



Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB)

What FY 2023 Brings





What is a Network?

Network

A Network is a group or system of interconnected people or things.

“We are stronger together than we are alone”

–Walter Payton



7/1/22-6/30/23: Partner Agencies

Network Outcomes

- Percentage of total people served: 59%
- Percentage of food distributed: 71%
- Fresh produce: 41%
- Nutritious Food: 91%

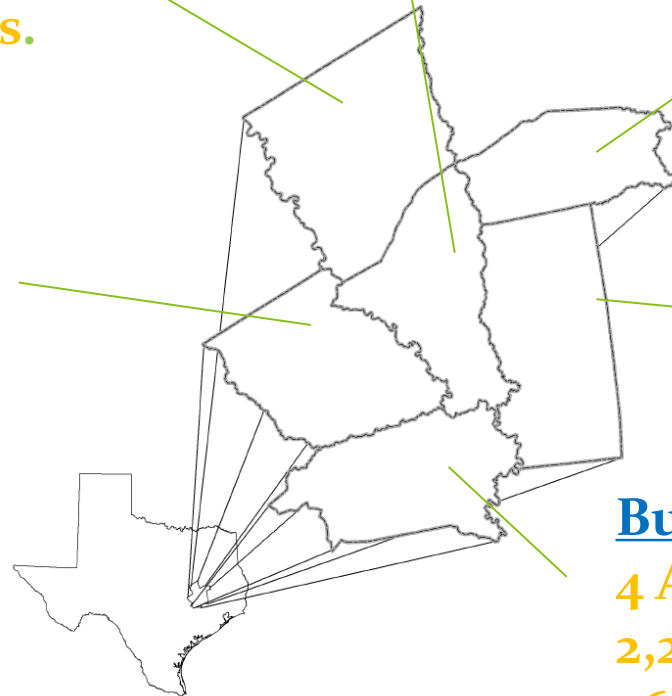
7/1/22-6/30/23: Partner Agencies

Robertson:
3 Agencies
1,043 people
405,707 lbs.

Brazos:
18 Agencies
30,294 people
3,303,457 lbs.

Madison:
2 Agencies
1,545 people
317,868 lbs.

Washington:
4 Agencies
2,871 people
502,022 lbs.



Grimes:
4 Agencies
3,478 people
500,504 lbs.

Burleson:
4 Agencies
2,227 people
367,732 lbs.

What is our Network Facing in the Near Future?

Strategic Changes with Feeding America



Feeding America (FA): Largest hunger relief organization in the US – network of US Food Banks

- Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB) affiliated with FA through our connection with the Houston Food Bank (HFB)
- Currently, BVFB is a Partner Distribution Organization (PDO) of the Houston Food Bank

What is our Network Facing in the Near Future?

Feeding America (FA):

- Immediate:
 - New aspirational contracts, with implications for all of

Feeding America (FA) & Feeding Texas (state association)

- Focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)
- Encouraging Root Cause Work
- Importance of Advocacy





Feeding America is Evolving



Feeding America has always had compliance and best practice agreements with its Food Banks

FA recently embarked on developing new Agreements, with input from Food Banks, PDOs, Food Bank State Associations and Produce Cooperatives

A Charter was also established



Feeding America is Evolving

Charter Highlights:

We believe that **no one** should go hungry, ever.

We believe there is **enough food** in America for all.

We believe in providing access to food AND fostering collaborative solutions with partners in and out of our Network to address hunger's root causes.

We believe that **equity is at the core of ending hunger** and that when we intentionally address inequities faced by people **most** impacted by food insecurity, everyone facing hunger benefits.

We believe people facing hunger best understand the realities of food insecurity.

We believe the actions we take to advance our vision will be iterative, and our understanding of optimal approaches will evolve.

We believe each step builds upon and honors our history.





Feeding America is Evolving

New Agreement of Note for Agency Partners:



- New Nomenclature
- Secure Data Sharing Encouraged
- New Standards – Service Area Assessment/Adequacy of Service

Feeding America is Evolving



NEW NOMENCLATURE: Starting 7/1/23

BVFB	≠	PDO
BVFB	=	Affiliate Food Bank (AFB)
YOU	≠	Partner Agencies
YOU	=	Agency Partners

Why?



Feeding America is Evolving



New Agreement of Note for Agency Partners:

Data Sharing

Network-wide data collection, data analysis, and data sharing capacity relating to operational performance needed

Essential to effective planning, collaboration, operations, and resource sharing across the Network in alignment with the Network Charter.

Such a capacity will facilitate the Network's broader anti-hunger and anti-poverty research and initiatives.

Feeding America is Evolving



New Agreement of Note for Agency Partners:

Service Area Assessments

County-level assessments every three years to identify communities with highest food insecurity and lowest food distribution.

Develop an operational response plan that:

- A. Includes strategies to provide more resources to areas identified in assessment with highest need/lowest food distribution
- B. Is informed by people experiencing hunger
- C. Addresses race and place-based disparities

Introduces concept of proportional distribution of food bank's resources to people facing hunger in your service area

Assessment tool provided by FA or use own (Houston Food Bank may devise their own)





Equity over Effectiveness

Food Bank resources are limited.

Therefore, **food banks** must deal with the conflict between

- Being **equitable** (working so that each individual in need has the same likelihood of being served)

and

- Being **effective** (serving the maximum number of people in need).

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Work

There is Inequity in Feeding the Hungry

- Food insecurity disproportionately impacts communities of color, recent immigrants, families with children and particularly households led by single mothers, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ community and people in rural areas
 - Feeding America

For Food Bank equity work, Feeding America is focusing first on RACE & PLACE

- Why Race? Because a person cannot change this about themselves. So, food banks may need to change priorities, resource allocation, practices to make access equitable
- Why Place? Rural takes longer and is more expensive. But needs to have equity as well.

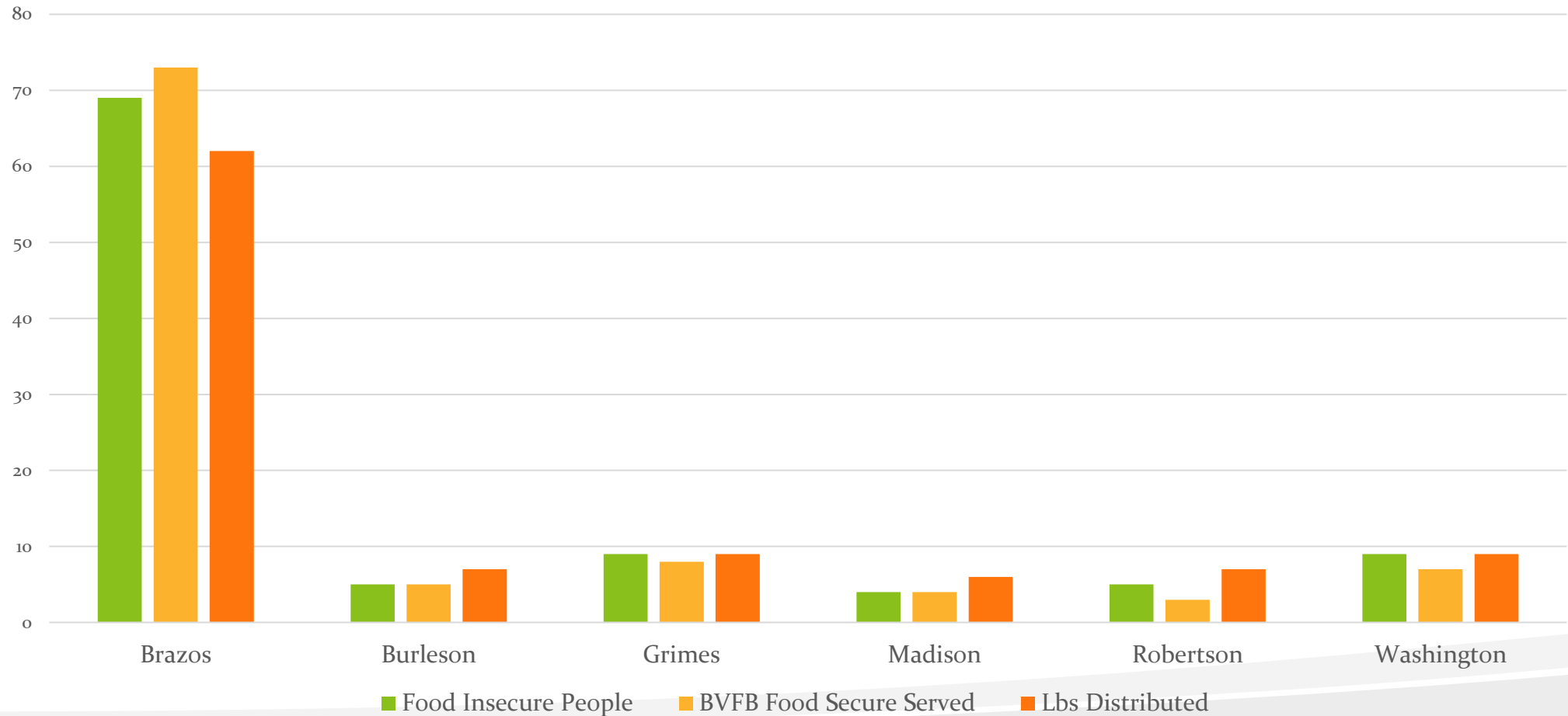


RACE & PLACE: By County, Overall, Child and Race Food Insecurity (FI) Rates

County	Food Insecurity (All)	Percentage of Population (Child)	Food Insecurity (Child)	Percentage of Population (White)	Food Insecurity (White)	Percentage of Population (Hispanic)	Hispanic FI	Percentage of Population (Black)	Black FI
Texas	13.7								
Brazos	14.2	20.7	16.9	79.6	12	27	17	11.5	29
Burleson	13	21.9	17.6	84	8	21.9	15	12	29
Grimes	14.5	22.1	21.3	81.8	15	24.8	15	14.8	32
Madison	13.9	21.5	19	75.6	11	24.8	14	20	18
Robertson	14.1	23.8	19.6	75.8	10	22.7	12	20	33
Washington	11.9	21.3	17	79.4	7	17.5	12	16.8	24



PLACE: Food Insecure People By County; People Served By County; Lbs. of Food Distributed by County





Ending Hunger Work

Root Cause Work: Can't Food Bank our Way out of hunger

Ending Hunger Tomorrow

- Food Insecurity Screen & Intervene
- SNAP Outreach/Referral Partner Program
- Nutrition Education
- Together We Grow

Description

- Doctor hunger screening, with service referrals (food, education, etc.)
- Aided SNAP applications; referral for other needs
- Classes/demos to SNAP eligible pops
- Job readiness (education/case management/counseling/financial support)

Systemic Change

Advocacy:

Texas

SNAP Asset Test

Federal

Farm Bill (increase/bolster The Emergency Food Assistance Program [TEFAP])

SNAP (protect Thrifty Food Plan increase, work supports, ensure food parity for Native American communities)

Child Nutrition Authorization (Summer EBT, permanent waivers for Summer Feeding programs)

