CARE CLOSE TO HOME-DEVELOPING A PARTNERSHIP TO MEET SDOH NEEDS

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**A Community Action Agency** 

CSO is the Community Action Agency for Columbia, Montour and Northumberland counties.

- CSO Program and Services Include:
- Resource and Referrals-including SDOH Focused Intake
- Screening
- Self-Sufficiency Case Management
- Housing Programs
- Food and Nutrition
- Financial Literacy
- Workforce Development Programs



# THE COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK



The Community Action network is comprised of public and non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs) of Community Action Agencies across all 67 counties in Pennsylvania.

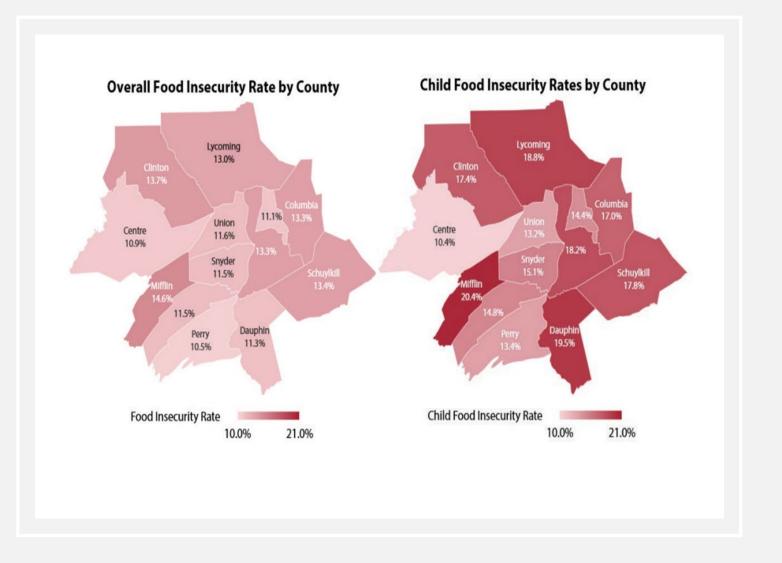


Each agency is uniquely addressing the Social Determinants of Health through various programming, informed by regular Community Needs Assessments, to understand the needs of those most vulnerable in every community.

# THE COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE

CSO's recently completed community needs assessment found that:

- More than 1 in 10 residents to not have regular access to enough nutritious food to eat.
- Nearly half of survey respondents have eaten less healthy food in the past year due to the cost.
- More than 25% of survey respondents have skipped a meal so that another member could eat.



# **PROJECT TIMELINE**



Initial conversation with Geisinger & CSO to establish relationship and review data collected from each organization

**June 2023** 



Program design and build. CSO coordinates relationships with host sites, designs trailer and hires staff. Geisinger & CSO collaborate to implement program and build referral pathways

August 2023 to June 2024



#### **May 2023**

Data analysis by Geisinger to examine regional food needs and identify targeted disparate communities who could benefit from mobile food strategy



#### **July 2023**

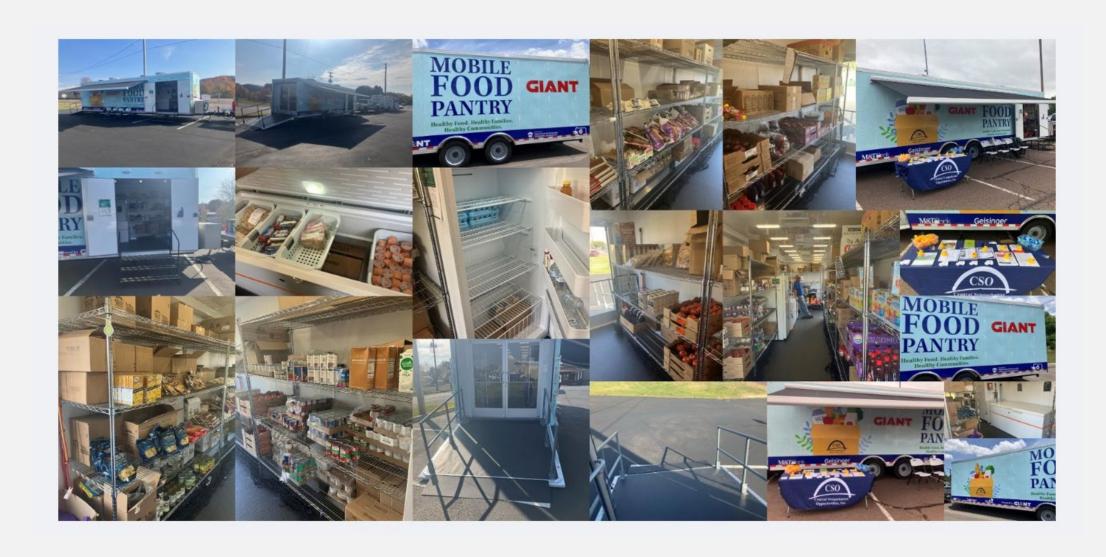
CSO creates anticipated budget. GIANT grant awarded to support mobile food pantry distribution. CSO and Geisinger begin work to conceptualize project with anticipated go-live of early 2024



#### **July 2024**

Official go-live of project! Ribbon cutting event held, 3 distributions per month in 3 counties within PA, along with integrated referral pathways utilizing findhelp platform

# **MOBILE FOOD PANTRY**



- Custom built 28-foot trailer pulled by a Ford F350
- Includes air-conditioning/heat, lighting, power awning, refrigerator and freezer
- There is a generator attached to the trailer. Also has plug capability with a 220-amp plug
- Staffed by a Community Health Worker and a driver



# **MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**



#### **Targeted Locations**

Visits multiple locations in communities to increase access



#### **Choice Pantry**

Individuals can select the items that are best suited for their family

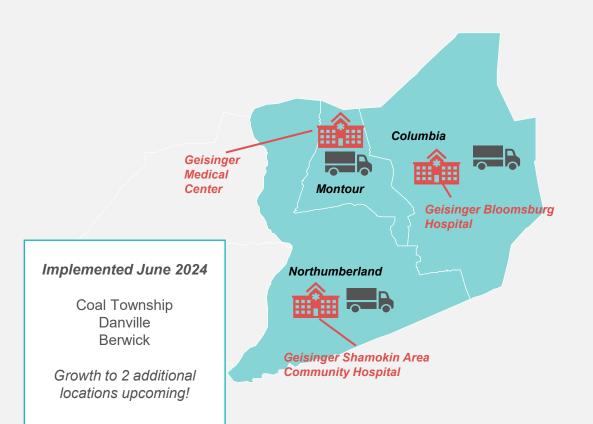


#### **Community Led**

CSO manages operations and accepts referrals from Geisinger & the community



### **LOCATIONS SERVED**



- Alignment with identified needs and food deserts in the community
- Locations within 5 miles of Geisinger clinics/hospitals
- CSO develops relationships with host sites
  Connection to other services (local YMCA's)
- Transportation connection/walkable sites

- Collaborate with CBOs to implement and sustain mobile food distribution
- Increase healthy food access to identified underserved communities
- Streamline referral process between health care teams to community partners
- Enhance community organization's sustainability and capacity through philanthropic commitments
- Enhance Community Well-being
- Enhance ability to engage additional funding sources, partners, local resources
- Program allowed the conversation to continue or expand with current funders due to innovative solution
- Mobile food pantry is a visual representation in the community that provide resources and connection to their local organization



## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

- 3 distribution sites with 2 additional locations being added
- Distributions offer selection of fresh and healthy options
- Driven by CSO staff and community volunteers
- On site staff includes community health worker to assist individuals with social needs and resource support(tracking referrals for other services)
- 1400+ unique individuals served (June 2024-February 2025)
- Additional pop-up distributions occur at Mills apartments in Bloomsburg and provides excess produce not distributed at mobile site



The residents expressed such gratitude. Building manager has shared that the "sense of community" increased when these started. The residents of the 3 buildings are interacting more and since many are unable to travel far it allows this a "quick outing" to somewhere close and safe.

## **CSO MOBILE FOOD PANTRY**

June 2024 through February 2025

	WELSH CENTER- 2ND WEDNESDAY		BER-VAUGHN PARK-3RD WEDNESDAY		DACC- 4TH WEDNESDAY	
	<u>Individuals</u>	<u>Household</u>	<u>Individuals</u>	<u>Household</u>	<u>Individuals</u> <u>Household</u>	
June	96	37	0	0	79 28	
July	126	49	134	56	42 18	
August	191	61	130	51	61 23	
September	167	62	119	46	56 20	
October	214	68	183	60	80 17	
November	195	63	228	75	126 49	
December	117	38	133	50	69 25	
January	74	22	156	55	48 14	
February	96	35	142	53	74 25	

"The Mobile Food Pantry has blessed us so much. With 3 hungry and growing boys, food doesn't stand a chance in our house." -DACC Visitor



CSO accepts referrals directly from Geisinger staff using the Neighborly platform.

CSO also accepts referrals from other community partners and walk-ins.



Geisinger implemented Neighborly (powered by findhelp) in March 2020. Neighborly is available as an easy-to-use online network that helps you connect to free and reduced-cost programs and services, including food, housing, childcare, transportation, utility assistance, education, health care, legal services, and financial assistance. If you or someone you know needs more information about resources available in your neighborhood, go to <a href="https://www.NeighborlyPA.com">www.NeighborlyPA.com</a>. NeighborlyPA is available as a mobile app available for both Android and Apple (iOS) devices.

The intersection of tools, such as the state-wide PA Navigate and Geisinger's Neighborly platform allow a coordinated system to address social needs across the intersection of healthcare and social care, especially how individuals receive care across healthcare platforms and CBOs.

# Many Doors, One System



CBOs have trusting connections and long-standing experience in their communities with individuals, which can support better engagement in their healthcare, addressing vital social needs, higher quality scores and increasing patient or member experience.

Partnerships to support social determinants of health (SDOH) services play a vital role in the care of individuals and development of a strong proposal can showcase the unique role CBOS bring to communities with vast experience to meet the needs of the those in need.

- Examples:
  - Project and timeline
  - Identify strategic goals and community impact
  - Alignment with healthcare
  - Develop a budget
  - Showcase the opportunities that the project/program/innovations brings to both entities





# THANK YOU

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