

Community Health Improvement Plan Spotlight

Improve Access to Nutritious and Affordable Food

Arapahoe County Board of Health Meeting

3/16/25

Community Health Improvement Plan

Priority Area: Increase Economic Security and Mobility

Goal Area: Improve Access to Nutritious and Affordable Food

Objective 1: By December 30, 2025, at least 3 food pantries, in partnership with Food Bank of the Rockies, will implement Healthy Eating Research Nutrition Guidelines for the Charitable Food System to improve the nutritional quality of food and beverages distributed in Englewood, Littleton, and Sheridan.

Arapahoe Food Security Coalition



100+ Members
60+ Organizations



St Philip Lutheran Church

Funding

Grants awarded

- 3-year Cancer, Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Disease grant to reduce sugary beverage consumption and address health disparities
- OPHP Preventive Block Grant Rapid Funding award
- Anonymous donation from local foundation





Vision

The food and nutrition needs of Arapahoe County community members are met through a connected, accessible, and equitable food system.

Mission

Unite a diverse group of partners to work together towards eliminating food insecurity in Arapahoe County. We achieve this by enhancing the capacity of service providers through supportive resources and meaningful connections, enabling them to serve the community sustainably.



Values

- Uplifting diverse community voices and sharing power
- Sustainability
- Accountability
- Equitable participation
- Transparency
- Learning organization

Problem Statement

Opportunity to increase collaboration among Emergency Food Providers to better meet the needs of the community.

High need for:

- Storage
- Funding
- Volunteers



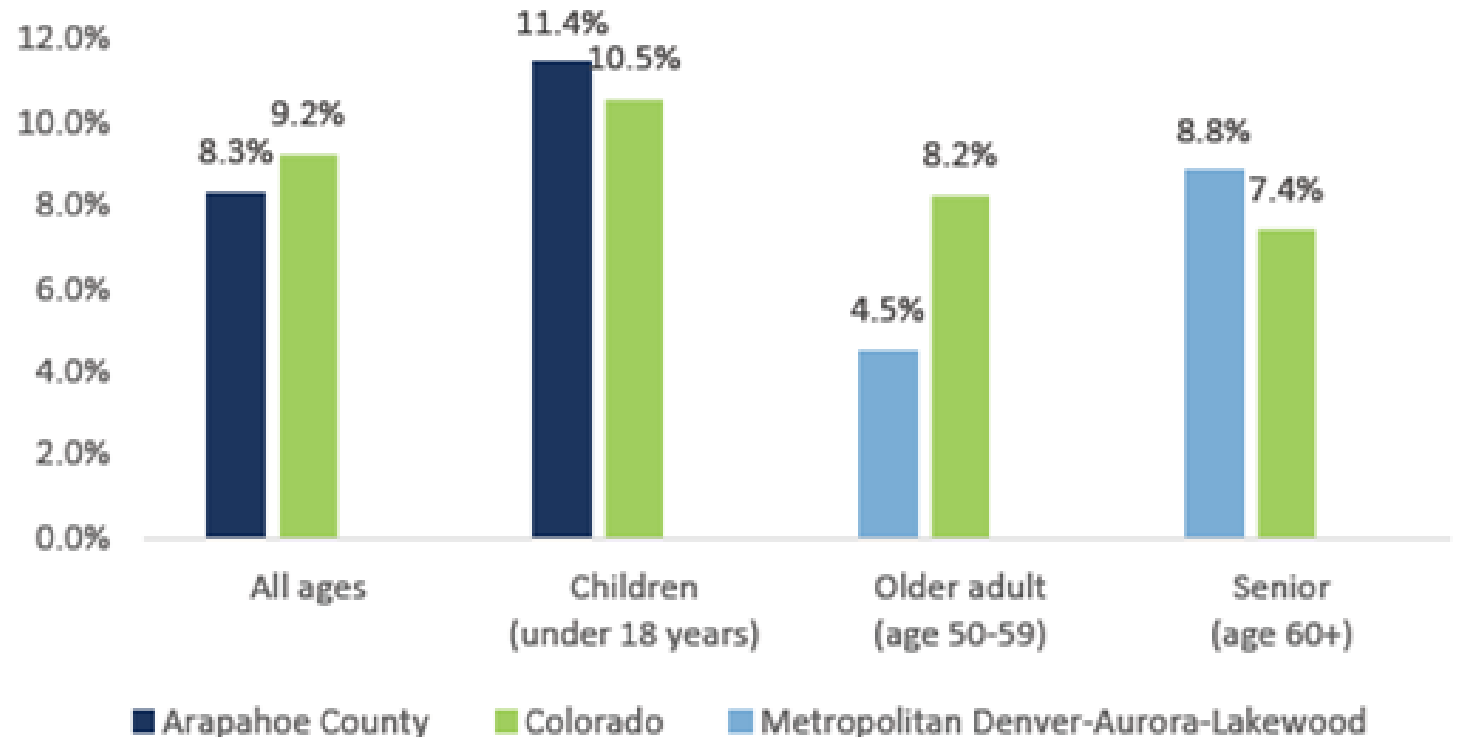
Healthy and Affordable Food

CHA Statistics

Grocery prices jumped 11% from 2021 to 2022, which may have impacted how families eat and live, especially those in lower income brackets.

Children are more likely to experience food insecurity than other age groups.

Figure 2: Food Insecurity by Life Stage, 2021



Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap and State of Senior Hunger Surveys

Q1 During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources:

You were worried you would not have enough food to eat



You ate only a few kinds of foods



You were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food



None of the above/ Prefer not to repond



You had to skip a meal



You ate less than you thought you should



Your household ran out of food



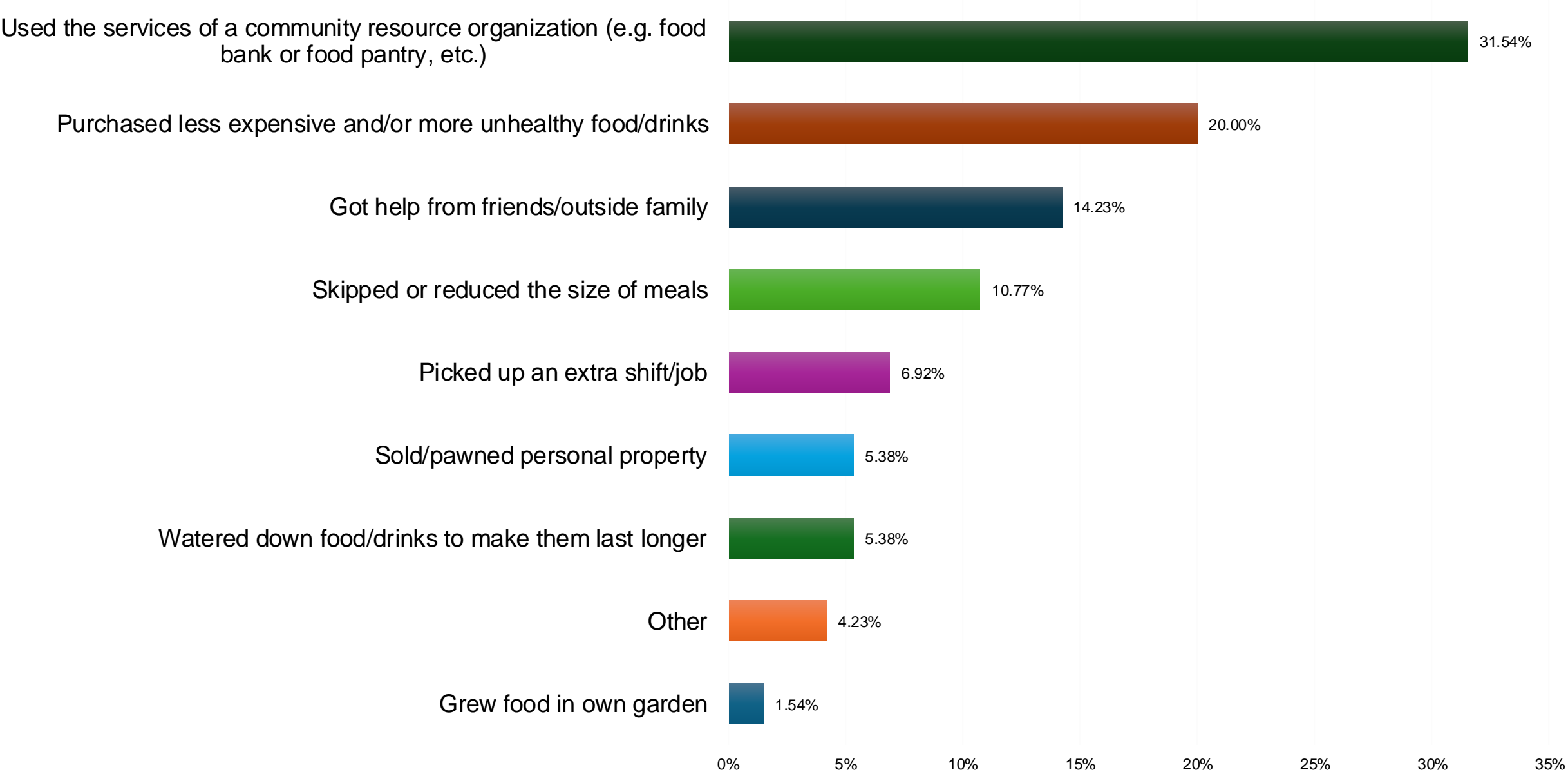
You were hungry but did not eat



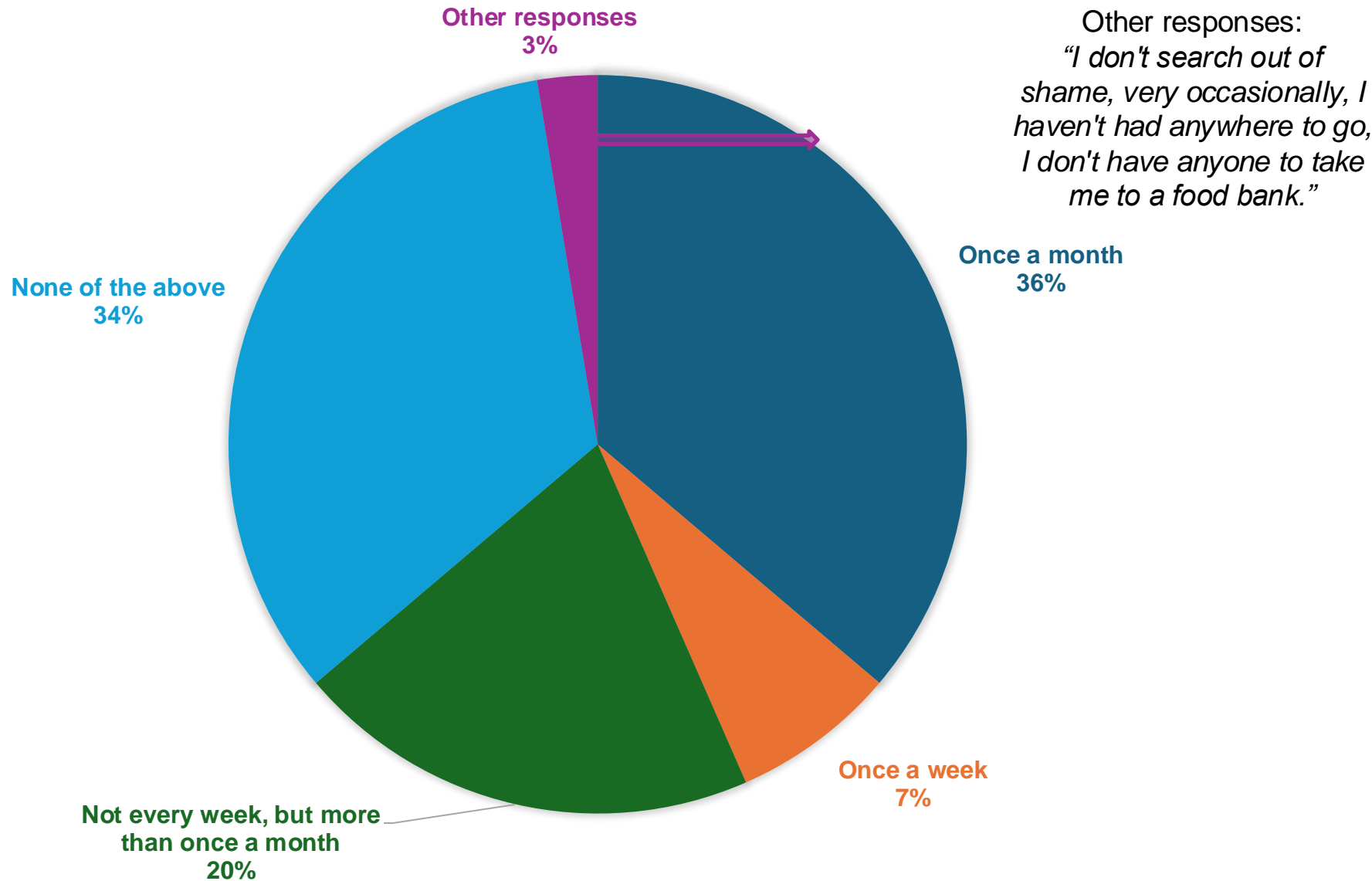
You went without eating for a whole day



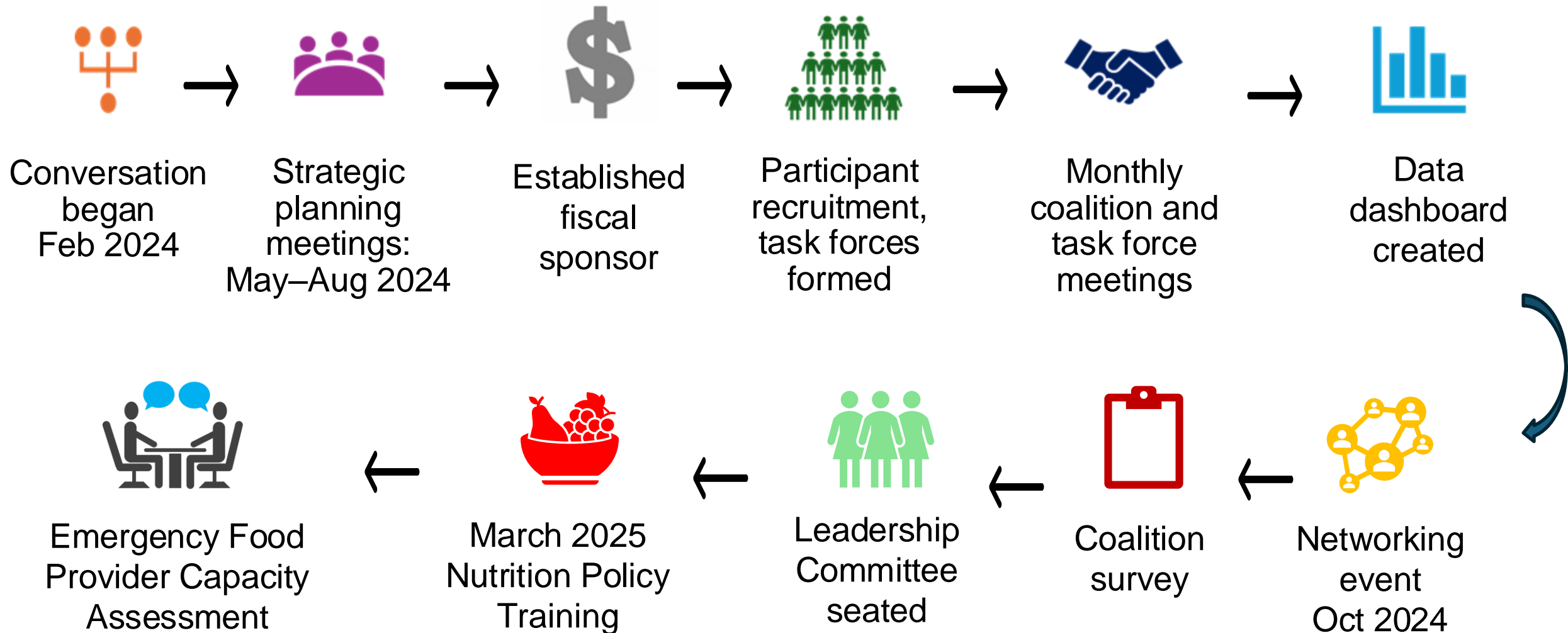
Q3 What strategies have you used to make sure you have food?



Q5 If you sought food from a community resource organization (like a food bank/food pantry), how often?



Collaborative Development Process



Task Forces

- Governance & Operations
- Data & Evaluation
- Outreach & Engagement
- Programs & Projects
- Fundraising
- Communications



Initial Learnings from Capacity Assessment

What's working

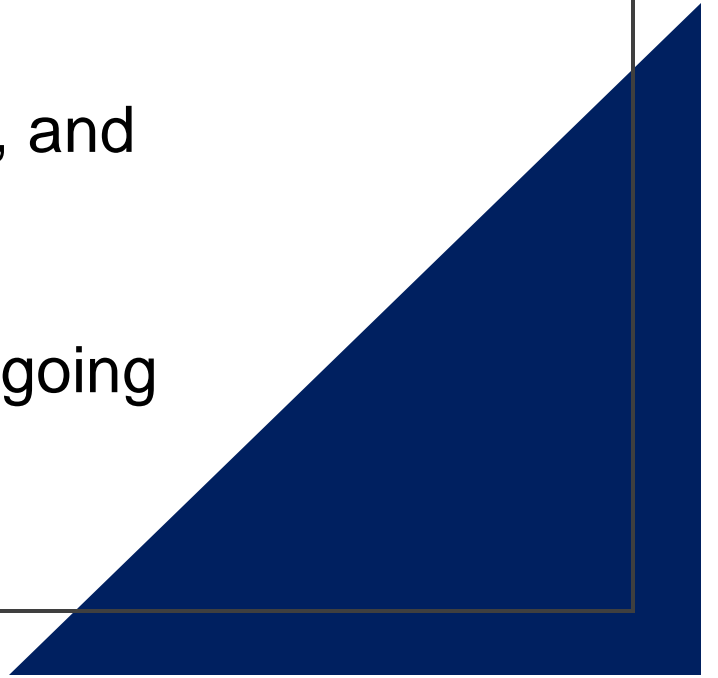
- Generous donors
- A lot of volunteers

Pain points

- Can't meet demand
- Bulk food price points are high
- Volunteers driving to Food Bank of the Rockies

What's Next?

- Increased community outreach and engagement including residents with lived experience
- Launch website
- Trainings and networking events
- Explore short, mid, and long-term capacity building projects
- Fundraising plan for staff, projects, and operations
- Roll-out of membership fees
- Performance management and ongoing quality improvements



Funding next steps

Applications not awarded

- EPA Environmental Justice grant
- Common Spirit Health Equity & Advancement Fund
- Canvas Credit Union Foundation

Grants/funding to be pursued

- Littleton Rotary Foundation
- South Metro Community Foundation
- Local donors and family foundations
- Municipal grant opportunities

Call to Action

Coalition Member Recruitment

- In-kind donations needed from local businesses and individuals
 - Graphic design
 - Communications
 - Fiscal support
 - Food donations for events

Fundraising Plan

- Introductions to:
 - Businesses that do sponsorships
 - Local private family foundations
 - Individual donors
- Assistance with collaborative fundraising among members

Questions

Leslie Levine
llevine@arapahoegov.com