



Local Impact Survey: Food Bank Response

How current economic conditions are impacting the emergency food system served by Food Bank of Northern Nevada

Feeding America is the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, serving an estimated 25 million low-income Americans each year through its network of 205 food banks and their 63,000 charitable feeding agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters. Feeding America is very concerned about the economic downturn, increasing unemployment, rising food prices, and the effect these conditions are having on the emergency feeding system and the millions of men, women, and children who depend on it.

In December of 2008, Feeding America conducted a brief survey of food bank members to learn more about the challenges faced by food banks, their member agencies, and clients served. What we found was that *every food bank* respondent reported increases in demand for emergency food assistance since last year. Additionally, although the average reported increase in demand was 30% across the network, it is obvious that there is a downward trend and we will likely see continued increases in need.

It's becoming increasingly more difficult for many food banks and their agencies to meet the needs of their clients, especially when new clients arrive all the time. Many are struggling to meet this increase in demand. Here is a snapshot of what Food Bank of Northern Nevada is currently witnessing and reporting in the community it serves.

Estimated increase in demand for emergency food assistance over the past year:	At least 25%
Factors that are contributing to the increase in demand for emergency food:	Increasing Unemployment Rising Cost of Food Mortgage/Rent Costs Other
Trends in usage include:	increased need among existing clients (more repeat visits) more first-time users more children newly unemployed persons more families than before



Do you feel that you are currently able to adequately meet the needs of your community without having to adjust the amount of food you distribute or your operations?

**No.
Not only NO, but we are very concerned at this point about keeping up with the increased demand.**

Additional Comments from Food Bank of Northern Nevada

Demand has increased at least 25%.

We have increasing number of perplexing situations where people are asking eligibility questions on behalf of others. We are not sure why these folk are unable/fearful of coming forward for themselves. We are concerned about the growing demand for Food Stamps and our staff capacity to cope with that growing demand. The Fund Development Department is concerned about raising more money, has ramped up for it and at this time we are cautiously optimistic.

For further information, please contact:

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