



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 7/10/2018

Agenda Placement: 10B

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: JoAnn Melgar for Mary Butler - Interim Director
Health & Human Services Administration
REPORT BY: JoAnn Melgar, Staff Services Analyst II - 707-253-4722
SUBJECT: Presentation on the Emergency Food System Study

RECOMMENDATION

Interim Director of Health and Human Services requests the Board receive a report on the progress and findings of the Emergency Food System Study.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Emergency Food System study is the result of work stemming from public and private partnerships across the City and County of Napa, funded by a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant (Invest Health), exploring the intersections of health, equity and economic development in Napa.

Local emergency food access data reveals service agency partners, policy makers, and community residents need a better understanding of the barriers to access to existing emergency food services (including cash aid, bulk and prepared food) from the standpoint of the user and eligible non-user, in order to surface opportunities to improve program services, system coordination and service expansion. The goal of the study is a blueprint of emergency food service improvement opportunities that result in an end to food insecurity in Napa. Ending food insecurity in Napa will require significant community engagement and sustained commitment by a diverse array of stakeholder groups working in partnership to achieve collective impact.

Execution of the study was made possible by grant funding from Kaiser Community Benefits, The Peter A. and Vernice H. Gasser Foundation, Queen of the Valley Community Benefits and Health & Human Services Agency, and extraordinary collaboration and partnership with more than forty community partner agencies who serve the demographic and geographic spectrum of Napa County residents.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**The components of Napa County's Emergency Food System:**

1. Cash Aid Programs: Women, Infant & Children (WIC) Program, CalFresh
2. Prepared Food Provision Programs: Meals on Wheels, public school Free-and-Reduced-Cost Meal Program, local Soup Kitchens (The Table, Salvation Army, etc.)
3. Bulk Food Distribution Programs: Food Bank/Food Pantries, USDA Program, Senior Brown Bag Program, Friday Free Market program

Background to the User-Centered Study of Emergency Food in Napa County

This study is a result of public and private partnerships across the City and County of Napa working on a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant (Invest Health) exploring the intersections of health, equity and economic development in Napa. Local emergency food access data reveals service agency partners, policy makers, and community residents need a better understanding of the barriers to access to existing emergency food services (including cash aid, bulk and prepared food) from the standpoint of the user and eligible non-user, in order to surface opportunities to improve program services, system coordination and service expansion. The goal of the study is a blueprint of emergency food service improvements that result in an end to food insecurity in Napa. Ending food insecurity in Napa will require significant community engagement and sustained commitment by a diverse array of stakeholder groups working in partnership to achieve collective impact.

2016 Invest Health Grant

Invest Health is an initiative designed to bring together diverse partners from small and mid-sized United States (U.S.) cities across the nation to develop new strategies for increasing and leveraging private and public investments to accelerate improvements in neighborhoods facing the biggest barriers to better health. The program is a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Reinvestment Fund.

Invest Health priorities:

- 1 **BRING TOGETHER DISPARATE SECTORS** in small and mid-sized communities to align around a vision for better health, create innovative ideas, and unlock new sources of investment;
- 1 **ADVANCE SYSTEMS-FOCUSED STRATEGIES** that reach across sectors to support health improvement in low-income communities; and
- 1 **USE DATA AS A DRIVER** for change, beginning with an evidence-based understanding of the problem and continuing to a data framework for assessing impact.

Who are the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation & Reinvestment Fund

About Reinvestment Fund

Reinvestment Fund brings together individual investors, banks, government officials, private foundations and faith-based and community organizations to invest in projects that transform communities. As a federally certified community development financial institution (CDFI), they manage \$897 million that comes from over 865 investors. Through strategic investment, leadership in public policy, and data analysis, CDFI puts resources in the communities of greatest need in the manner that achieves the greatest good—because everyone should have the opportunity to live in a diverse and economically vibrant neighborhood. Over the last 32 years, they have put \$1.9 billion to work for communities across the country.

About Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is the nation's largest philanthropic organization dedicated solely to health. Since 1972, RWJF has supported research and programs targeting American's most pressing health issues – from substance abuse to improving access to quality health care. RWJF's goal, through the use of grants, is "to improve the health and health care of all Americans." It has \$9.2 billion in assets and generates approximately \$400 million in grants each year. Those grants are made for a range of health issues, including access to care, childhood obesity, and training for doctors and nurses. Other areas of interest and investment include social and economic factors that can impact health, including quality of housing, violence, poverty, and access to fresh food.

Who is the Napa Invest Health Team

Napa's Invest Health team is made up of Lark Ferrell, City of Napa Housing Authority Manager; Mitch Wippert, Chief Deputy Director of Health & Human Services; Jennifer Palmer, Napa County Project Manager; and Monica Covarrubias with Queen of the Valley Community Benefits.

Invest Health Project Work

The Napa Invest Health team has explored project work at the intersection of health, equity and economic development in Napa County focused on strategies to reduce the high cost of living in Napa and foster social connections to create a more vibrant community. From this, two projects emerged:

1. Increasing access to low-and-no-cost food for low-income residents to offset their cost of living burden and improve health; and
2. Increasing access to capital for low-income homeowners who wish to create flexible, rentable dwelling space within the envelope of their existing homes, as both an economic self-sufficiency strategy for those homeowners and a "housing that is affordable" strategy for low-income renters.

The presentation included in this board item is an update on the status of the first project.

Project 1: Emergency Food System Study

Napa Invest Health team project work began with a deep, data-driven look at who is accessing low-and-no cost food in Napa County from both a quantitative and qualitative standpoint. Considerable time was spent on community engagement to share what was learned:

- 1 The number of people living below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level in Napa County who are in need of help is over 35,000.
- 1 There is a direct relationship between the rising cost of rent and growing rates of food insecurity, especially among families with children, in Napa County.

- | Food insecurity has a related social isolation burden for our lowest income residents, especially among low-income older adults.
- | 8,400 children in Napa qualify for a free or reduced price meal at school, and yet only 1,200 of their families are accessing the Napa food pantry.
- | Napa has two prepared food/soup kitchens which are open Monday through Friday and serve one meal daily before 5pm, making access for working individuals and families nearly impossible.
- | Participation in Women Infants and Children (WIC), CalFresh, Food Bank programs and other services are steadily declining while overall rates of food insecurity are increasing.

What this data revealed was that our service agency partners, policy makers, and community residents need a better understanding of barriers to accessing existing emergency services (including cash aid, bulk and prepared food) from the standpoint of the user and eligible non-user, in order to surface opportunities to improve program services, system coordination and service expansion. The end goal of the study is a blueprint of emergency food service improvements that result in an end to food insecurity in Napa.

With that goal in mind, the Invest Health team developed a Request for Proposals for an Emergency Food System Study in Napa. Funding for the study came from a grants and funding from:

1. Kaiser Community Benefits
2. Peter A. Vernice H. Gasser Foundation
3. Queen of the Valley Community Benefits
4. Health and Human Services Agency funds

Additionally, Live Health Napa County completed a strategic planning cycle in 2017 to identify its three focus areas for work and the focus of the next Community Health Assessment starting in 2018. Food Access/Food Insecurity is the number one priority area. The work of the User-Centered Emergency Food System study will be a central component of the data for the work of that group and the Community Health Assessment.

LHNC Community Health Assessment & Napa County Public Health

Live Healthy Napa County (LHNC) was formed in 2012, when partners representing more than 30 organizations and groups in Napa County came together to conduct a comprehensive Community Health Assessment (CHA). The data collection process for this assessment included extensive input from community members and helped to shape Napa County's first Community Health Improvement Plan. A key priority area within the improvement plan was to address the social determinants of health, which are conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health outcomes. Access and ability to utilize healthy, nutritious food is a social determinant of health, with food insecurity being linked to obesity, type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease and a host of other health conditions.

Napa County Public Health provides backbone support for LHNC and oversees the data collection process for Community Health Assessments, which are typically conducted every 3-5 years and must include a community engagement and input process. Assessment of population health data is a core function of Public Health, as defined by CCR Title 17 section 1276, the National Academy of Medicine, and the national Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

Disaster-Related Emergency Food Addendum

The Emergency Food Provision Study original kick off date was set for October 9, 2017. This meeting was postponed due to the 2017 Napa Fire Complex fires. The meeting was re-scheduled for January 31, 2018, due to core staff being reassigned to the Recovery Operation Center. In the mean time, and addendum to the original

study was added to focus on the emergency food response by food providers (restaurants, organizations and individuals) during the 2017 Napa Fires. The purpose of that new portion was to understand, for the standpoint of the **donor** (as opposed to the main study, which is from the standpoint of the **user**), what motivated them to donate during the time-sensitive and acute emergency in October. The goal is a better understanding of the motivation and interest of donors to help inform overall strategies/recommendations to improve the system of emergency food provision at the end of the overall study. The work for the fire-related addendum was initiated at a Live Health Napa County meeting on December 4, 2017.

Emergency Food and Collective Impact

The network of programs and providers of emergency food in Napa include service agency partners, policy makers, community and faith-based organizations, and our residents themselves. With the exception of Federally funded WIC and CalFresh cash-aid programs, the majority of bulk and prepared emergency food programs receive little-to-no public funding, relying primarily on private and philanthropic donations and volunteer labor. No one local entity receives enough funding nor controls the services of emergency food distribution, and therefore making an impact will require broad engagement and collaboration. It is within that context the Emergency Food System study was initiated by Napa County, in close partnership with the diverse array of stakeholder groups serving residents experiencing food insecurity. The County's intent was to provide the necessary data to the broader network of food-aid partners in order to improve access to emergency food. At all phases of the study design and execution, community engagement and collaboration have been the hallmarks of progression and determination of next steps. Staff view the role of the County going forward as one of many essential pieces of a larger whole. Successful improvements to program services, system coordination and service expansion are dependent upon the interconnected network of providers from different sectors working together to end food insecurity in Napa.

July 10, 2018 Presentation

The purpose of the Emergency Food Study presentation is to share the results of the user-centered Study, which completed in June, including the identified areas for collaboration across service partners to address and overcome barriers to emergency food access, specific next steps Health and Human Services will take, and recommend action by the Local Food Advisory Council.

Next Steps:

Using existing appropriations, Health and Human Services will initiate or continue work in the following areas over which it has direct control:

1. Staff will make presentations to existing community groups and stakeholders across the County to share the study data and findings and expand the network of providers engaged in improving the overall emergency food system.
2. Staff will explore opportunities to expand food distribution and access for clients experiencing homelessness at the South Napa Shelter through community partnerships.

In addition, Staff are recommending the Local Food Advisory Committee review the results and findings of the study and make recommendations to the Board regarding:

1. County wide purchasing policies that could support and increase in locally sourced, sustainably grown, healthy food as a vital component of helping individuals and families gain better access to healthy food, creating quality food system-related jobs, and supporting local entrepreneurship.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . Food Security & Insecurity Defintions

B . Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed) 2017 Napa County Profile

C . Emergency Food System Study BOS PPT

D . Emergency Food System Study BOS PDF

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Ben Guerrieri