

# No Kid Hungry Initiative - Update

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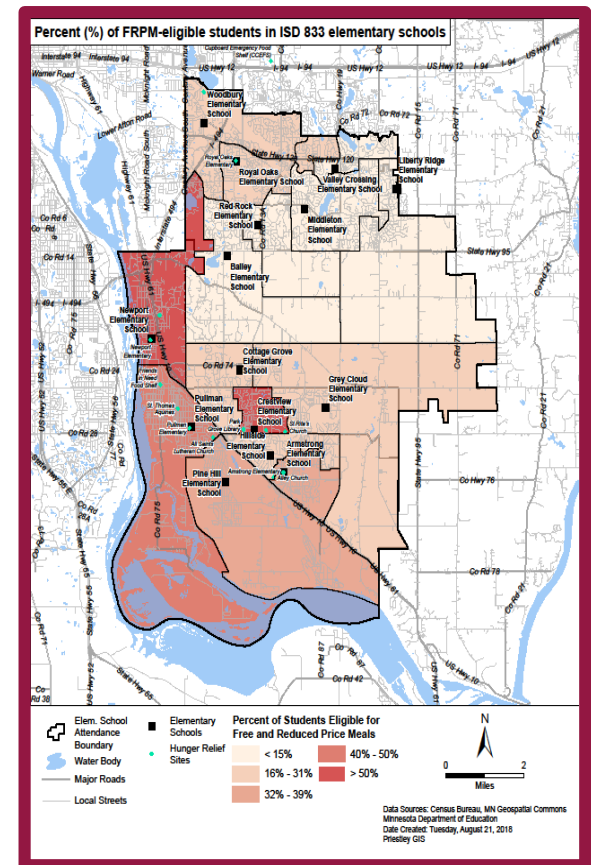
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# The Issue of Hunger in South Washington County

- 1 in 5 students are qualified to receive Free and Reduced (F/R) meals in District 833 schools
- 2 schools have 50%+ F/R students
- Need exists in every school
- South Washington County School District was selected by Second Harvest to serve as a model to learn best practices in eliminating child hunger



# Achievable Outcomes

- Maximizing federal nutrition programs throughout district
- Sustainable community plan that adapts to changing environment
- Coordination and connecting existing programs
- Leveraging the best of the community
- With a result to reduce child hunger by at least 50% in 3 years



# Assets in District 833

## Groundwork Already Laid

- Support from school district administration and staff, schools, principals, social workers and FNS
- SoWashCo CARES, Friends in Need, Christian Cupboard, Good in the Hood and several other key non-profit and community partners
- An active and caring community of volunteers including engaged business and faith communities



# Community Coming Together For Our Kids

## The Weekend Pack Program

(A Good in the 'Hood Feeding the Future Program)



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Year	Packs given out	Weight
2014-2016	1,335	4,173 lbs.
2015-2016	2,139	6,545 lbs.
2016-2017	3,302	9,906 lbs.
2017-2018	3,374	10,122 lbs.
2018-2019	1,098 (Sept/Oct)	3,294 lbs.

### Currently serving the following schools:

Armstrong Elementary\*, Crestview Elementary, Newport Elementary, Pullman Elementary, Royal Oaks Elementary \*  
Oltman Middle School, Next Steps/Pathways, Park High School, SWAHS and Woodbury High School

\*Fully supported by The Grove Church



# Community Coming Together For Our Kids

## SoWashCo CARES Food Packs

- Meals for students to take home over winter/summer break

## Winter Clothing Requests\*

- Coats, snow pants, boots and waterproof gloves needed for our students

*\*Please visit SoWashCo CARES Facebook page for entire list*





# Community Coming Together For Our Kids

## Summer Skoolie

- CESkoolie bus visited 7 locations throughout district providing free food and fun and adding 2 new reimbursable meal sites
- Over 30 community partners provided free meals, snacks and activities Monday-Thursday for 10 weeks
- Over 1000 meals served



# Bringing Everyone to the Table

Include 'end-users' to be part of the solution

- Engage families experiencing food insecurity who are trying to navigate the system
- Understanding the barriers to accessing food resources will help create solutions
- Redefine the face of hunger





# Child Hunger Research in the Communities That Comprise ISD #833



# Research Methods and Participants

## February-August 2018

### Four Community Meetings, 3-hours each

- 68 community member attendees (67 adults, 1 teen)

### In-depth interviews

- 53 end-user interviewees (48 adults, 5 teens)

### Youth-led research

- 32 respondents (5 middle school, 22 high school, 5 adults)

### System modeling

- 7 participants (5 also attended a community meeting)

### Community and sector leaders

- 12 interviewees

**157—TOTAL RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS**



# About the In-depth Interviews

- 2.7, average number of children
- 4.2, average number of distinct action steps taken
- 47.6% persons of color
- 80% female
- 58% single/divorced
- 3 Spanish speakers, 1 ASL speaker



# About System Modeling

- Developed by working group of community members and hunger relief experts
- 5 modeling meetings of 3 hours each
- Facilitated using system dynamics modeling approach from MIT and Vensim software



# About Community and Sector Leaders

## Interviews with key stakeholders within #833

- Principal
- Social workers, homeless liaison
- FNS Director
- Food shelf ED (2)

## With key sector leaders outside #833

- FNS Directors (2)
- Food justice leaders (3)
- Non-profit food sector leaders (4)



# RESEARCH FINDINGS



South Washington County Schools: Igniting a passion for lifelong learning!



# Episodic Heightened Need

Many people experience un-anticipated temporary episodes of heightened need for food resources. They are not “generationally” poor.

## Examples:

- Divorce, family structure change
- Disability to self, child, loved one
- Health, home or other major expense
- Job change/loss

## Episodic need experienced by 75% of interviewees

- For many an episode lasts for 2-3 years or less
- For some, it leads to a chain of episodes



# Episodic Heightened Need: Experiences from #833 parents

*“I was making \$90,000+ a year. Even at that career level, you’re still at a paycheck-to-paycheck kind of thing. I had a house to pay for.”*

*“I have a bachelor’s degree... I want to tell people, ‘I have children, I have a car, I’m married!’”*

*“People don’t think Woodbury has hungry people but there are. There are people who are poor and low-income who need food resources that kind of get pushed on the back burner.”*

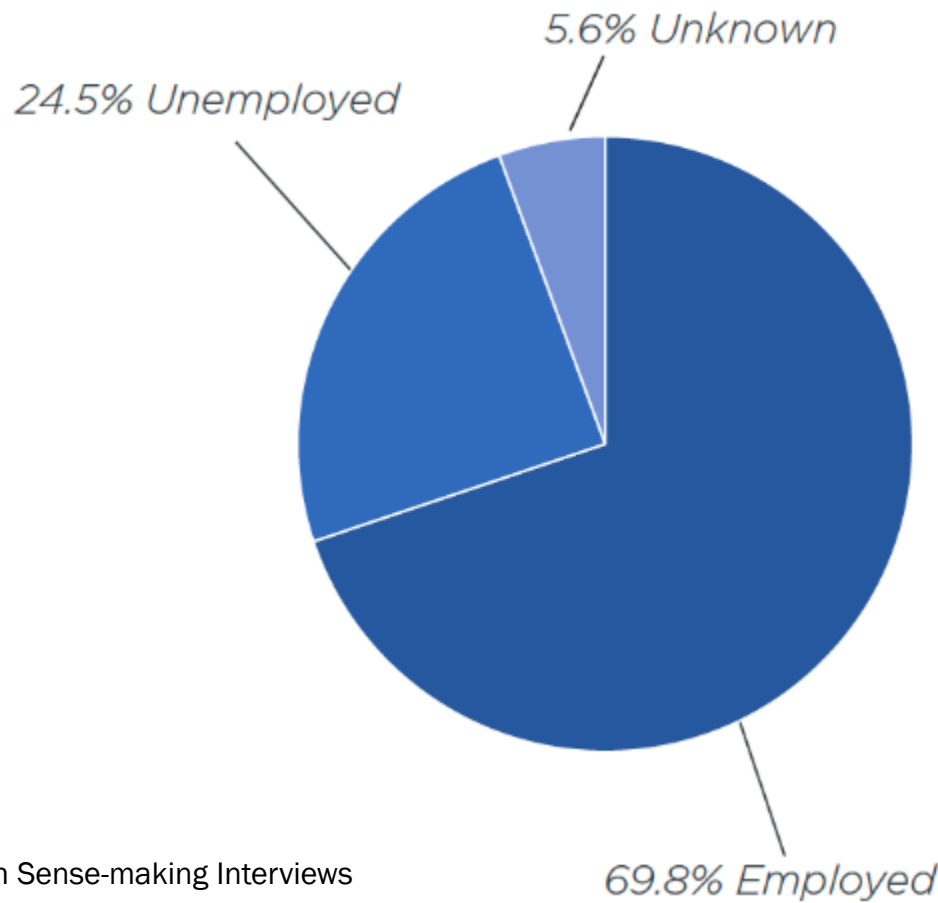
*“Ever since my wife lost her job, it’s been difficult.”*

*“It was the first time in my life that I ever had a food crisis. I wish I had been able to plan for the crisis but I couldn’t- it just happened.”*

*“My job wages went down. That was pretty much the bulk of the problem. You have the same bills but your pay is less.”*



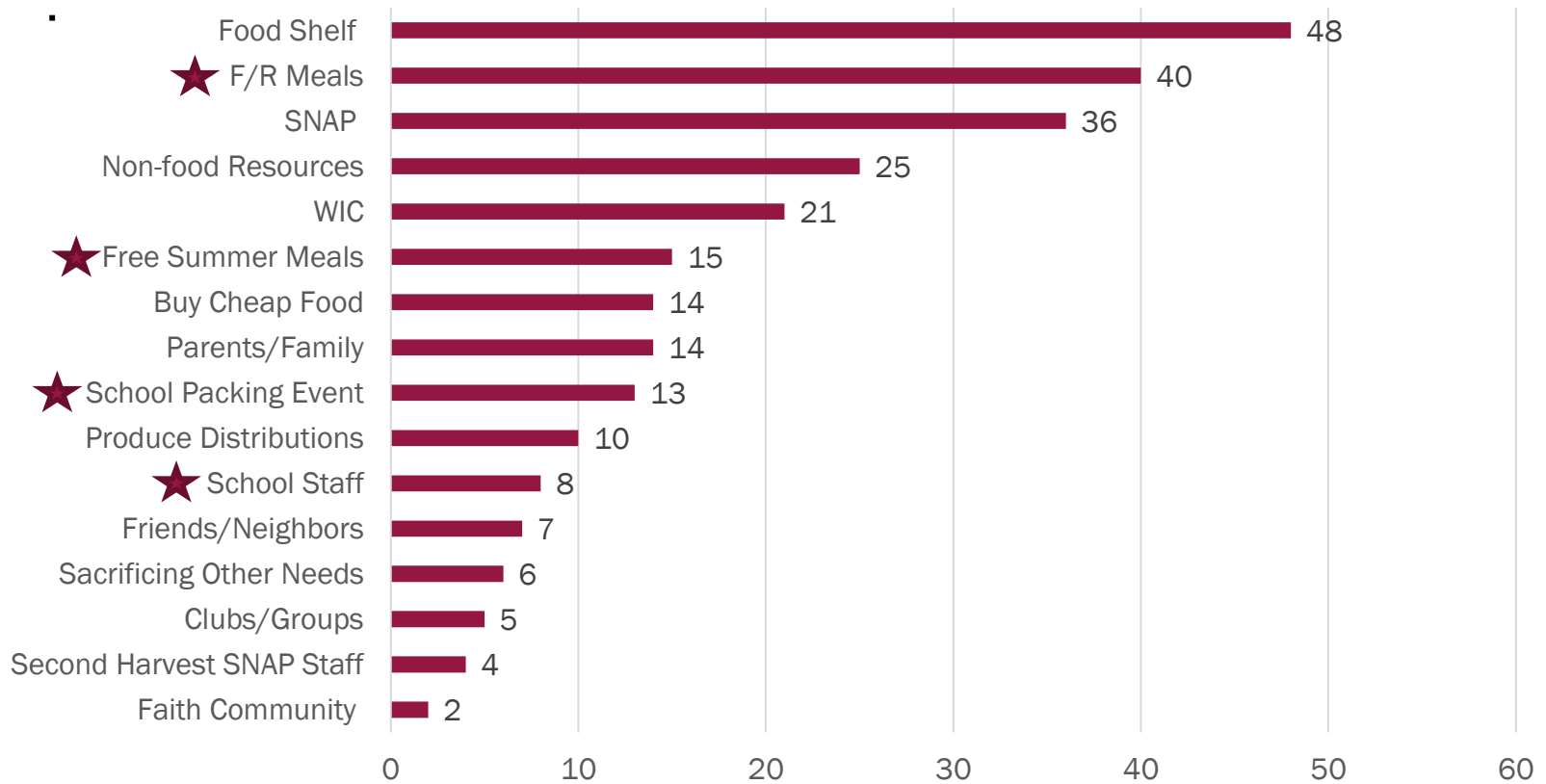
# Employment Status of Interview Participants



Data From In-depth Sense-making Interviews



# Resources Used By Interview Participants

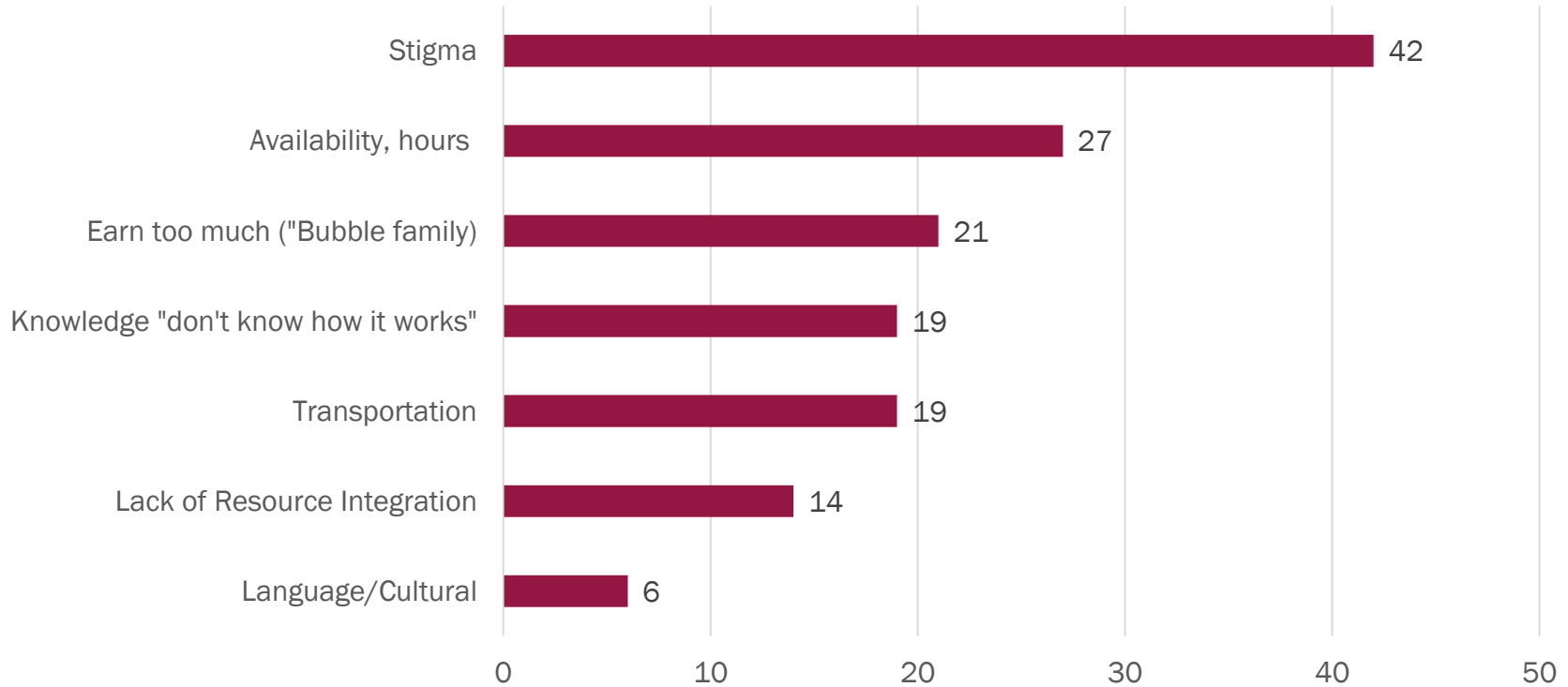


Data From In-depth Sense-making Interviews

★ School-based resource



# Barriers to Food Resource Access



Data From In-depth Sense-making Interviews



South Washington County Schools: Igniting a passion for lifelong learning!

# Barrier: Stigma/Loneliness

## Adult experience examples in #833

Detailed by 87% of interviewees

### Hunger not talked about

- “Because of the feelings of shame and the feeling that I’ve disappointed my daughter I do not reach out to friends.”

### The desire to provide for a child’s well-being overcomes the crippling effects of stigma

- “It’s embarrassing (to need food) but as a mom you’ve got to do what you’ve got to do.”
- “For me, once I get to feeling defeated, I can't sit in that, because it will break me. I can't be broken because I have two people depending on me.”





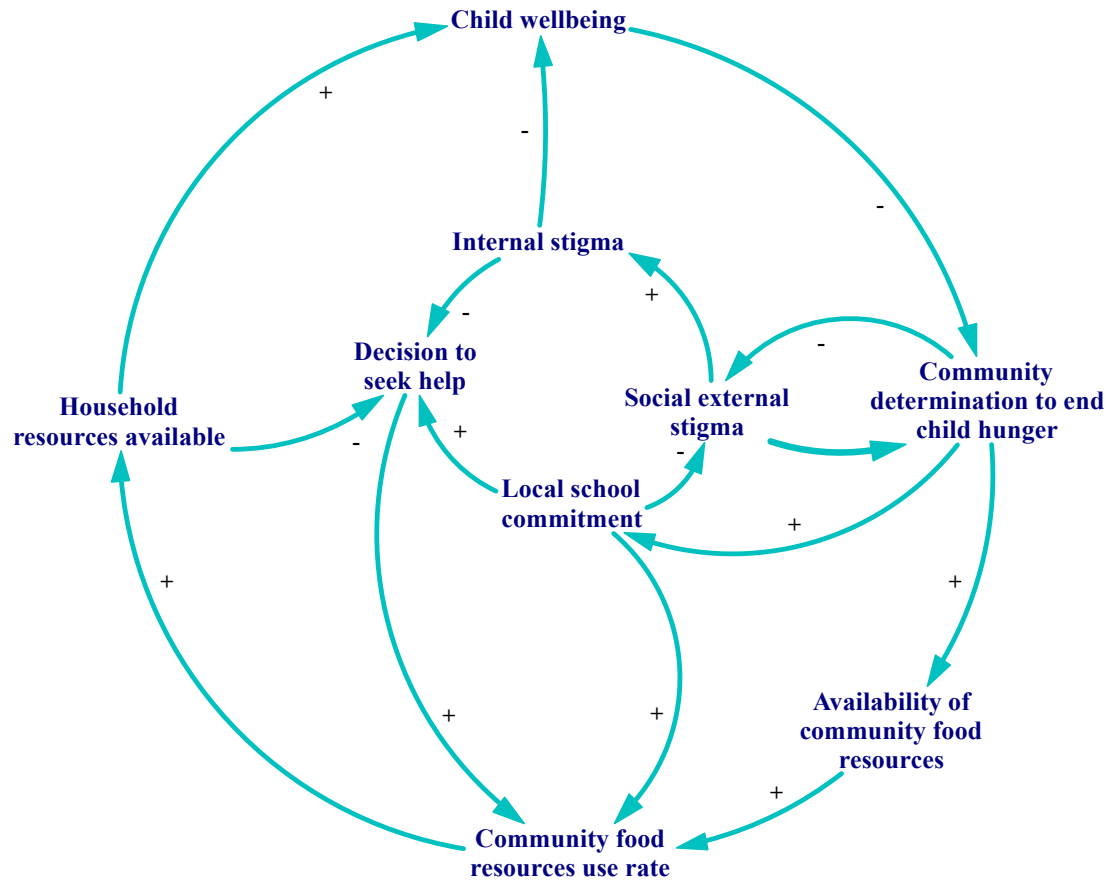
# Barrier: Stigma/Loneliness

## Student experience examples in #833

- Although there is no way to distinguish who is on Free and Reduced within the rules of the district, we heard from students that they are able to figure it out
- Students associate being a part of the free and reduced program with being lesser
- Students from Newport are called “river rats”
- Students of color were asked if they were on the Free and Reduced program because they were “black”



# What influences families' decision to seek resources



# School's Role in Addressing Child Hunger

Local School commitment has direct causal connection to three variables in the model. A school can:

1. Help lessen social external stigma felt by children and parents
2. Increase use of community food resources through better information sharing with school families
3. Support families needing help in ways that encourage families to decide to get help



# Community's Role in Addressing Child Hunger

Community determination has direct causal connection to three variables in the model. The community can:

1. Lessen the stigma in the community towards those who are food insecure with the result that the internal stigma being felt by citizens will be reduced
2. Increase the availability of community food resources
3. Work with local schools to help encourage and support their commitment to ending child hunger



# Moving Forward:

## Three streams addressing child hunger

Stream	Area and time of attention	Examples
School-led	Focus on kids on days when kids attend schools. Educate staff in best practices.	Increasing breakfast participation, after school snacks
Community-led	Focus on families with kids throughout the year	Increasing community food resources for families in need, help de-stigmatize hunger
Joint	Days when kids are not in school; summer, weekends, holidays	Partnerships, events



# Many New Efforts Since Research Results and Themes First Became Known

1. School-district has formed 3 task forces to improve students' access to food resources
2. Adaptive Planning has been sorting through the many ideas and recommendations that have come from the community and are beginning to create tactics for top priorities
3. Individual schools have increased their activity in addressing child hunger
4. SNAP outreach is increasing in several schools





Questions?

