



INTER-FAITH FOOD SHUTTLE

Strategic Plan 2025-2030

Who We Serve

Market Summary

Food Security vs Insecurity

Joint Market Served

Market Demographics

Generational Markets



14%

1 in 7

The food insecurity rate in North Carolina was 14%, meaning 1 in 7 individuals faced food insecurity.

13.5%

17.9% w/children

These rates surpass national averages for 2023, where the overall food insecurity rate was 13.5% and 17.9% for households with children.

26%

Black

22%

Hispanic

Disparities exist with Black and Hispanic communities experiencing food insecurity at much higher rates at 26% and 22%, respectively, compared to white individuals at 10%

Food Security

High food security (old label = Food security): no reported indications of food-access problems or limitations.

Marginal food security (old label = Food security): one or two reported indications—typically of anxiety over food sufficiency or shortage of food in the house. Little or no indication of changes in diets or food intake.

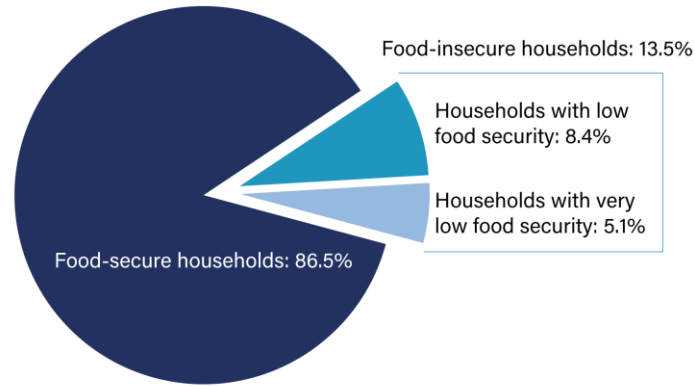
versus

Food Insecurity

Low food security (old label = Food insecurity without hunger): reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet. Little or no indication of reduced food intake.

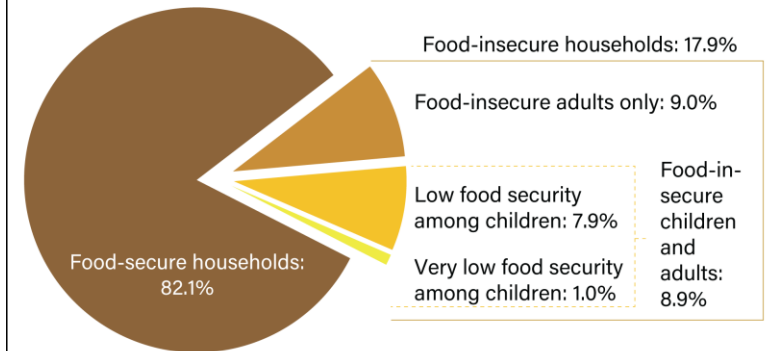
Very low food security (old label = Food insecurity with hunger): reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.

U.S. households by food security status, 2023




Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2023 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data.

U.S. households with children by food security status of adults and children, 2023

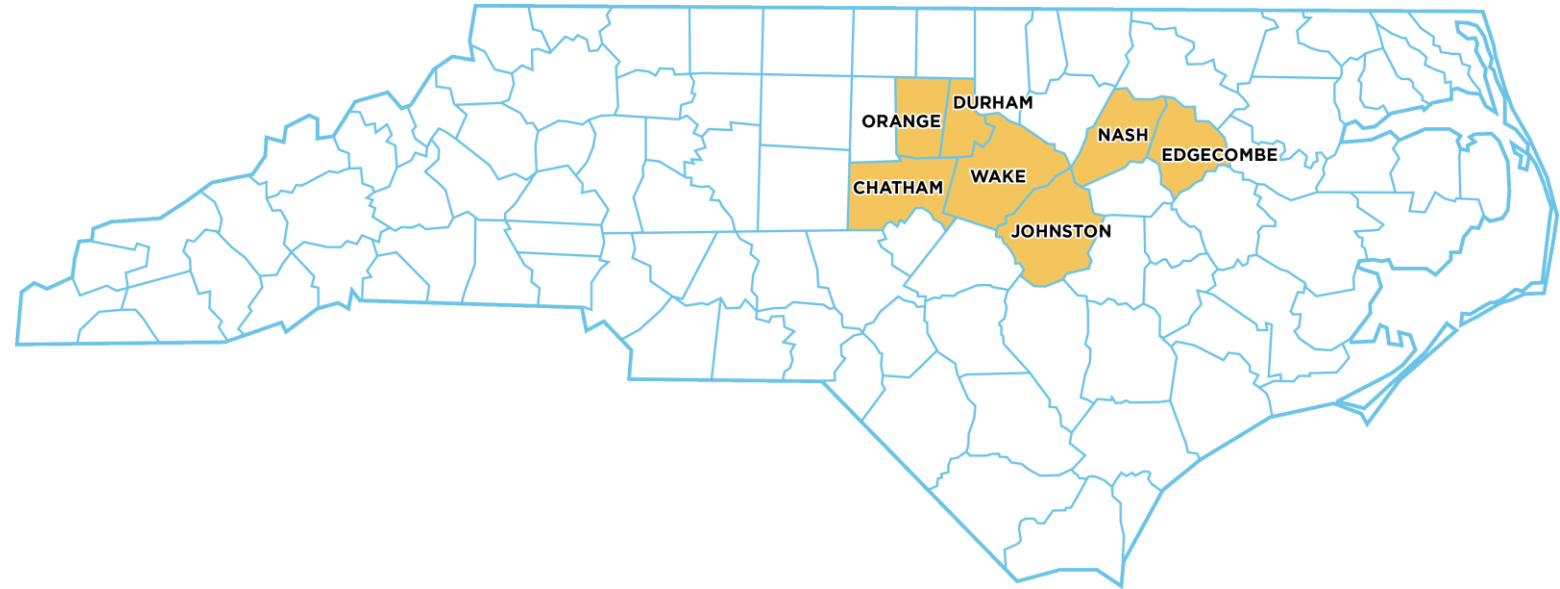



Note: In most instances, when children are food insecure, the adults in the household are also food insecure.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2023 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data.

FIRM	DESCRIPTION	CHATHAM	WAKE	NASH	JOHNSTON	DURHAM	EDGECOMBE	ORGANGE	TOTAL
 INTER-FAITH FOOD SHUTTLE <small>FEED · TEACH · GROW</small>	People to Serve	1.8K	23.7K	2.7K	5.5K	7.7K	1.7K	1.7K	46.8K
	Pounds Distributed	363.1K lbs	6,415.2M lbs	444.7K lbs	471.7K lbs	3,164.1M lbs	732.2K lbs	89.1K lbs	11,680.5M lbs

SHARED COVERAGE AREA



 foodbank <small>OF CENTRAL & EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA</small>	People to Serve	5.4K	71.2K	8.2K	16.6K	23.1K	5.3K	10.4K	140.5K
	Pounds Distributed	978.4K lbs	15,490.0K lbs	3,574.2M lbs	9,841.2M lbs	7,701.8M lbs	2,499.0M lbs	2,440.5M lbs	42,525.4M lbs

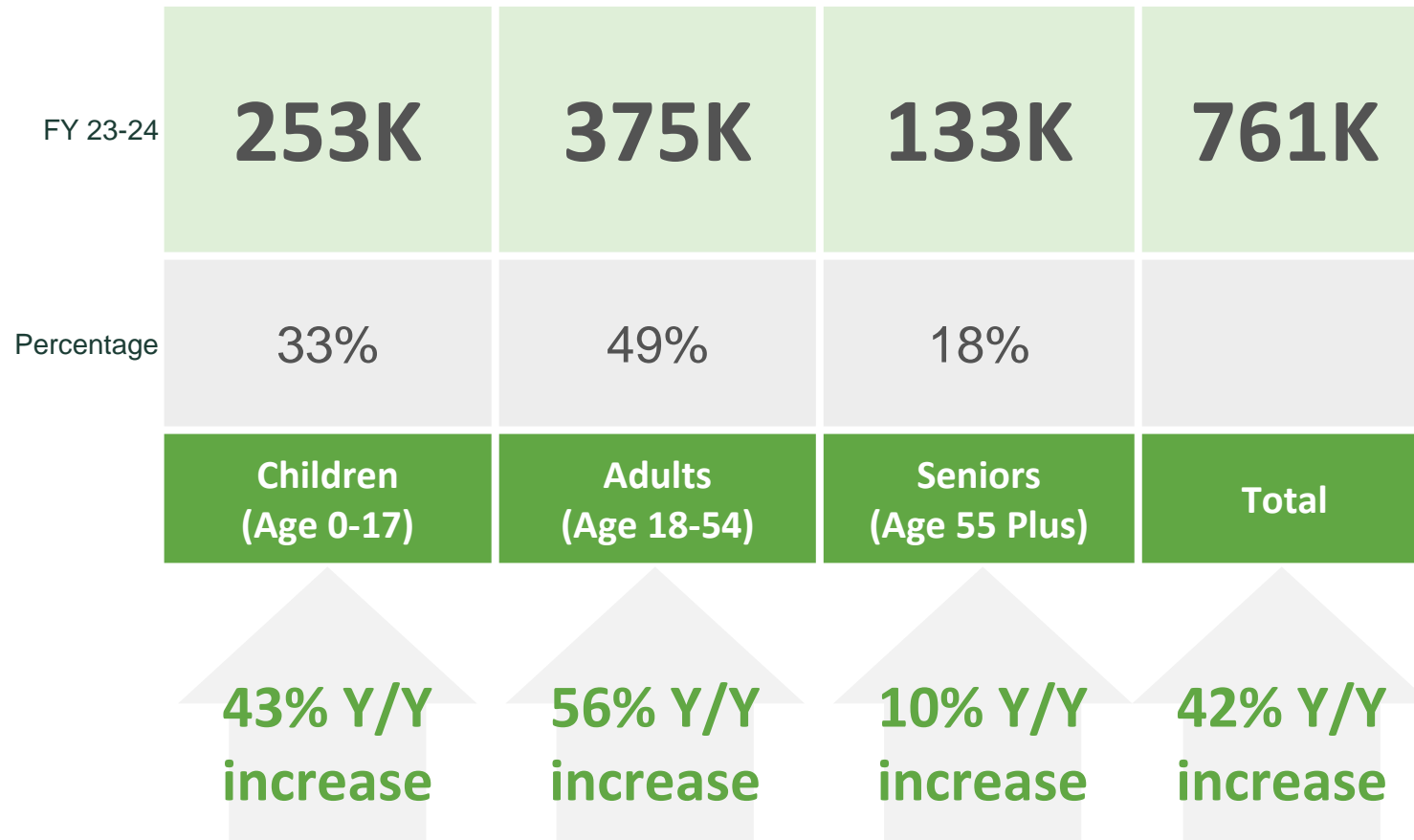
COVERAGE AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

FY 23-24	11K	227K	370K	5K	1.7K	0.2K	111K	19K
Percentage	1.48%	30.46%	49.58%	0.71%	0.24%	0.04%	14.91%	2.58%
	Asian	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	Multi-Racial	Native American	Pacific Islander	White Caucasian	Other (Not Listed)

600K people
80% of insecure population

Highest areas of growth without coverage contemplated

GENERATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS



Our Mission

We **FEED** our neighbors, **TEACH** self-sufficiency, and **GROW** healthy foods, by cultivating innovative approaches to end hunger.



FEED

Increase
The
Harvest



TEACH

Pathways
Through
Educations



GROW

Building
Self-
Sufficiency

We RESPECT each person's inherent value and give due regard to the autonomy, boundaries, feelings, rights, and identity of ourselves and others.

We approach everything we do with INTEGRITY and commit to hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards.

We COLLABORATE to build strong relationships by seeking out the input and counsel of our community who share our vision for an improved quality of life for all.

We believe HEALTH is the foundation of any community. We are dedicated to elevating the physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional well-being of our staff, volunteers, and the communities we serve.

We commit ourselves to achieving EQUITY by going to the point of need and building trusted relationships within our communities to advance just outcomes for all.

Our Core Values



FEED Programs

Overview

Winning Strategies

FEED Programs

Goals & Metrics



FEED Programs | Increasing the Harvest

Increasing the Harvest, we aim to address these critical gaps by increasing food recovery, refining our food distribution systems, and forming strategic partnerships to ensure that no one goes hungry. This initiative focuses on improving the efficiency, reach, and impact of our services for children, seniors, and communities in need. By streamlining supply chains, enhancing collaborations with retailers, and expanding child feeding programs like Backpack Buddies and school pantries, we are committed to reducing hunger while promoting food, health, and nutrition security in the regions we serve.



BackPack Buddies provide children from food-insecure homes with healthy weekend meals during the school year.



School Pantries provide fresh produce, meats, and non-perishable foods to community members.



Grocery Bags for Seniors supplement fixed incomes of older adults with fresh produce and groceries.



Agency Distribution and Mobile Markets of groceries, prepared meals and fresh produce to meet people at their point of need.

FEED Programs | Winning Strategies



Retailer Partnerships for Food Recovery:

Strengthening relationships with retailers will allow us to recover more food and reduce the need to purchase additional supplies. By forming new partnerships and optimizing existing ones, we will increase the volume of food recovered, ensuring that it reaches the people who need it most.



Decreasing the Food Distribution Gap:

There is often a gap between the amount of available food and the actual pounds distributed to communities. We will close this gap by refining our distribution methods based on comprehensive community assessments, ensuring that food is efficiently distributed to underserved populations.



Streamlining Supply Chains:

Improving the efficiency of our supply chain operations is critical to reaching food deserts and underserved communities. We will invest in supply chain optimization, creating sustainable distribution models that can reliably meet the chronic hunger needs in these areas.



Expanding Child and Senior Feeding Programs:

Special attention will be given to expanding our child feeding programs, such as Backpack Buddies and school pantries, while also increasing support for senior feeding initiatives. By ensuring that vulnerable populations have consistent access to nutritious food, we will build stronger and healthier communities.



Expand Meal Production and Distribution

Increase the volume of nutritious meals prepared and delivered to underserved communities, schools, and partner agencies, ensuring that every meal is balanced and culturally appropriate.

FEED Programs | Goals & Metrics

- 1 Food Recovery and Reduced Purchases:**
By 2030, we aim to increase retail partnerships focused on food recovery by 20%, resulting in a 30% increase in food recovered by 2027 and reducing purchased food needs by 10%. This will free up resources for program expansion and community impact.
- 2 Food Distribution and Child Programs:**
Expand child-focused food distributions by 2027, increasing school pantries by 30% and establishing mobile markets in schools without permanent pantries. Summer and holiday feeding programs will be expanded by 2026 with neutral-cost delivery methods.
- 3 Supply Chain and Senior Support:**
By 2026, implement supply chain improvements targeting food deserts to ensure effective food distribution. By 2027, enhance senior feeding programs by partnering with local organizations, with success measured through increased participation and satisfaction.
- 4 Meal Preparation and Cultural Relevance:**
By 2026, increase meal production to 200,000 meals annually, with 90% satisfaction for culturally tailored meals. We will also form 20 new meal delivery partnerships by 2028.



TEACH Programs

Overview

Winning Strategies

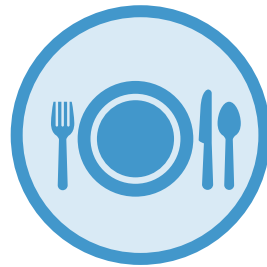
TEACH Programs

Goals & Metrics



TEACH Programs | Pathways Through Education

Through our **Create Pathways through Education** initiative, we are empowering underserved populations with both culinary and agricultural skills, equipping them to secure higher-paying positions, improve nutrition, and combat diet-related illnesses like diabetes and hypertension. Integrating agricultural education teaches individuals how to grow and source fresh, healthy ingredients, fostering self-sufficiency, sustainable practices, and long-term nutrition security. As we expand, we aim to be the leading provider of highly skilled, diverse talent for top-tier hospitality chains in the region while building a healthier, more resilient community capable of managing and preventing chronic illnesses through better nutrition and sustainable agriculture.



Community Health Education empowers people to meet their food needs and get the most nutrition out of a limited budget.



The **Culinary Apprenticeship Program** breaks the cycle of poverty through job training and placement.



Agriculture Education through Community Gardens promote healthy food access and sustainable food systems.

TEACH Programs | Winning Strategies



Target Underserved Populations

Focus on Hispanic and African American communities by offering tailored culinary programs, providing skills for higher-paying positions, and creating sustainable career paths out of poverty.



Scalable Nutrition and Culinary Education

Develop scalable nutrition education initiatives alongside culinary training, empowering participants to make healthier, budget-conscious food choices while addressing long-term health challenges.



Expand Access to Nutritious Meals and Career Opportunities

Combine culinary education with job placement to ensure participants gain both skills and resources, while also expanding access to nutritious meals for local communities.



Hands-On Agriculture and Sustainable Learning

Engage all age groups in hands-on learning through agriculture education, teaching sustainable farming, gardening, and food systems, integrated into existing community programs.



Partnerships and Career Pathways in Agriculture

Build partnerships with schools and nonprofits to promote agriculture as a viable career, offering internships, certifications, and emphasizing food justice and equity in affected communities.

TEACH Programs | Goals & Metrics

- 1 Nutrition Education Expansion**
Reach 2,000 underserved parents and students annually through healthcare-informed curricula, with 75% reporting improved nutrition knowledge and habits.
- 2 Culinary Skill and Job Placement Success**
Achieve a 75% graduation rate for the Culinary Apprenticeship Program, with 80% of graduates demonstrating culinary competency and a 90% job placement rate, adding 10 new hospitality partners annually.
- 3 Comprehensive Sustainable Curriculum**
Develop and implement a multi-tiered curriculum on agriculture and food systems, with 100% curriculum completion within 12 months and 85% positive participant feedback.
- 4 Hands-On Agriculture Education**
Engage 500 students annually across 10 local schools in farm-to-classroom programs, promoting environmental literacy through hands-on gardening and sustainability activities.
- 5 Apprenticeships, Internships, and Community Engagement**
Offer 50 paid apprenticeships and internships annually, aiming for 70% job or further training success, while hosting 20 community workshops and engaging 500 participants in urban farming education.



GROW Programs

Overview

Winning Strategies

GROW Programs

Goals & Metrics



Grow Programs | Building Self-Sufficiency

In a world facing growing challenges in food security, the development of sustainable agriculture and food systems is critical to building a more resilient future. Through the **GROW: Build Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems** initiative, we aim to enhance the efficiency of our farm operations, expand access to agricultural knowledge, and create long-term solutions that reduce waste, improve nutrition, and strengthen local food systems. By focusing on innovative practices, collaboration, and education, we are committed to fostering a more sustainable, equitable, health-secure, and nutrition-secure future for our communities.



The **14-acre Food Shuttle Farm** provides fresh, local, regeneratively grown produce for our neighbors.



Expansive **Community Gardens** promote healthy food access and sustainable food systems.

Grow Programs | Winning Strategies



Farm Efficiency and Investment:

- We will improve the operational efficiency of the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle's (IFFS) farm by adopting advanced farming practices, enhancing logistics, and making targeted investments in local farms. This will not only reduce costs and waste but also contribute to a more sustainable and productive food system.
- Partnering with local farmers, we will help reduce environmental impact while ensuring a steady supply of fresh, nutritious food to underserved communities.



Agricultural Education Access:

- Expanding access to agricultural education is a key part of this initiative. By partnering with schools, universities, and community organizations, we will offer hands-on learning experiences that empower students and community members with the skills needed to grow their own food and understand sustainable farming practices.
- These programs will help bridge the knowledge gap in underserved areas, promoting self-sufficiency and environmental stewardship.



Farm Yield and Waste Reduction:

- We will focus on improving farm yield while reducing food waste. By implementing precision agriculture techniques and sustainable farming methods, we can increase production while minimizing the environmental footprint of our operations.
- Waste reduction strategies, such as composting, better resource management, and more efficient harvest logistics, will ensure that the food we grow reaches more people in need.



Operational Excellence:

- Drawing from operational studies, we will close the efficiency gap by making data-driven decisions that improve resource allocation and streamline our farm and operational processes.
- This will involve regularly analyzing performance metrics to identify areas of improvement and opportunities to reduce inefficiencies.

Grow Programs | Goals & Metrics

- 1 Sustainable Agriculture Practices:**

By implementing advanced farming techniques such as drip irrigation, crop rotation, and soil health management, we will optimize resource use and aim to increase farm production by 20% by 2028. Additionally, we will reduce food waste by 15% through improved logistics, ensuring more fresh produce reaches the community efficiently and sustainably.
- 2 Agricultural Training and Outreach:**

Through partnerships with educational institutions, we will develop comprehensive agricultural training programs that provide hands-on experiences and mentorship opportunities. By 2026, we will expand access to agricultural education in underserved communities, measured by increased program participation, instructional hours, and positive feedback from stakeholders.
- 3 Volunteer Support:**

We will enhance volunteer engagement in agricultural efforts, ensuring that volunteers contribute to sustainable farming and education while also receiving valuable training and mentorship opportunities.



**INTER-FAITH
FOOD
SHUTTLE**