Montgomery County FoodStat

MetroLab Network
Big Data and Human Services Workshop

January 2017
Food Security: Shared Vision

“Our community is a place where all people at all times have access to safe, sufficient, nutritious food in order to lead fulfilling lives and contribute to making Montgomery County, MD a place where all live in dignity.”
7% of County’s population estimated to be food insecure (77,780)
14% of County’s children are food insecure (33,000)

Significant resources are spent annually to combat hunger—and now we’re going to begin deploying those resources based on data.
Food Insecurity Hotspots
We started by getting a better handle of the data coming out of a myriad of programs at the federal, state, and local levels.

By laying that over our local context, it was apparent that we face a significant gap.
**Challenges**

- Food security ecosystem is not well networked
- Most providers are small and lack access to analytics tools
- Most data being relied upon is high level or non-existent
- Funding for food security programs is fragmented
A Food Secure Montgomery
What we know now and what we can do
A 5-Year Strategic Plan
Rather than painting the County in broad strokes, we are beginning to micro-target specific populations in need.

This allows us to tailor our interventions to the specific needs of those populations.
20 Distinct Data-Informed Findings

- Limited Access to Transportation
- Eligible but not Enrolled in Assistance Programs
- Experiencing Homelessness
- Faith-based Dietary Restrictions
- TEFAP Eligible
- Working Two or More Jobs
- Cultural Barriers to Accessing Services
  - Culturally Appropriate Food Assistance Services
  - Culturally Appropriate Food Literacy
  - Limited English Proficiency
  - Mixed Documentation Status

- Other Residents Below the Self-Sufficiency Standard

- Children
  - Insufficient Food during the Summer
  - Insufficient Food on Weekends
  - Living in Single Parent Households
- Seniors
  - Aging in Place
  - Limited Access to Transportation
  - Limited English Proficiency
  - Medical Dietary Restrictions
- People with Disabilities
  - Mobility Restricted
  - Waiting for Case Mgmt

- Foreign-born Residents
Metrics to Measure Success (subset)

- **Reduce overall food insecurity rate**: Reduce by 22% by Year 5
- **Increase Summer Meal and Weekend Bags Program participation**: Reach 20% of FARMS-eligible / additional 5,000 students by Year 3
- **Increase Countywide SNAP participation rate**: Converge to State average by Year 5
- **Reduce average time and trip cost from priority areas to food stores via public transport**: TBD

Goals will be tracked at an annual collaborative FoodStat with participation from all key stakeholders.
Continued data work / next steps

Client data standards
Data sharing strategy and agreements

“Who delivers what where to whom”
Vulnerability maps and program enrollment vs. eligibility gaps
Accessibility and public transport

Progress vs. goals
Service gap analysis (demand vs. supply)
Tactics: What works vs. what doesn’t

Service delivery coordination / targeting
Standardized referrals
Routing + scheduling support

ONLINE PLATFORM: COMMON OPERATING PICTURE

DATA COLLECTION

FOODSTAT ANALYTICS

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
In 2017, we will begin to analyze the food system in ways similar to the ways we analyze our transportation system, including by likely leveraging anonymize cell phone data to understand how residents access food (grocery stores, etc.)