

By the Numbers

COVID-19 and food insecurity



The COVID-19 pandemic created a “perfect storm” of increased demand for food, declines in donated food, and significant disruptions to volunteer programs, distribution methods, and other core aspects of the Food Gatherers operating model.

In the early days of the pandemic, our partner agencies reported a 30-300% increase in people seeking assistance, many for the first time. Food Gatherers' network of food pantries, grocery distributions, and meal distributions throughout the county is and will continue to be a critical resource for families, individuals, and seniors struggling with food insecurity.

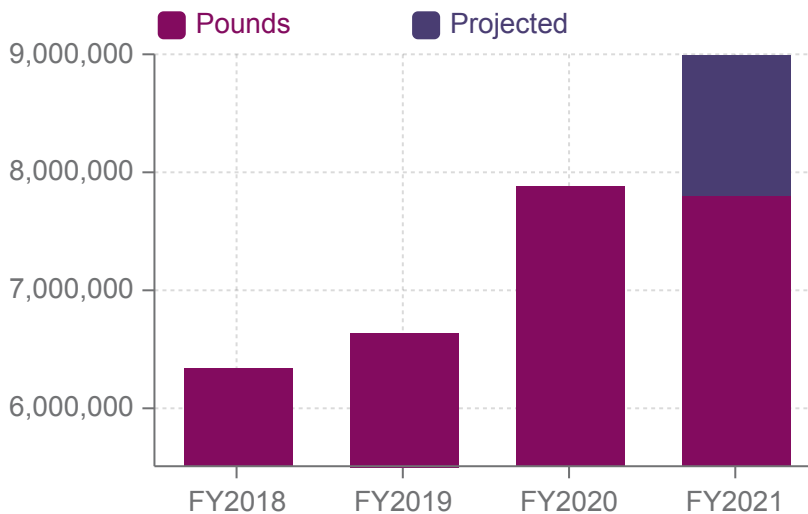
Record high food insecurity

Food insecurity has reached levels not seen since the Great Recession and is expected to remain high. Food Gatherers anticipates our elevated response will be necessary for the next 18-24 months.

40%

Of food pantry visitors in 2020 had never used a pantry before.

Increased Food Distributions



Since the pandemic began, Food Gatherers has distributed between 700,000 and one million pounds of food each month. The total food distributed in FY2021 (current) is expected to exceed nine million pounds.



Increased "Find Food" requests

COVID-19 exponentially increased the number of people contacting Food Gatherers for assistance. In March and April of 2020 there was a 450% increase in calls and a 388% increase in web visits to the Find Food webpage.

Targeted support

Food Gatherers distributed capacity-building grants to partner agencies, allowing them to continue to distribute food while adapting to the challenges of the pandemic.

