

Hunger and Food Access

Janice Tweet, Data Insights Manager



Agenda

- Great Plains Food Bank
- Ending Hunger 2.0 Initiatives
 - Hunger on the Plains 2023
 - Cultural Foods Initiative
 - Cass Clay Hunger Coalition
- Legislative Updates
- Questions

Great Plains Food Bank



Food Banking 101

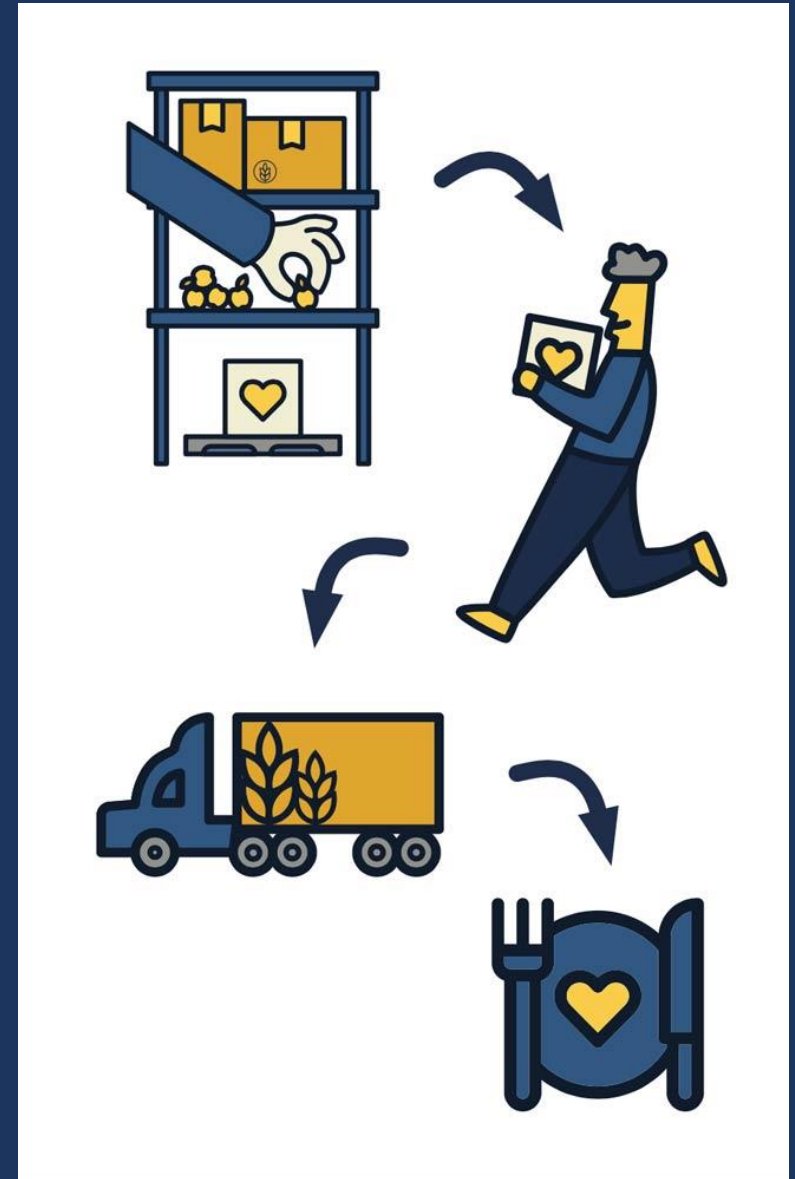
Feeding America - a nationwide network of more than 200 food banks serving the United States.

Food Bank - charitable not-for-profit organization that solicits, receives, inventories, stores and distributes donated food and grocery product to charitable agencies that directly serve clients in need, such as food pantries or meal programs.

Food Pantry - charitable feeding program that distributes groceries and other basic supplies to needy clients, who then prepare and use these items where they live.

Food Insecurity - a household's inability to provide or access enough food for every person to live a healthy life.

Food Assistance Partner - not-for-profit organization (food pantries & soup kitchens) that receives food from GPFB.



Our Mission:

Ending Hunger Together

Our Vision:

A Hunger-Free North Dakota
and Clay County, Minnesota

Our Values:

Passion, Service, Innovation



Our 3 Bold Goals

Ending Hunger
TODAY

We are **doers**,
filling immediate needs
of our neighbors.

Ending Hunger
TOMORROW

We are **collaborators**,
tackling the root causes
of hunger.

Ending Hunger
FOR GOOD

We are **builders**, constructing
a future where hunger
doesn't exist.

Programs and Services

- Backpack Program
- Youth Summer Meals Program
- School Pantry Program
- Senior Food Pack Program
- Mobile Food Pantry
- Wellness Pantry Program
- SNAP Outreach/SNAP Rx
- Disaster Response
- North Dakota Diaper Bank



Partner Agency Year in Review 2022

- 193 partner agencies across 100 communities
- 11,895,254 pounds distributed
- 138,439 individuals served
 - 34% children
 - 15% seniors
 - 51% adults
- 1 in 6 people

Cass and Clay Counties 2022

- 52 partner agencies
- 4,494,736 pounds distributed
- 37,137 individuals served
 - 35% children
 - 11% seniors

Ending Hunger 2.0 Initiatives



Hunger on the Plains

- Service area wide survey taken on every four years
 - Neighbor Experience Survey
 - Partner Agency Survey
- Outcomes
 - Hunger on the Plains 2023
 - County analyses
- Inform strategic direction
 - Wellness Pantry Program

Methodology

- Data collected March-June 2022
- Neighbor Experience Survey
 - Goal 500 surveys
 - 6 survey minimum per county
- Partner Agency Survey
 - Food pantry and meal site partner agencies
- Full report shared March 2023
 - County analyses May 2023

Our neighbors and their households are diverse

37% children

17% older adults

14% of households include a veteran

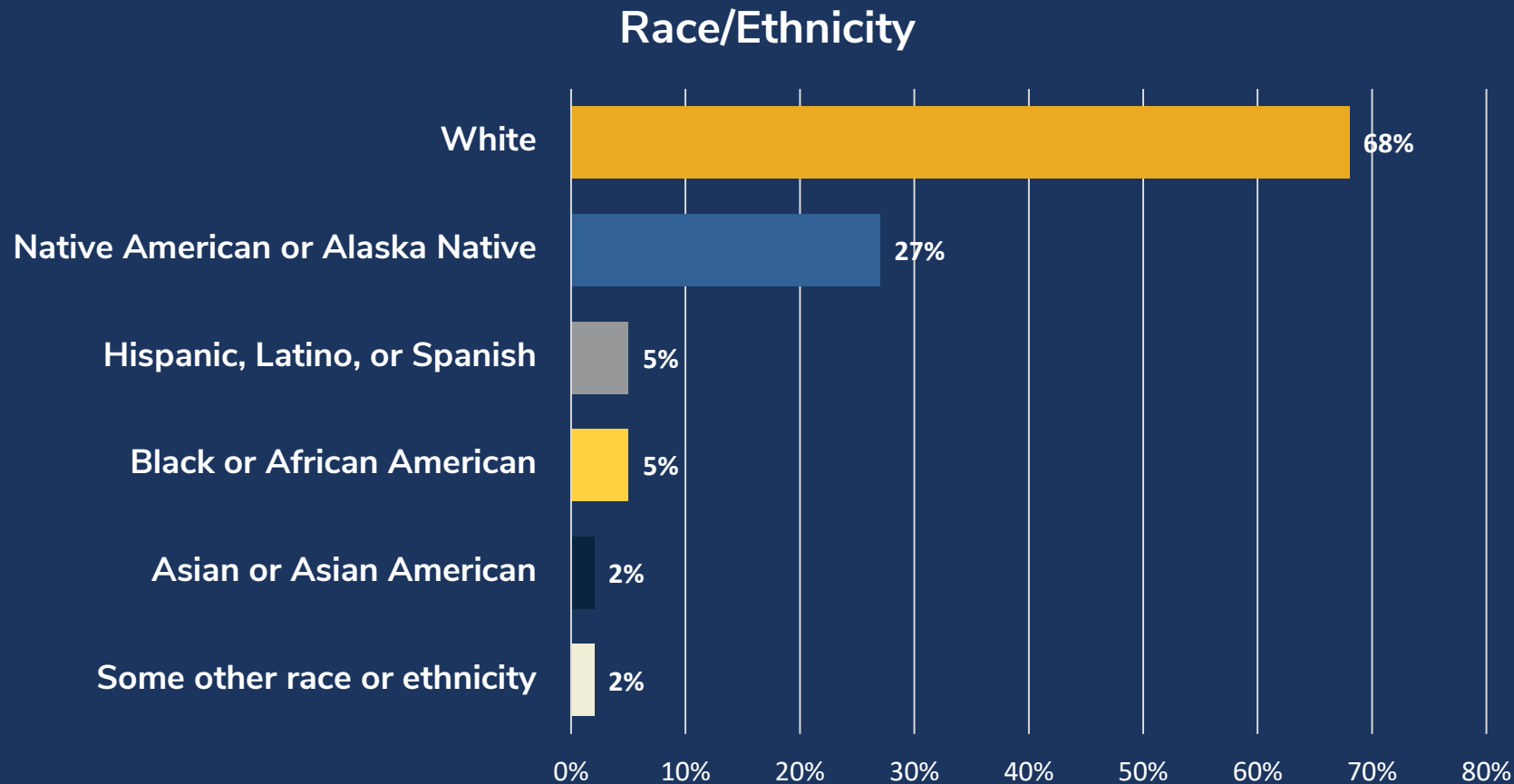
13% of households have a single caregiver

8% of households have a grandparent caring for a grandchild



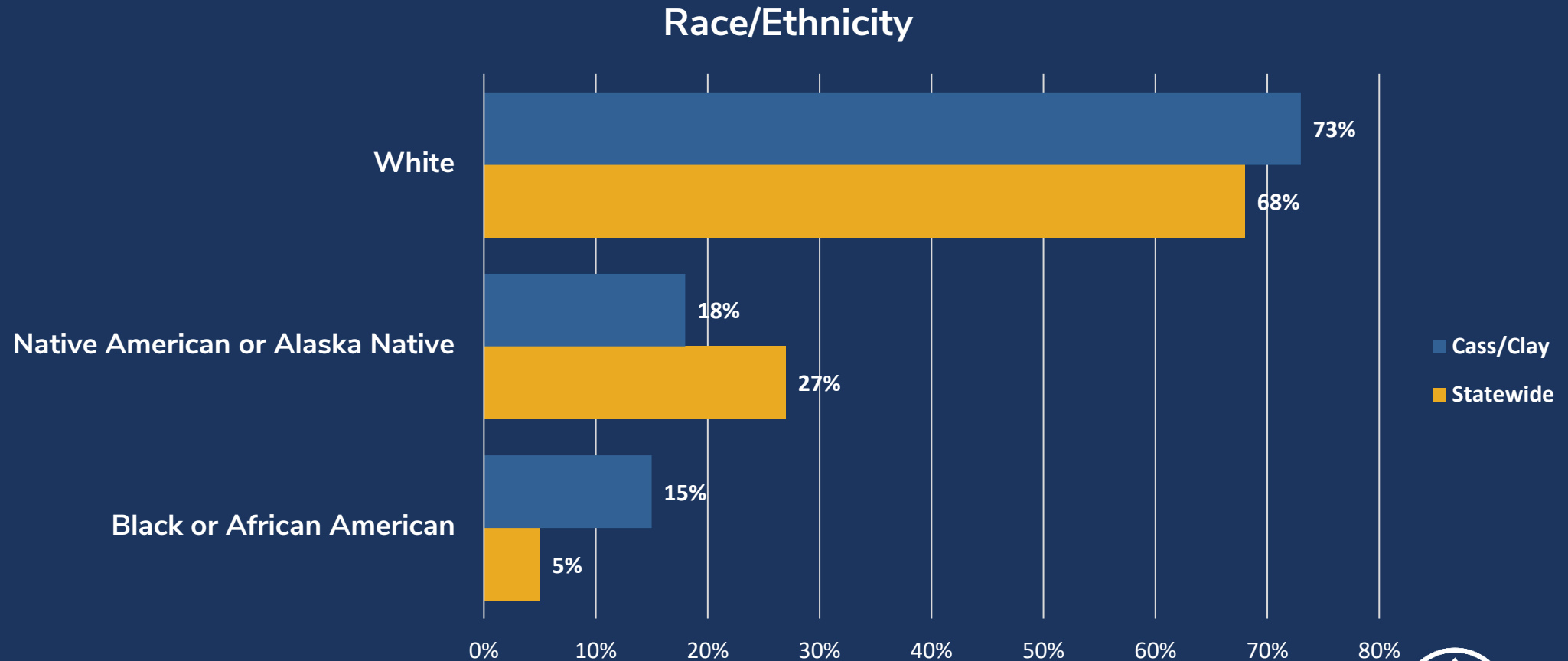
**GREAT PLAINS
FOOD BANK**

Our neighbors and their households are diverse



Our neighbors identifying as Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native face hunger at 7x the rate of the general population in our area.

Race/Ethnicity in Cass and Clay Counties



Transportation is a barrier to neighbors in accessing the foods they need

71% travel 20 miles or less to access food

1 in 3 do not have access to a vehicle that runs

45% of respondents have had trouble accessing free meals/groceries because they did not have:

- access to a car or public transit
- couldn't afford gas/fare
- had trouble carrying their food home

Transportation in Cass and Clay Counties

34% would find it easier to get the food they need if they had home delivery

40% do not have access to a vehicle that runs

46% of respondents have had trouble accessing free meals/groceries because they did not have:

- access to a car or public transit
- couldn't afford gas/fare
- had trouble carrying their food home


To Learn More

**HUNGER
ON THE PLAINS
2023**

RESEARCH REPORT

A study of the charitable feeding network and those it serves in North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota conducted by Great Plains Food Bank.

Released March 2023

 **GREAT PLAINS
FOOD BANK**

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**HUNGER
ON THE PLAINS
2023**


ELEVATING NEIGHBOR AND PARTNER VOICES TO END HUNGER


As the only food bank in North Dakota, the Great Plains Food Bank has been working to end hunger since 1983. Through a network of nearly 200 partner food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters in addition to our direct service programs, we recover and distribute millions of pounds of food to those seeking assistance. Our mission to "End Hunger Together" is built upon strong partnerships, programs, and solutions allowing us to increase clients' access to food while decreasing the barriers they encounter. Working with volunteers, food and financial donors, community champions and advocates, together, we are committed to serving the people in our region each day.

Information is a powerful tool in our mission to end hunger. Research is a foundational part of our ability to identify who experiences food insecurity, understand the reality of hunger, and inform transformational solutions. For over a decade, the Great Plains Food Bank has facilitated large-scale studies independently, in partnership with Feeding America, and with other research institutions. What we learn is integral to our work and an important driver of our strategic direction. This data has led to successful advocacy efforts at the state level, stronger relationships with key partners, and development of emerging or current programs.

This study, *Hunger on the Plains (2023)*, synthesizes insights from two questionnaires including a neighbor experience survey and a survey of our food pantry and meal site partners. Each survey had a unique sample population, sampling protocol, and analysis. Combined, these results shed light on the experience of hunger across our service area. With this knowledge, we can truly center our efforts in equity, build stronger communities, and effect lasting change for our neighbors facing hunger.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED HIGHLIGHTS THE OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD OF US TO IDENTIFY INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AS WE WORK TO REDUCE FOOD INSECURITY RATES TO 5% BY 2030.

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FOOD BANK**

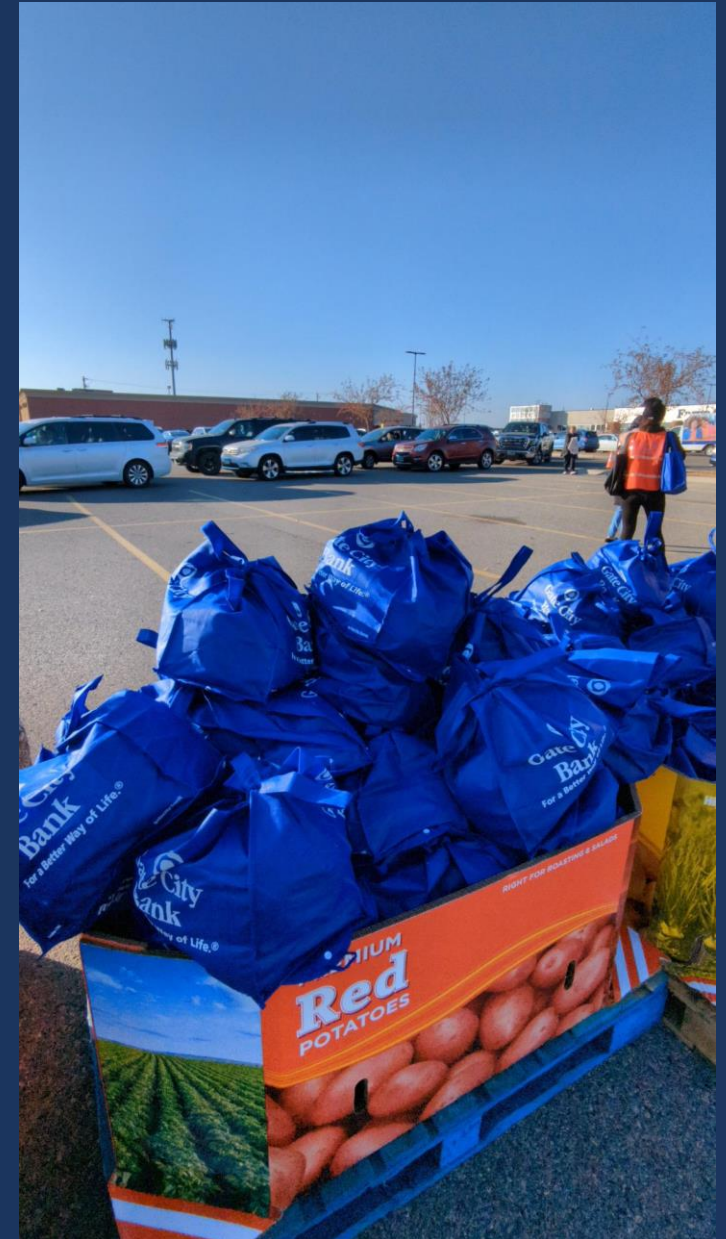


Cultural Foods Initiative

- Connecting with communities
 - Focus groups
 - Task force
 - One on one conversations
- Outcomes
 - Meaningful food lists for partner agencies
 - Translated materials
 - Cultural information
 - Targeted solutions

Cultural Foods Pop-ups

- *Challenge:* New American, Immigrant and Refugee community leaders reaching out needing more food assistance for their communities.
- *Solution:* Creating low barrier pop-up distributions with culturally relevant and medically tailored foods.



Cass Clay Hunger Coalition

We see a healthy community built on collaborative solutions that supports equitable access to food while addressing the root causes of hunger.

- Monthly meetings
 - First Tuesday of the month, 8:15, United Way
- Annual Hunger and Health Summit

The logo for the CassClay Hunger Coalition is displayed on a white rectangular background. The word "CassClay" is written in a green, sans-serif font, with "Cass" and "Clay" joined together. Below it, the words "HUNGER COALITION" are written in a smaller, grey, all-caps, sans-serif font.

CassClay
HUNGER COALITION

Legislative Updates

School Meals

North Dakota

- Lunch provided to all students whose family income falls at up to 200% of poverty
- \$6 million over 2 years allocated
- Lunch shaming bill

Minnesota

- Breakfast and lunch provided to students at no cost
- Schools must participate in federal school meal program
- Expected cost \$400 million over two years

Food Pantry/Food Bank Funding

North Dakota

- \$1 million to the Great Plains Food Bank

Minnesota

- \$5 million to food shelves
- Application period in April
- Funds awarded May 2023

Great Plains Hunger Advocate

- Monthly emails
- Periodic action alerts
 - North Dakota Legislature
 - Farm Bill



Cass Clay Food Commission

- Advise policy makers and elected officials in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area on how to assure that residents have access to safe, nutritious, and affordable foods.
- Meet every other month, excluding July
- Next meeting
 - Wednesday, May 10
 - 10:30-12:00
 - City of Fargo Commission Chambers

Questions?

Thank You!

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