



# ORANGE COUNTY FOOD COUNCIL

2019 Review &  
2020 - 2021 Scope of Work

**I. Progress report 2018 - now**

**II. Scope of work for the 2020 - 2021 fiscal year**

**III.State of food insecurity during Covid19**

Update from the January 2020 BOCC Retreat



# 2018 Work Plan Progress Report

The 2018 work plan was designed to be a living document. This plan was shared with all elected boards during the process to approve the MOU to create a Food Council Coordinator position. Any changes made to the Food Council's work plan and/or the Coordinator's scope of work have been approved by the County Manager and the Council's Executive Committee.

- ★ **Progress made in all identified priority areas**
- ★ **Changes to actions came through collaboration with nonprofit agencies, community members, food system stakeholders, and county/town departments**
- ★ **Moved towards centering racial equity and lived experience**



- Facilitated partnerships with OCS, UNC, local childcare centers, and Farmer Foodshare to increase local foods in schools
- Created a Community Food Resource Guide available in multiple languages
- Facilitated Social Justice & Racial Equity workshops
- Met with food service providers to share & develop best practices for a justice approach to addressing hunger
- Presented a 'State of Food Security' report at the County Commissioner annual retreat; continuing to work with county and town staff and community partners to better understand the challenges and opportunities for addressing hunger



- Created educational infographic to show relationship between food security, affordable housing, and systemic racism
- Facilitated relationships to reduce food waste in schools and with local food businesses
- Lead the development of a regional food council collaborative
- Supported the development of SOP's at a state level for reducing food waste and increasing safe food recovery practices
- Created an Agricultural Trust Fund proposal, conducted a racial equity assessment, and transitioned this effort into the creation of an Orange County Black Farmers think tank
- Coordinate weekly turned monthly food system calls for Covid related efforts



# 2020 - 2021 Goals & Scope of Work

Develop a Food Policy Agenda (FPA is intended to be a 2+ year process)

Recruit new members to sit on the Food Council

Relationships play a central role in the FPA design and implementation process

Support the coordination of partners and activities in the local food system

Support the development of a Racial Equity Community Data Index in collaboration with the Health Equity Council



# What is a Food Policy Agenda?



## EQUALITY VERSUS EQUITY



In the first image, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports. They are being treated equally.



In the second image, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game. They are being treated equitably.



In the third image, all three can see the game without any supports or accommodations because the cause of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.

## Purpose & Structure

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Identify gaps and opportunities for improving the local food system | Develop an agreement between partners where lived experience and racial equity is centered and everyone understands their role in this work | Provide recommendations for practices and policies; recommendations will be part of an accountability framework to ensure actions create necessary change guided by the community |
|---|---|---|





## FPA design process in 2020 - 2021

- Lived experience centered in design process
- Focus on accountability + transparency
- Relationships with those most impacted essential for effective change
- Data Index as a complimentary tool for tracking outcomes
- Participating in other long-term planning processes to help identify areas for deeper collaboration and shared learning across sectors and jurisdictions





# **State of Food Insecurity During the Covid19 Pandemic**

## **Trends in the (limited) data**

- Initial spike in need happened in April followed by slow decline in May but numbers are trending up again
- Impact of federal programs
- Changes from April to now
- What to expect in the coming months

## **Learning from those with lived experience**

### **Intersectional nature of food insecurity**

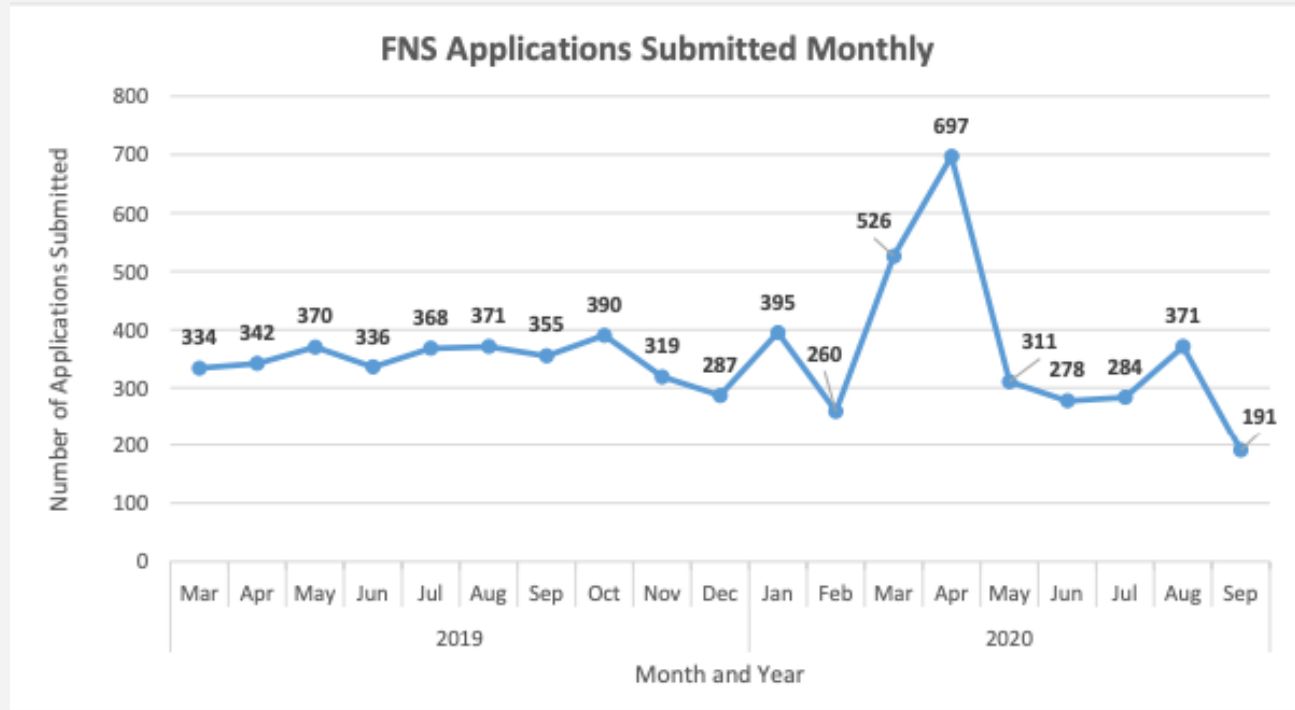
- rent eats first

### **How race and place impact food insecurity**

- systemic issues that have been exacerbated during the pandemic but predate this crisis)



# Food and Nutrition Services



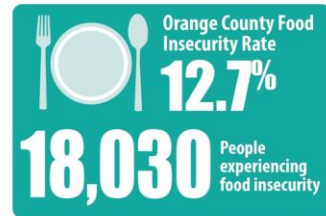
# Numbers from Food Providers

| Month          | Meals Served | Caloric Intake |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| March 2020     | 34,000       | 23,606,800     |
| April 2020     | 99,491       | 61,976,540     |
| May 2020       | 69,999       | 48,111,345     |
| June 2020      | 86,622       | 57,654,660     |
| July 2020      | 28,240       | 19,344,400     |
| August 2020    | 18,450       | 12,638,250     |
| September 2020 | 18,310       | 12,542,350     |
| October 2020   | 14,030       | 9,610,550      |
| Total          | 369,142      | 245,484,895    |

Average of **48K meals served weekly** since March 2020

# Infographic from February 2020

## Food Insecurity in Orange County



### The impact of housing costs and wages

\$2,252 or \$14.08 per hour = maximum gross monthly income to qualify a family of 3 for SNAP.  
The same family making a living wage of \$14.90/hour will no longer qualify for SNAP.



### Stories behind food insecurity

- Cost of food exceeds funds available
- Lack of transportation especially in rural areas
- Falling in between the gaps: not eligible for nutrition services but limited food budget due to cost of living (housing costs and low wages)
- College students often not eligible for nutrition services like SNAP
- Fear of endangering immigration status
- History of unjust policies has a more severe impact on communities of color and rural communities

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### How race and place impact food insecurity

Poverty is a root cause of food insecurity and cannot be separated from systemic racism and the unique challenges that impact rural communities. Historically, policies like redlining and segregation in housing and the workforce have kept people of color from owning homes and working in higher wage jobs. The legacy of these practices continues to influence food insecurity. Current policies and practices within the Federal Nutrition Service programs like

SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) have been shown to disproportionately impact black communities and other communities of color in part due to this historical legacy. According to the USDA and the Food Research and Action Center, "rates of food insecurity were much higher for households headed by African Americans (21.2% - two and a half times the rate for white non-Hispanic households) and

Hispanics (16.2% - two times the rate for white non-Hispanic households). Additionally, people living in rural areas often experience the highest rates of food insecurity. Limited transportation, lower wage jobs, and the lack of grocery stores all contribute to lower food access in non-urban communities.



# Food Insecurity Report

**Coordinator will share this report by early December with all the jurisdictions in Orange County**

- More details from frontline communities and food providers
- Supply chain challenges and lessons
- Updated infographic to show changes due to the pandemic
- Comparison of overall FNS participation from 2019 to now





# QUESTIONS?

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