

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Meeting Date: June 30, 2009

Department: Community Services

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Title: Palm Beach County Community Food Alliance

Summary: This workshop is intended to the update the Board of County Commissioners on the hunger problem in Palm Beach County which is worsening due to the economic situation. Palm Beach County's assistance and referral agency, 211, is reporting a 42% increase in calls for emergency food assistance this year. Local food pantries and soup kitchens are reporting similar increases in calls. Also, the Department of Children and Families is reporting that Food Stamp enrollment is up 30% this year. The single fastest growing group of people now relying on emergency feeding programs is the working poor. As a result, there is a lack of quality perishable and non-perishable food available on a consistent basis through our current resources and a lack of storage space needed to consolidate purchases and buy needed items as a group to maintain a diverse inventory. Countywide (TKF)

Background and Policy Issues: The Palm Beach County Community Food Alliance is comprised of 120 partner agencies that provide food/meals to the food insecure in Palm Beach County. The Alliance is responsible for the implementation of the Countywide Community Food Security Action Plan which was developed as a result of the 2004 Food Security Survey. The mission of the Community Food Alliance is to assure that all Palm Beach County residents have access to and obtain safe, sufficient, culturally acceptable nutritious food through a sustainable system that maximizes self-reliance, social justice and health.

Attachments:

PowerPoint Presentation

Recommended by:



Department Director

6/24/09

Date

Approved By:



Assistant County Administrator

6/29/09

Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years 20____ 20____ 20____ 20____ 20____

- Capital
- Expenditures
- Operating Costs
- External Revenues
- Program Income (County)
- In-Kind Match (County)

NET FISCAL IMPACT *0

No. ADDITIONAL FTE
POSITIONS (Cumulative)

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes _____ No _____
 Budget Account No.: Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____
 Object _____ Reporting Category _____

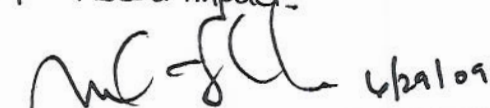
B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

* No fiscal impact



 6/25/09 OFMB



 Contract Dev. and Control 6/29/09

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6/25/09
6-2509

B. Legal Sufficiency:



 Assistant County Attorney 6/29/09

C. Other Department Review:

 Department Director

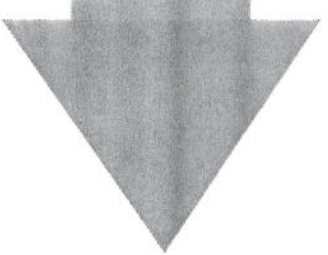
PALM BEACH COUNTY

COMMUNITY

Food

Alliance

Working Together
To End Hunger



Presented by: Alex Stevens

June 30, 2009



- 2004 Palm Beach County Food Survey revealed that 1 in 3 households earning up to \$35,000/year ran out of food before having money to buy more.
- Palm Beach County overall, has almost double the national average of food insecure households with hunger.
- Food insecurity with hunger for households with children is three times the national average.
- Palm Beach County's assistance and referral agency, 211, is reporting a 30% increase in calls for emergency assistance.
- Local food pantries and kitchens are reporting similar numbers.

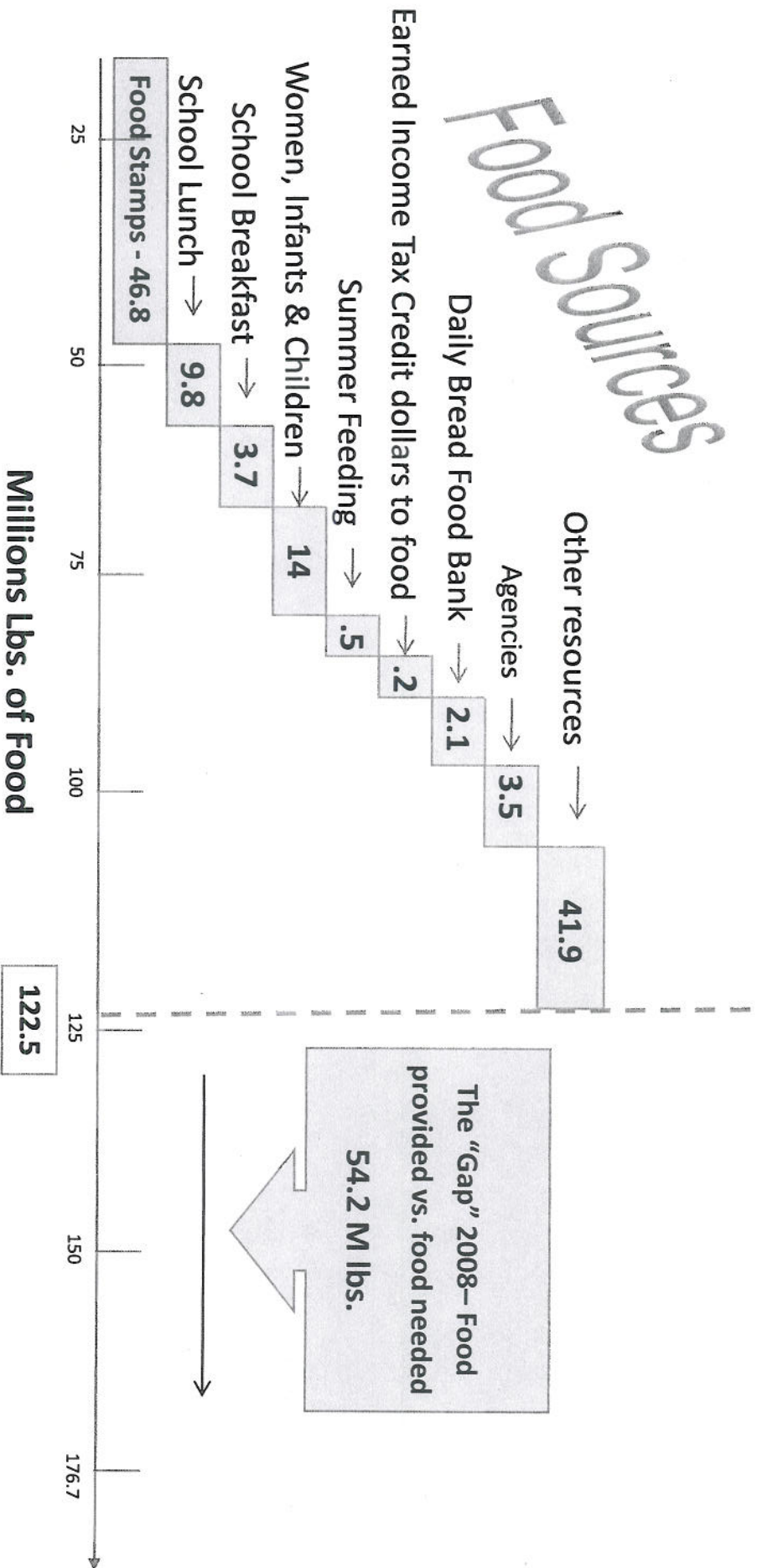
What is the Need - 2008?

Facts:

- **129,060 persons below poverty in Palm Beach County (2007 census estimate)**
- **Below poverty means < \$17,600 (family of 3) \$21,200 (4)**
- **1369 lbs/person annually (1.25 lbs/meal x 3 meals/day x 365 days/year)**
- **Annual total food need is 176.7 million lbs/year to feed all those below poverty level**

How big is the gap - 2008?

Food Sources



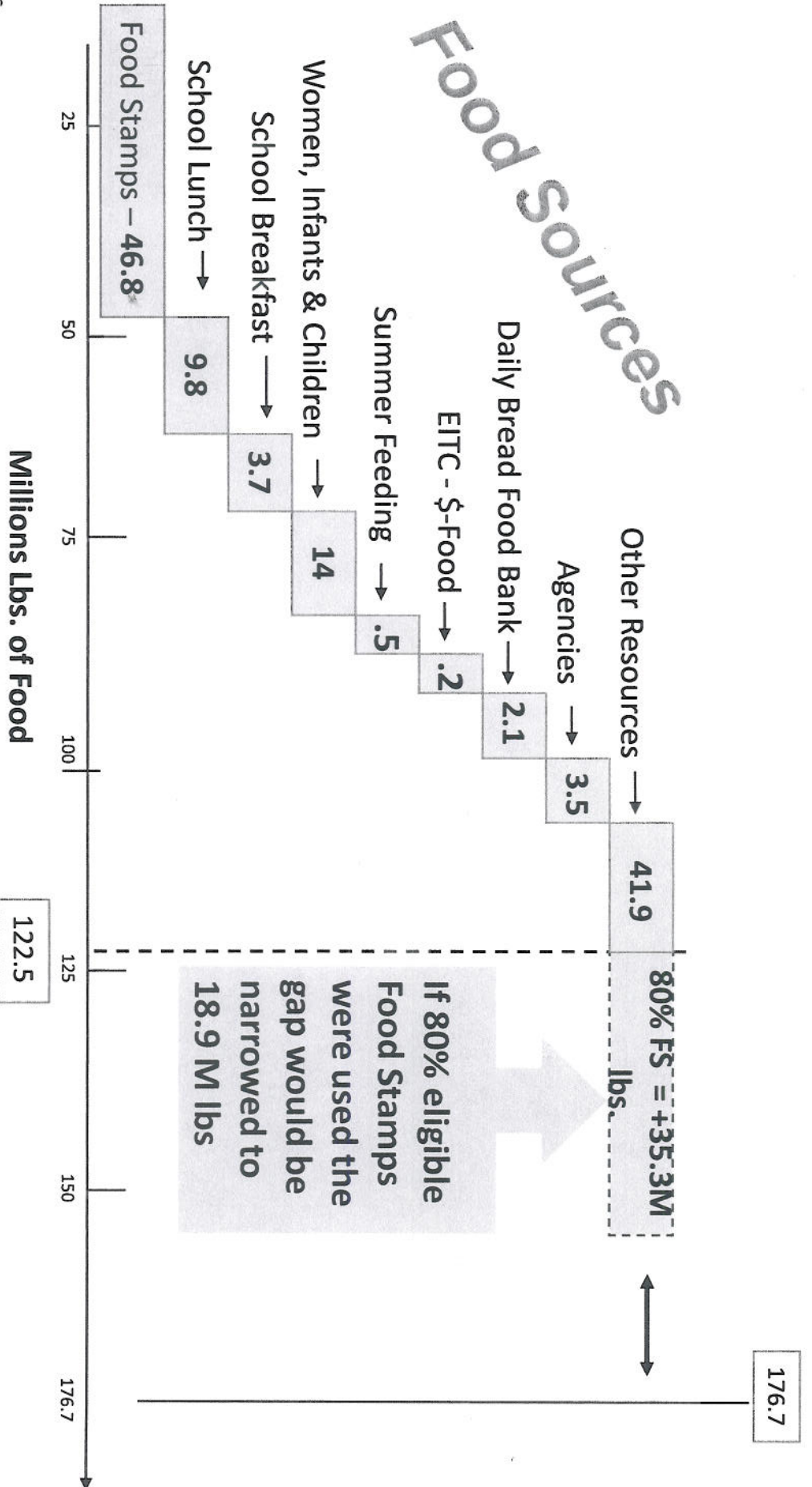
Food stamp benefits issued = \$69,793,485

Estimated 46% of those eligible access food stamps.

Estimated unused food stamp dollars = \$83,111,259

An increase in Food Stamp benefits would generate \$1.73 in economic activity for every dollar in cost.

How to reduce the gap?



How Will the Community Food Alliance Bridge the Gap?

Mission

To assure that all Palm Beach County residents have access to and obtain safe, sufficient, culturally acceptable nutritious food through a sustainable system that maximizes self-reliance, social justice and health.

Strategic Priorities of Community Food Alliance

- Seek proactive strategies for increasing the capacity of the food recovery and distribution system.
- Provide and maintain ongoing assessment on the status of food security in Palm Beach County.
- Support advocacy and development of community resources for issues related to food security, and continue to promote health and wellness of residents.

Objective: To improve the year-round supply of affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food for Palm Beach County.

- Increase relationships with providers within the agricultural, wholesale and retail food service community.
- Continue support of existing community feeding projects, and facilitate development of new opportunities that can become a self-sustaining source of food.
- Improve the warehousing/storage capacity of the food recovery & distribution system.

Objective: To maintain relationship with Palm Beach County service providers and interested parties to promote information exchange and open dialogue relating to current needs and future trends.

- **Increase membership and participation in Community Food Alliance to assure representation of Palm Beach County's diverse population.**
- **Explore bulk buying feasibility amongst food providers for non-perishable foods and standardized non-food items.**

Objective: To understand the food gap and the barriers to food access within Palm Beach County

- Conduct annual gap analysis amongst the food insecure population to determine not only the food gap between supply and demand, but also the barriers to accessibility of food.
- Create and maintain an accurate database of pantries, services, and food sources, as well as maintain a GIS mapping system to identify all service providers and locations.

Objective: To promote individual responsibility and enable self-sufficiency for the food insecure populations.

- Partner with Department of Children and Families to increase participation in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps).
- Promote and support personal responsibility for disaster preparedness amongst the food insecure population.
- Participate in Palm Beach County disaster preparedness and recovery efforts, and develop service provider agreements for post-disaster recovery assistance.

Objective: To foster nutrition education for the food insecure population and ensure safe food handling by agencies within CFA's network.

- Increase participation in nutrition education courses, as well as address the competency level of nutritional content.
- Broker food safety training to ensure agencies serving food within the CFA network are using safe food handling techniques.

Gleaning Event



CROS volunteers pick fresh corn at R.C. Hatton Farms.

Community Food Alliance Trucks



Volunteers load fresh picked corn to be distributed free of charge to local agencies.

Food Rescue and Recovery



Village Baptist "Feed the Hungry" drivers Leroy Nace and Joe Webb

How can the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners assist us in bridging the gap?

- Continue support at current funding level.
- Consider new funding opportunities through ARRA.
- Assist with identifying and securing warehouse location.
- Expansion of relationships in agricultural, wholesale and retail food service community.
- Increase public awareness by allowing community food drives at all Palm Beach County public events.

Who We Are

The Community Food Alliance is comprised of over 100 individuals and agencies.

Staff

Alex Stevens, Director

Terry Jurewicz, Program Coordinator

Advisory Council Members

Nate Nichols-Chair, Children's Services Council

Cindy Bartosek, Palm Beach County Department of Health

Steve Bonino, Palm Beach County School Food Service

Pam Cahoon, CROS Ministries

Patrick McNamara, Housing Partnership, Inc.

Audrey Norman, Palm Beach County Extension Service

Upendo Shabazz-Phillips, United Way of Palm Beach County

Donnia Smith, Area Agency on Aging

Kathy Spencer, Gulfstream Goodwill

Diana Stanley, The Lord's Place

Debi Stewart, Palm Beach County School District

Claudia Tuck, Palm Beach County Division of Human Services

Funding

The Community Food Alliance would like to thank those agencies whose financial support has made our efforts possible.

- Children's Services Council
- Palm Health Care Foundation
- Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
- Quantum Foundation
- United Way of Palm Beach County
- Designated Program Grants
 - Jarden Consumer Solutions
 - Jeanine and Irwin Levy Foundation
 - Palm Beach Country Club Foundation

Thank you

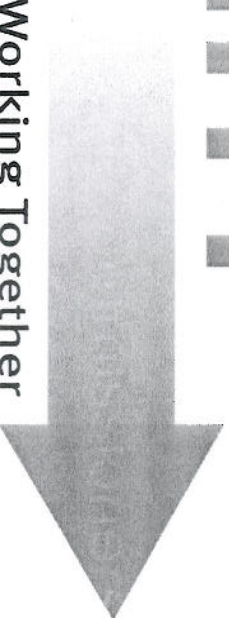
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