

09.02.26 Switchboard Webinar Slide Deck - Beyond the Pantry- Rethinking Food Security in Newcomer Populations

02 - 08 Sep 2026

Poll results

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- When you hear the phrase "food insecurity", what words or feelings come to mind?
- Which barrier do you see most often in your clients?
- What makes conversations about food insecurity difficult?
- What is one thing you wish you knew before discussing food insecurity with clients?
- Which approach best describes your organization or program today?
- What's one realistic next step you could take to strengthen food security support in your community?

When you hear the phrase "food insecurity",
what words or feelings come to mind?

067



Which barrier do you see most often in your clients?

065

Cost



Transportation



Language



Cultural food access



Limited knowledge of resources



What makes conversations about food insecurity difficult?

(1/2)

0 2 9

- Stigma
- Restarting over in a different culture
- Stigma and shame, and individuals may feel embarrassed or afraid of being judged when discussing their struggles to access enough food.
- families dont believe they are experiencing food insecurity
- Stigma
- Open up to client's difficulties memories.
- Not knowing what's available to support
- Misconception about normalized food insecurity
- answering why "we" are abandoning them when we know they need our assistance
- Pride
- Lack of resources and language barriers
- Embarrassment
- Scarce resources
- Empathy
- Trauma history of previous experiences of food insecurity
- Lack of resources

What makes conversations about food insecurity difficult?

(2/2)

0 2 9

- Don't want to over step their boundaries
- Feeling like you don't have a quick solution for clients
- Language barriers
- What others received they aren't receiving
- Lack of interpretation
- pride
- Resource limitations
- Ack of cultural appropriate food resources
- nuances in each clients experiences
- Feeling of blame
- Not being able to remove structural barriers
- Policy change
- Language barrier, food choices
- Pride of the family
- It touches people's dignity. People are embarrassed
- It is hard to be vulnerable
- Shame
- Lack of resources
- Shame
- Language barriers
- Vulnerability

What is one thing you wish you knew before discussing food insecurity with clients?

(1/2)

0 2 3

- Availability to cook meals
- Policies
- Knowing their country of origin helps to understand their needs and behavior
- how they can transport food to their home
- Barriers
- their definition of food insecurity
- Guidance on how much and what is normal diet
- I wish I knew the policies constantly changing to provide any reliable information
- Transportation needs
- How food impacts a clients' identity
- What is the emotional experience of the client when they access food resources
- A viable resource that will actually help
- Biggest needs
- Difficulty of talking about it by the client
- Knowledge of resources
- What does food security look like to them

What is one thing you wish you knew before discussing food insecurity with clients?

(2/2)

0 2 3

- where to find culturally appropriate food for each culture that we serve, and if possible, how to get it
- Food preferences
- Do they understand what food insecurity is and believe they are experiencing it?
- Cultural barriers
- Their personal history with food trauma
- Needs of food choices , cultural differences and needs
- What is the clients biggest barrier
- Culturally appropriate foods for each population
- Some people come from countries where food insecurities are normal
- Resources available
- If clients will be emotionally safe and respected at food pantries
- Past food trauma history

Which approach best describes your organization or program today?

063

Connect



35 %

Build



3 %

Systems Strengthening



5 %

We do some of each



57 %

We don't do any



0 %

What's one realistic next step you could take to strengthen food security support in your community?

031

(1/3)

- asking food pantries to include more culturally appropriate items (like produce, meat)
- Offer your services at a different time of the month than other sources
- Provide the list of resources to the clients and connect with new business owners.
- Update list of local food pantries.
- Connect with local farmers
- Break barrier walls
- Awareness
- Wrap around services
- Refugee community garden using local Land Bank plots close to refugee populations
- understand culturally preferred foods
- Update resource list and share with clients
- Calling the food banks to talk about eligibility and advocating during direct contact.
- Build more connections
- partner with local transportation agencies
- Contact organizations ask

What's one realistic next step you could take to strengthen food security support in your community?

(2/3)

031

- about their services
- Provide food banks with information about culturally appropriate foods
- Looking for more resources
- Look for new connections previously non existent
- Connect with food banks on languages spoken/if interpretation services are available
- provide lists for clients with food resources in their area
- Looking for gaps
- Share weekly resources
- Do the policy work, start the resource
- Providing resources
- Partnership
- connect with culturally-specific orgs
- Create a resource list
- More resources
- Community connecting
- Provide resources
- Seamless food distribution situation

What's one realistic next step you could take to strengthen food security support in your community?

(3/3)

0 3 1

- Build food resource list first and that will lead to partnerships
- Provide resources for families
- Provide list of food banks
- Create a list of local food banks
- Connect with food banks
- Partnership