Outdoor feedings with amenities would be key. People need mental health evaluations, drug and alcohol support, transportation, and peer support."

-Survey Respondent

"It's the services provided to you. We're hungry, but we're human and we want to be treated like average Joe on the street. I like it when people want to help me as a person, not as a handout."

-Focus Group Participant

Individuals who reside in shelters or are unsheltered may not have a place to go during the day. Cities such as Baltimore and Washington, D.C. have created day centers where individuals can spend time during the day. The centers include indoor seating, laundry, showers, meals, and peer support. The day center in Washington, D.C. is supported through the downtown business community and can serve up to 260 people per day²¹. The HOPE Wellness and Recovery Center in Baltimore focuses on individuals who are homeless and have a behavioral health diagnosis. This center includes a strong focus on peer supports²².

²¹<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/crimreport/summary.html>

²²<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2012/August/03/baltimore-homeless-mental-illness.aspx>

RECOMMENDATIONS

III. Use existing infrastructure and resources to build additional capacity for addressing issues of hunger and food insecurity.

Existing indoor food providers in Center City report that based on physical capacity, they could increase the number of people they serve by over 50 percent with increased human and financial resources. Based on available information, this suggests that individuals currently using free outdoor meal services could be numerically accommodated by the presently existing physical capacity at indoor meal sites in Center City. The Task Force recommends strengthening existing indoor sites. The Task Force also recommends working with philanthropic and business organizations to assist in funding and sustaining these efforts, as well as expanding existing innovative food service models in Philadelphia.

ACTION STEPS

Strengthen current indoor food serving organizations

- *Timeframe:* Short-term
- *Issues addressed:* Indoor providers need resources to serve more individuals
- *Outcome:* Increased ability to serve food

Engage philanthropic and business organizations to assist in funding and sustainability

- *Timeframe:* Short-term to Medium-term
- *Issues addressed:* Initiatives and services need funding to be sustainable
- *Outcome:* Initiatives are sustained over time

Expand existing innovative food service models in Philadelphia

- *Timeframe:* Long-term
- *Issues addressed:* Working models in Philadelphia are not taken full advantage of by other providers
- *Outcome:* Programs that increase food access are replicated and are widespread in Philadelphia

Key: *Short-term (< 6 Months); Medium-term (6 Months – 1 Year); Long-term (> 1 Year)*

RECOMMENDATIONS

Strengthen current indoor food serving organizations.

The 23 indoor providers currently serve approximately 1,859 individuals per meal. Many indoor providers reported unused capacity, while others reported that they could increase their capacity with additional financial and human resources. For instance, some providers report that they could double the number of people currently being served with additional support. Currently, there are very few indoor providers that are able to financially afford to serve several meals a day, seven days a week. The Task Force recommends supporting these indoor providers so that they are able to expand their services to provide regular meals, as well as the other needed services and supports that individual's need. This will largely increase indoor capacity, as well as provide more regularly scheduled meals across the week. That said, this will not solve the issue of access to indoor meals for reasons discussed in this report.

Engage philanthropic and business organizations to assist in funding and sustainability.

To increase person power and volunteerism, community providers and the City should engage national, regional, and local volunteer organizations, the community, universities, and religious and non-profit groups. In order to promote services and opportunities, the City and community providers should engage locally-based organizations and businesses that can provide needed resources and promote their initiatives.

Local businesses, such as ones located on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, could contribute towards increasing access to food. Further, institutions could donate a portion of admissions or memberships to support organizations working to eliminate hunger. The City could establish an annual event, such as Fight Hunger Day, hosted on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, to raise funds for City efforts. This event could provide food to everyone through supporting the many exceptional food truck vendors available in Philadelphia.

Lastly, providers should seek large grocery stores and local non-profits such as Philabundance to help supply food for their meal services. In fiscal year 2011, Philabundance acquired 21 million pounds of food, distributed 19 million pounds in nine counties in the Delaware Valley and exported two million pounds of food to assist other area food bank²³

The coordinating body could be an entity to receive and manage donations to providers and organizations working to eliminate hunger and food insecurity.

Expand existing innovative food service models in Philadelphia.

Innovative food service models already exist in Philadelphia and could be replicated by other food service providers. With increased infrastructure, resources, and support, these models could be extended or replicated to serve everyone. The Task Force recommends the coordinating body partner with mobile food trucks or markets and food cooperatives to increase access to fresh, healthy food for low-income individuals.

²³Philabundance, 2012. <http://www.philabundance.org/>

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For example, the West Philly Food Hub and Farm to Families provide fresh, affordable foods to families in West and North Philadelphia, respectively. Mariposa Co-op and Kensington Area Co-op offer access to healthy, locally grown or otherwise sustainably produced products. Food cooperatives are member-owned and are committed to building community by education about making healthy food choices. The coordinating body should explore ways to increase access to food cooperatives for everyone, including having volunteering options to help reduce the costs of food. The Philly Food Bucks program enables families to access healthy, fresh produce. For every \$5 spent at a farmers market using SNAP benefits, a person gets an extra \$2 worth of free produce. Seventeen (17) farmers markets around the City participate in the program; SNAP usage at farmers' markets has increased 130% since the start of the program. The coordinating body could help identify additional resources for this great program.

IV. Create opportunities for organizations and the public to better help individuals in need.

Provider organizations and the larger community in Philadelphia demonstrate a continued desire and commitment to helping individuals in need. One significant way individuals support others is through the provision of food. However, many individuals recognize the need to address other needs beyond food. Therefore, the Task Force recommends increasing the provider and general community's ability to help those in need. This includes reducing barriers for providers who would like to serve food indoors.

ACTION STEPS

Equip providers and the broader community with necessary skills to help individuals in need (CPR, Mental Health First Aid, Conflict Resolution, etc.)

- *Timeframe:* Short-term to Medium-term
- *Issues addressed:* Providers expressed the need for being equipped with resources and outreach skills
- *Outcome:* Equipped providers offer multiple services to guests

Remove barriers to providing food indoors

- *Timeframe:* Short-term to Medium-term
- *Issues addressed:* Several barriers, such as additional costs, hinder serving indoors
- *Outcome:* Reduced barriers encourage providers to serve indoors

Key: *Short-term (< 6 Months); Medium-term (6 Months – 1 Year); Long-term (> 1 Year)*

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"We want to see the lives of those homeless and hungry change, to become better. Sometimes that begins with the hope that comes from a single meal, the thinking gets clearer and there is one less thing to worry about for the moment."

**-Richard J. McMillen, Executive Director/
CEO, Sunday Breakfast Rescue**

Equip providers with necessary skills to help individuals in need.

The Task Force recommends the City of Philadelphia or service agencies help providers increase skills in helping individuals in need and working with diverse populations. Training that could benefit providers include: health

screenings, CPR, Mental Health First Aid, conflict resolution, and dedicated training on trauma and domestic violence. Additionally, the coordinating body should look at ways to train providers to direct guests to appropriate services if a particular need is identified. For example, some guests shared that there needs to be more HIV/AIDS services offered at or near where the food is being served. Training such as this should help address the belief that some individuals are not willing or not able to come indoors for services due to behavioral health conditions. This belief is largely unsupported; the vast majority of individuals (if not all individuals) can eat inside with the proper supports (such as safe, orderly settings). Many of these trainings (e.g., Mental Health First Aid) should also be made available to the general public.

Remove barriers to providing food indoors.

In order to be sustainable for the long-term, most programs and service groups must have sufficient access to funding. The Task Force recommends exploring paths to reduce barriers to providing food indoors for current providers, as well as providers that would like to serve indoors. For example, the Outdoor Meal Coalition listed the need for additional trash collection, parking passes, and funding as barriers to providing meals indoors. The City of Philadelphia should consider supporting trash removal at indoor food service organizations. The City should also support minimizing parking costs for providers using indoor food service locations.

The Task Force encourages exploring ways to provide funding, resources, and recognition for provider services and innovation. Such innovation grants or recognition could jumpstart new projects in Philadelphia while recognizing and awarding providers who are generating positive outcomes in the community. A coordinating body should serve as a conduit to connect providers seeking reduction in barriers and receiving of grants from other foundations or the City.

The Task Force recommends the City of Philadelphia research ways to increase funding to organizations and departments offering services that address hunger and other barriers. For example, CACFP is a federal program that reimburses food and adult care programs for providing meals to people with certain circumstances. This funding is currently utilized by the City shelters, but could be promoted within community organizations. In addition to exploring opportunities for federal dollars, the City and its partners should explore the possibility of launching a civic campaign to raise money for these additional resources.

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V. Establish innovative food serving models to increase access to food and address food insecurity.

As Philadelphia moves forward in its effort to address hunger, it is important to explore best practices of innovative models existing around the country and the world. From the Food Cycle in London to the Harrisonburg and Rockingham Thermal Shelter (HARTS) in Harrisonburg, Virginia, groups are finding innovative ways to redirect surplus food, create shared space, coordinate services, and collaborate with many community partners to serve efficiently. Several of these best practice models include collaborative efforts of providers, community cafés, and food access demonstration projects.

ACTION STEPS

Establish a “new space” within the City that offers a safe, healthy environment for individuals to access food with indoor and outdoor seating

- *Timeframe:* Medium-term
- *Issues addressed:* There is not an established physical area where all providers are welcomed to provide meals and collaborate
- *Outcome:* Community providers coordinate when to provide meals and collaborate to reduce duplication and costs

Utilize unused and underutilized indoor space to serve food

- *Timeframe:* Short-term to medium-term
- *Issues addressed:* There is unused and underutilized space available
- *Outcome:* Increased capacity to serve and prepare food

Establish innovative, integrated models (Community Café, Mobile Café)

- *Timeframe:* Short-term
- *Issues addressed:* There are not enough best practice models operating throughout Philadelphia
- *Outcome:* Community investment in innovative, integrated best practice models grows and increases food access

Participate in federal food access demonstration projects

- *Timeframe:* Short-term
- *Issues addressed:* Philadelphia lacks innovative federal food access demonstration projects
- *Outcome:* Philadelphia undertakes a federal food access demonstration project to increase food access

Key: *Short-term (< 6 Months); Medium-term (6 Months – 1 Year); Long-term (> 1 Year)*

Establish a “new indoor space” within the city that offers a safe, healthy environment for individuals to access food.

The coordinating body should help establish a new indoor space with outside seating where religious and non-profit volunteer groups can serve food and provide outreach or other services. In this location, groups could coordinate meals, partner with other organizations, or serve independently. Smaller groups that may not have the physical capacity or financial means to serve on their own could team up with other

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participating groups. Meals could be coordinated so that they are scheduled at established times throughout the day and every day of the week. All faith, non-profit, or individual providers and guests would be welcomed.

The responsibility of rule setting, and upkeep would be part of a larger coordinating body of community providers. Under this coordinating team, meal and outreach services could be managed efficiently and cost-effectively.

It is likely that some current outdoor provider groups will want to maintain their independent meal services and autonomy. As noted above, some groups have established their vocations in a particular outdoor location or forged close relationships with their guests, forming communities among and between themselves. The new shared space should recognize these independent groups and allow for provider recognition (signs, banners and the like) within the establishment.

The establishment of the new space must be in a location that is convenient to both guests and food providers. Given the long-standing use of locations such as the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, the coordinating body should explore the possibility of establishing a new space near this area.

Utilize unused and underutilized indoor space to serve food.

While strengthening existing indoor provider sites and developing a “new space” is recommended, it is also recommended to create more indoor food options. This is recommended because:

- Guests expressed a desire for increased options and variety of where to eat and
- Some existing outdoor providers indicated a desire for their own space

Unused and underutilized indoor space in the city should be examined as potential spaces for indoor meals. For instance, some school and university cafeterias close after school hours, and could be considered for use to provide a space for cooking and preparing meals as well as providing meals. There are also some kitchens that may not currently be in operable states that could be opened with some funding. Further, there are foreclosed schools and buildings that could be renovated or are ready to use. By utilizing additional available spaces across Center City, individuals will have choice of where to eat. This may reduce the need to travel several miles to visit a provider location. Further, outdoor providers will have a choice of where to serve indoors.

Establish innovative, integrated food settings, including community cafés in Philadelphia.

The Task Force recommends the Community Café model be examined as an alternative way to address food insecurity, while also establishing a community space where people from all socioeconomic statuses can form relationships with one another. Common characteristics for communal café settings are:

1. Small, comfortable, meal-centered
2. Communal cooking, serving, cleaning
3. Integrates guests, sponsoring donors, patrons, and volunteers, and presents an opportunity to build trust and increase knowledge and understanding of the problem, needs and solutions.
4. Food is used to increase awareness of the issue of homelessness and promote opportunities for individuals experiencing hunger and/or homelessness for self-sufficient living.

RECOMMENDATIONS

"People from all sectors of Philadelphia have come together many times before to find concrete, creative, and humane solutions to our pressing urban problems that will also enhance the quality of life of all citizens.

Let's work together for a day when every Philadelphian has a home and is able to enjoy healthy, sufficient meals. Let's all, as our religious traditions call us to, hunger for justice. And together we will celebrate the day when we all have our fill."

- Sister Mary Scullion, Executive Director & Co-Founder, Project H.O.M.E.

One World Everybody Eats is a national non-profit foundation dedicated to promoting and mentoring others in developing the “pay what you can” community cafe and community kitchen model. Currently there are 25 cafes within their network around the country .

Several examples of the community café model are the SAME Café (So All May Eat) in Denver, the Jon Bon Jovi Soul Kitchen and A Better World Café in New Jersey, and the Sisters of the Road Café in Portland, Oregon. Most community café models require a small donation, a “pay what you can” system, and/or provide volunteer opportunities. This means those who can pay more will help lessen the cost for someone else’s meal and those who are unable to pay can volunteer to pay for the meal. The idea of customer decision on the payment or portion size encourages personal responsibility and self-sufficiency. Most community cafés are managed by a full-time manager and staffed by volunteers from the community or other groups.

The community café, Soul Kitchen , in New Jersey was established in October 2011 and is supported through the Jon Bon Jovi Foundation and is a similar “pay what you can” and volunteer model. This café has a 25 seating capacity and is open for dinner several days a week and lunch on Sundays. Upon opening, approximately 15% of individuals paid with gift vouchers earned through volunteering .

The Sisters of the Road Café has a business model in that it receives SNAP/ EBT cards for payment and offers a barter system. Bartered work allows the customers to spend fifteen minutes on cleaning responsibilities, such as mopping the floor, taking out the garbage, or sweeping the front stoop to earn \$1.50 in credit at the café, enough for a delicious, nutritious meal and a drink. They can also share a bartered meal with others. The more they barter, the more credit they earn.

The community café concept could be viable throughout Philadelphia. The Center for Hunger-Free Communities is currently exploring the creation of a community café model in West Philadelphia. The Task Force recommends that community and advocacy organizations, religious groups, and foundations, led by the coordinating body described above, consider exploring community cafes throughout Philadelphia.

As the use of community cafés in Philadelphia is explored, it is important the intention of these cafes is preserved and that they remain accessible and inviting to everyone. The use of community advisory boards, with representation of individuals who experience hunger and food insecurity would help ensure that the voice of everyone is represented in the café.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Participate in innovative food access demonstration projects.

The Task Force recommends participating in food access demonstration projects similar to those taking place in other parts of the country. In August 2011, the Rhode Island Department of Human Services implemented the "Food Access Project" as a pilot program in the Providence area. Through contracts with the state agency and restaurants, five Subway restaurants in the Providence area were approved by the Food and Nutrition Service to participate in the Food Access Prepared Meals Pilot Program. Participating restaurants have signage displaying the "Fork & Knife" logo on the merchant door or window and/or signage that states "Participating Restaurant: Food Access Project." This program accepts SNAP/EBT cards that are swiped through a Point of Sale (POS) device to complete the transaction. The Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless received an \$83,906 grant for the Food Access Project for homeless, elderly and disabled Rhode Islanders to make this possible.

The program aims to decrease hunger and food insecurity among homeless, elderly and disabled individuals by increasing access to prepared meals through the utilization of SNAP benefits in authorized restaurants. The program's impact was an increase in accessibility of prepared foods to about 33,000 homeless, elderly or disabled people who are enrolled in SNAP in Rhode Island. Because the people who are experiencing homelessness or are disabled or elderly may have a more difficult time preparing meals, food access demonstration projects like the Rhode Island "Food Access Project" can serve to circumvent such barriers.

Thus, as we move forward as a city together to create new space, both physical and metaphoric, it should be our goal to lead the nation in novel and best practices – that will improve the city for all Philadelphians and add to our rich history of innovation and creativity to solving social challenges.

MOVING FORWARD

Implementation, Sustainability, and Consensus Building

To address the issues highlighted above and ensure the successful implementation of the recommendations, the Task Force considered how best to oversee the City and its partners' ongoing efforts to increase access to indoor services, coordinate services, and address hunger in Philadelphia.

1. Designate leadership within the City government to track and lead the implementation of recommendations, such as the Mayor's Office appointee on hunger.
2. Establish a Coordinating Body of Stakeholders – Increase coordination through the establishment of a coordinating body that meets regularly, and gives service providers, volunteer organizations, community advocates and the City of Philadelphia an opportunity to work strategically to advance the goals of addressing hunger, pool resources and work to attract new resources, triage problems that arise, and information share.

3. Work with Funders – The Task Force has begun conversations with various funders, including local foundations and businesses, about how they would like to work with the City and its partners to support efforts to make a meaningful

"Seeing that the [Task Force's] recommendations are not shelved but acted upon will ensure that Philadelphia will remain a City that does not turn its back on suffering but tackles the hard problems head on with innovative solutions."

-Bill Golderer, Broad Street Ministry

impact on meeting the needs of individuals who experience hunger in our City. The City and the new coordinating body should continue this conversation, working with potential funders to give them a sense of the group's comprehensive approach to addressing hunger, in order to increase the capacity of indoor serving locations, and reduce the number of individuals who experience hunger in the long term.

4. Support from City Government – The City has already begun to increase its investment to increase the capacity of indoor locations that can provide free meals. Additional strategic support by the City to encourage private dollars, and greater investment by the state and federal governments, will help to ensure the success of the above recommendations.

CONCLUSION

The Outdoor of Serving of Food Task Force was charged with increasing access to indoor food services in Center City and developing recommendations to better serve and assist individuals who experience hunger and food insecurity. Although we recognize this is a complex issue, we believe it is a solvable problem. That said, the solution is not just an issue of increasing indoor capacity. With additional resources, we currently have enough physical capacity to serve individuals in need. Yet we need to do more than this to address the complex issue of hunger and the associated factors, including poverty, that contribute to individuals using free food services. Thus we propose a new way of addressing this issue in Philadelphia by creating new space – both literally and figuratively – to effectively address this issue.

To underscore the complexity of the problem, we put forth six core issues that encompass the range of issues that contribute to the current system of free food services in Philadelphia. These issues range from an individual's needs, to providers, to limited infrastructure and coordination, to sustainability and public unity on this issue.

To address the range of issues we highlight, we provide five main recommendations with associated strategies to approach this problem from a new perspective. The recommendations emphasized in this report are not intended to be prescriptive strategies. We intend to stress that there is not one strategy that if implemented could effectively address this issue. Instead, there needs to be a

multitude of strategies that together address the many issues identified in this report. Furthermore, some strategies that will work for some individuals in need, providers, and other stakeholder groups will not work for others. For instance, some individuals will want to continue to eat and serve food outdoors, while others will welcome the opportunity to eat and serve in shared indoor place. We must consider individual and group preferences and beliefs, and do our best to implement a range of solutions that will be desirable for diverse groups.

Given recent state budgetary cuts to supportive services, including General Assistance, there may be an increased need for free food services in Philadelphia. This will need to be closely monitored. Most importantly, it is imperative to begin work immediately to implement strategies set forth in this report to ensure that individuals have access to food.

Finally, we hope that the information gathered and recommendations proposed in this report are utilized as a framework for thinking about this issue, and as an impetus for a continued conversation and implementation of strategies to address this complex issue. Once again, we believe this is a solvable issue, but one that requires all of us to work together to better address the significant number of people who experience hunger and food insecurity in Philadelphia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We begin by thanking Mayor Michael A. Nutter for creating the Task Force and giving us the opportunity to address long-standing concerns regarding hunger, poverty, and homelessness in Philadelphia. We hope this report and our recommendations provide the necessary strategies for the Mayor and the City to take action to improve Philadelphia.

The 90-day Task Force met as a group a total of seven times between May 10, 2012 and July 30, 2012. Thirteen members comprised the Task Force. More than half (seven) of the Task Force members or delegates from their organizations attended all of the meetings. Another four members missed only one or two meetings. Only one person missed more than two meetings. During this time, two subcommittees were formed that focused on: identifying best practices and examining resources to implement the recommendations put forth in this report. These two groups met for a combined total of eight meetings. In addition to the in-person meetings, there were numerous electronic and phone conversations among Task Force members. Although the Task Force had a limited amount of time to develop this report, everyone demonstrated a commitment to maximizing the time it had.

We are grateful to the many people who provided their time and expertise to the Task Force over the course of its work. We apologize in advance for any oversights.

We appreciate the time, knowledge, and insights that individuals with lived experience shared with us through completing surveys, participating in focus groups, and having informal conversations with us. We are also appreciative of Brian Jenkins of Chosen 300 for convening a meeting to speak with providers who serve food outdoors. The report and its recommendations are stronger as a result of their input.

We also want to acknowledge and thank Broad Street Ministry and Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission for inviting us to their organizations. We are also thankful for Drexel University's Center for Hunger-

Free Communities, the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, and the other individuals and organizations that shared their thoughts, ideas, and information via email and other communications.

The Mayor's Office and the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS) were gracious to volunteer their offices to host the Task Force meetings. We also thank Project H.O.M.E.'s – H.O.M.E. Page Café for catering the meetings. We thank the Free Library of Philadelphia and Broad Street Ministry for hosting focus groups for us to speak with individuals who use free food services.

We would like to acknowledge the staff of the Philadelphia DBHIDS for their assistance with the Task Force, information gathering and writing and editing of this report. We specifically would like to acknowledge Samantha Matlin and Shannon Mace for their management of the writing and editing of this document. Special thanks to Samantha Matlin who provided tremendous leadership in overall project management of the Task Force. We appreciate the support given by Marcella Maguire. We would like to thank Richard Drain, Michael Little, Robert Martin, and Jimmy Members for facilitating focus groups with individuals with lived experience. The efforts of interns Benjamin Locklair and Patrick Wiggins were vital to the work of the Task Force. Their time and dedication is greatly appreciated. We express our particular gratitude to Marie McGowan and Chantha Sin for supporting the work of the Task Force.

We would also like to thank the technological and creative support that has been provided to the Task Force by Gary Brown and the Communications Department at the Philadelphia DBHIDS. The report cover design and layout would not have been possible without Monava Jones.

Finally, the Task Force members and their organizations and staff were essential to the success of the group; we thank them greatly.

APPENDIX A

Individual Survey of People Who Use Free Meal Services

Hello, I'm _____ and I'm working with a group who is trying to better serve people who need free meals. Some of the first things we need to know is how many meals are being served and how easy it is for people to get them. We'd also like to hear your input. I won't ask your name or any identifying information, and I've got a couple of subway tokens for your time. Can we talk for a couple of minutes?

Have you been served a free meal outdoors in the last month? Yes No How many?

We know that some of the meals served are better than others. What makes a good meal?

Can you usually count on the meal servers to be at the same place and time? Yes No
How good are the meals generally? (1 to 10 scale, 10 is best): _____

If a new meal site opened, what would be the best way to let people know about it?

We have heard that people need more meals toward the end of the month. Is there a time of the month when you are more likely to need a free meal? Yes No

When? Beginning Middle End

Days of the week? Lunch Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

Sat Sun Supper Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri

What is your current living situation? Own home Other's home Shelter Unsheltered Other

Is there a place for you to prepare food where you stay? Yes No Note: _____

Are meals served where you stay? Yes No How many each day? _____

Do you get government assistance with food (e.g., food stamps)? Yes No

How do you travel to where the meals are? About how many miles/blocks is it? _____

On foot Public trans. Bicycle Private vehicle Other: _____

If a good meal site opened somewhere else in Center City, how much farther would you travel to get to it?
_____ blocks/miles

Which neighborhood did you travel from to get here today? _____

Is there anything else you would like to say about this issue?

Gender:

M

F

Tokens Given

Y N

Est. Age: _____

Ethnicity:

Afr. Amer.

Mixed / Multi.

Asian/ Pac. Isl.

Nat. Amer.

Hisp. / Lat.

White

Site:

City Hall Apron

Love Park

Parkway

APPENDIX B

Focus Group Protocol

Facilitators: 1-2 Peer Support Specialists with experience with homelessness

Note-Takers: 1-2 DBHIDS Interns

Intro (approx. 5-10 min.):

- Emphasize that responses are confidential and anonymous.
- Disclose that information from discussion will be shared with org. interested in serving people who need food.
- Introduce facilitators and note-takers.
- Establish comfort agreement: everyone's input is desired, everyone will be treated with respect, no one will be forced to answer, etc.
- Set agenda.
- Icebreaker: What would you like for us to call you and what is your favorite meal or place to eat?

What makes one meal service location or operation better than another?

- What about the type or quantity of food served?
- What about the servers themselves?
- What about the location? Closeness to where you stay or to other services you need?
- What are the advantages of meal service indoors? Outdoors?
- What are the disadvantages of meal service indoors? Outdoors?

What can meal servers do to show respect for you as a human being?

- What are things meal servers should avoid doing?
- Tell me about a time that a meal server showed respect for you. What can other servers do to be more like that?

Besides food, what other services would be useful at meal service sites?

- What kinds of medical services are needed?
- Social services (e.g. food assistance, I.D. programs, etc.)?
- Mental health care?
- Other resources (e.g. toiletries)?
- Spiritual or religious services?

What things might prevent you or someone else from getting a free meal if you need one?

- What could help to solve these problems?
- How often do these kinds of things happen?
- What is the best way to get word out about a new or different meal service?

How does the need for free meals change throughout the week? The month? The year?

- When are the most people out looking for free meal services?
- How do the numbers of people change from season to season (e.g. from summer to winter)?
- How can a meal server make sure that everyone in need can be served?

When approx. 5 minutes remain: Is there anything we haven't asked that it's important for you to tell us?

Outro (approx. 1-2 minutes):

- Reiterate confidentiality and use of information by interested agencies.
- Thank participants for their time.
- Give contact information to any participants who need it.
- Remain available for some minutes afterward to answer participant questions as necessary.

APPENDIX C

Form Used for Observations of Outdoor Serving of Food

Observer's Name: _____ Date: _____

Observation Notes

Parkway – Outside Library

Time: _____ Weather: _____
Guests present: _____ Men: _____ Women: _____ Families: _____
Meal operations present: _____ Surveys Administered: 0 Yes 0 No
Age <18: _____ 18-30: _____ 31-40: _____ 41-50: _____ 60+: _____
Ethnicity Afr. Amer: _____ Asian / Pac. Isl.: _____
Hisp. / Lat.: _____ Mixed / Multi.: _____
Nat. Amer.: _____ White: _____

Comments / Food Served: _____

Love Park

Time: _____ Weather: _____
Guests present: _____ Men: _____ Women: _____ Families: _____
Meal operations present: _____ Surveys Administered: 0 Yes 0 No
Age <18: _____ 18-30: _____ 31-40: _____ 41-50: _____ 60+: _____
Ethnicity Afr. Amer: _____ Asian / Pac. Isl.: _____
Hisp. / Lat.: _____ Mixed / Multi.: _____
Nat. Amer.: _____ White: _____

Comments / Food Served: _____

City Hall Apron

Time: _____ Weather: _____
Guests present: _____ Men: _____ Women: _____ Families: _____
Meal operations present: _____ Surveys Administered: 0 Yes 0 No
Age <18: _____ 18-30: _____ 31-40: _____ 41-50: _____ 60+: _____
Ethnicity Afr. Amer: _____ Asian / Pac. Isl.: _____
Hisp. / Lat.: _____ Mixed / Multi.: _____
Nat. Amer.: _____ White: _____

Comments / Food Served: _____

APPENDIX D

Responses to Survey Questions

DEMOGRAPHICS N(%)

<i>Gender</i>	(N = 83)
Male	70 (84%)
Female	13 (16%)
<i>Estimated Age</i>	(N = 72)
Mean	46.9
S.D.	12.5
Range	20 to 81
<i>Ethnicity</i>	(N = 72)
African American	55 (76%)
Hispanic/Latino	3 (4%)
White	14 (19%)
<i>Survey Site</i>	
<i>Outdoor Site</i>	
Benjamin Franklin Parkway	24 (39%)
Love Park	2 (3%)
City Hall Apron	26 (42%)
<i>Indoor Site</i>	
Broad Street Ministry	10 (16%)

APPENDIX D

LIVING SITUATION N(%)

<i>Type</i>	(N = 83)
Own Home	8 (10%)
Other's Home	12 (15%)
Shelter	15 (18%)
Unsheltered	37 (45%)
Other	10 (12%)
<i>Has place to prepare food</i>	(N = 83)
Yes	26 (31%)
No	57 (69%)
<i>Meals served at shelter</i>	(N = 15)
Yes	14 (93%)
No	1 (7%)
<i>Number of meals served</i>	(N = 15)
Mean	2.5
S.D.	1.1
Range	0 to 3
<i>Receives gov't food asst.</i>	(N = 81)
Yes	38 (47%)
No	43 (53%)
<i>Eligible for gov't food asst</i>	(N = 43)
Yes	22 (51%)
No	12 (28%)
Don't Know	9 (21%)

<i>Living situation by survey site</i>	Own home	Other's Home	Shelter	Unsheltered	Other
<i>Outdoor</i>					
City Hall (N = 29)	3 (10%)	4 (14%)	3 (10%)	18 (62%)	1 (3%)
Love Park (N = 2)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (100%)	0 (0%)
Benjamin Franklin Parkway (N = 33)	1 (3%)	7 (21%)	8 (24%)	12 (36%)	5 (15%)
TOTAL	4 (6%)	11 (17%)	11 (17%)	32 (50%)	6 (10%)
<i>Indoor (N = 19)</i>					
Broad St Ministry	6 (32%)	1 (5%)	4 (21%)	5 (26%)	3 (16%)

APPENDIX D

USE OF SERVICES N(%)

<i>Meals per week</i>	(N = 83)
Mean	8.7
S.D.	8.2
Range	1 to 30
<i>Servers are reliable</i>	(N = 81)
Yes	78 (96%)
No	3 (4%)
<i>Rating of meals</i>	(N = 82)
Mean	7.9
S.D.	1.8
Range	3 to 10
<i>Neediest time of month</i>	(N = 83)
Beginning	14 (17%)
Middle	26 (31%)
End	30 (36%)
<i>Neediest time of month among people with assistance</i>	(N = 38)
Beginning	4 (11%)
Middle	12 (32%)
End	15 (40%)
<i>Neediest time of month among people without assistance</i>	(N = 38)
Beginning	10 (23%)
Middle	14 (33%)
End	15 (35%)
<i>Need for lunches</i>	(N=83)*
Weekday Average	22.4 (27%)
Weekend Average	26 (31%)
<i>Need for dinners</i>	(N=83)*
Weekday Average	26.6 (32%)
Weekend Average	28 (34%)

* Note that responses to this question were somewhat difficult to interpret.

APPENDIX D

TRAVEL N(%)

<i>Method</i>	(N = 83)
Walking	68 (82%)
Public Trans.	20 (24%)
Bicycle	3 (4%)
<i>Miles traveled</i>	(N = 55)**
Mean	1.77
S.D.	1.76
Range	.12 to 8.4

Miles traveled by living situation

	N	Mean	SD	Range
Own Home	5	1.76	0.96	.12 to 2.5
Other's Home	3	0.69	0.79	.12 to 1.6
Shelter	13	2.67	2.68	.24 to 8.4
Unsheltered	25	1.51	1.48	.12 to 5.5
Other	9	1.52	0.93	.24 to 3.6

** Respondents were also asked which neighborhood they had traveled from to attend the meal service where the surveys were conducted and how much farther they would travel in order to attend a good meal service. Responses were difficult to quantify but reflected that most respondents had come from elsewhere in Center City and were generally willing to travel as far as necessary.

APPENDIX E

Center City and University City Indoor Provider Schedule²⁷

Provider	Phone	Location	Zip	M	T	W	R	F	S	U	Time	Served	Notes
Baptist Women's Center	215-235-8070	1428 W Poplar St	19130		•						1130A	55	Closed until October. Food provided by Churches, mission groups, and Univ. groups. Max 100
Bright Hope Baptist	215-232-6004	1601 N 12th St	19122	•	•	•					6P	90	M,T,W,R: 6:00-6:45P; Max 150+ Closed Summer months
Broad Street Ministry	215-735-4847	315 S Broad St	19107				•	•	•		1130A 730P	250	400 Max. 6 meals a week by Nov 2012. R&S 11:30A; U: 7:30P
Child's Memorial Church		953 N 10th St	19123							•	5P		
Chosen 300	215-765-9806	1116 Spring Garden 641 N Preston St	19123	•	•	•	•	•	•		See Note	300	M,W,F: 6A; T: 12P; S: 5P Nov-Apr; U: 10A; F: 6P Center City Capacity-160 seat, serve 300, West Philly capacity- 50 seats, serve 100 . Obtaining Land Permits for West Philly location. Expanding nights and programs.
Enon Baptist Church	215-978-9222	560 N 19th St	19130				•				10A	30	Closed in August, 250 Max
First African Baptist	215-735-1050	1608 Christian St	19146						•		10A	50	10A-12P
Helping Hand Rescue Mission	215-627-1656	610 N 6th St	19123							•	1230P	98	Closed July 15th and August
Lombard Central	215-222-3044	4201 Powelton Ave	19124			•	•	•			10A	60	Closed July & August. 90 Max. Doors open 730A
Mercy Hospice	215-545-5153	334 S 13th St	19107	•	•	•	•	•	•		1115A	60	M-F single women and mothers. S: mothers and children. 100 Max. Lunch starts at 11:15A for Moms and Children and 12P for single women. Lasts until 1:30P. Bag or sit down
Mt. Olive	215- 765-3372	1469 N Broad St	19122		•						12P 130P		T 12-2:30P; U 1:30-2:30P
Old Pine Community Cntr	215-627-2493	401 Lombard St	19107						•		12P	50	Seniors only. 100 Max

(M) Monday (T) Tuesday (W) Wednesday (R) Thursday (F) Friday (S) Saturday (U) Sunday

²⁷This information was collected through information from the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, and confirmed through interviews with the organizations. This list was limited to the organizations that are open to the public, although some serve particular audiences. This list does not include organizations that provide meals only to their residents.

APPENDIX E

Center City and University City Indoor Provider Schedule²⁷

Provider	Phone	Location	Zip	M	T	W	R	F	S	U	Time	Served	Notes
Old St. Joe's Church	215-923-1733 x4	321 Willing's Alley	19106	•	•		•		•		12P	50	60 men Max. Closed August
Our Brother's Place	215-236-7024 x270	907 Hamilton St	19123	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	12P	150	Breakfast and Supper 7 days a week, but for residents only. ID is required. 12:00P Males 18+
Second Pilgrim	215-763-5821	854 N 15th St	19130			•					5A	30	Open to everyone, 200 Max
St. John's Hospice	215- 563-7763	1221 Race St	19107	•	•	•	•	•			12P	350	Preference to men with picture ID 60 years+, disabled, veterans. Must be 30 days clean and OSH clearance. 450 Max.
St. Mark's	215-735-1416	1625 Locust St	19103						•		7P	150	S: AM. At capacity
Sunday Breakfast Mission	215-922-6400 x101	302 N 13th St	19107	•	•	•	•	•	•			250	Max 500+. 3 meals a day. 7 days a week
Tenth Presbyterian Church	215-735-7688	1701 Delancey St	19103						•		1P	60	2nd Sundays. 150 Max
The Welcome Center	215-567-3242	2111 Sansom St	19103		•			•			12P		
Trindley Temple	215-735-0442	750-762 S Broad St	19146	•	•	•		•			11A	150	200 Max. 11:00-2:30 M,W,F; T 11-12, produce only
Union Baptist Church	215-735-7273	1910 Fitzwater St	19146					•			10A		Last 3 Fridays of the month
Univ. City Hospitality Coalition	215-847-3863	3916 Locust Walk 3728 Chestnut St 215 S 39th St 401 S 42nd St	19104	•		•	•	•	•	•	6A 12P	100	St. Mary's Church(R,S), St. Agatha-St. James Church (M,W), Wood-land Presbyterian(F) and Hillel Foundation(U); From Mid-May to Mid-Sept(U) sandwiches 6P at St. Mary's. 150 Max. M,W,R,F,U: 6A; S 12P
Univ. Lutheran Church of the Incarnation	215-387-2885	3637 Chestnut St	19104		•						5P		Persons living with HIV/AIDS

(M) Monday (T)Tuesday (W)Wednesday (R)Thursday (S)Saturday (U)Sunday

²⁷This information was collected through information from the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, and confirmed through interviews with the organizations. This list was limited to the organizations that are open to the public, although some serve particular audiences. This list does not include organizations that provide meals only to their residents.