

*Kevin Austin, Chairman of Board
David Moxley, Vice Chairman
Cliff Collins, Commissioner
Marion Welborn, Commissioner
Frank Zachary, Commissioner*



*Ed Powell, County Attorney
Lisa Hughes, County Manager
Tanya Gentry, Clerk to the Board*

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

January 19, 2024

Medicaid Expansion

The State has created a dashboard for tracking Medicaid Expansion and it still has not been updated since December 1, 2023.

Second Harvest Food Bank

Second Harvest Food Bank hosted a meeting of their local food pantry partners and community stakeholders yesterday. Exhibit A contains the handouts they provided.

Vacancy Report

This week we have 23 vacancies, excluding the 5 positions that were created in December. Over half of these positions (13) are in Human Services. Human Services consistently has the highest number of openings within the County and has hovered around 11-12 vacancies for the last few months.

Upcoming Dates

The Yadkin County Chamber of Commerce will have its Annual Banquet on Tuesday, **January 23 at 6pm** at the Agricultural & Educational Building.

There will be a joint meeting with the Board of Education on Monday, **January 29th** at 5:30pm. This meeting is hosted by the Board of Education.

The NCCCMA Winter Seminar is **January 31-February 2, 2024** in Winston Salem. Brock Hall and I both plan to attend.

EXHIBIT A



**Yadkin County Engagement Day
Community Meeting
AGENDA
Thursday, January 18, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Yadkin Family YMCA
6450 Service Road
Yadkinville, NC 27055**

- 10:00 am Refreshments
- 10:10 Welcome/Introductions – Nikki McCormick, VP of Partnership & Impact
- 10:20 Second Harvest Update – Eric Aft, Chief Executive Officer
- 10:30 Nutrition Services/FNS Update – Kina Charles, Nutrition Services Director
- 10:35 Advocacy Update – Jan Jones, Director of Public Policy
- 10:40 Operations and Food Sourcing Update, Andy Gentry, Operations Coordinator
- 10:45 Open Discussion – All
 - Biggest Needs at This Time
 - What trends/issues/challenges are most top-of-mind for you?
 - How do you view the intersection between food insecurity and other community needs?
 - Challenges/Needs for the Future
 - What opportunities would you encourage Second Harvest to explore?
 - We view our strategic plan as a constantly evolving document. What should we keep at the forefront as we adapt and strengthen our work?
 - What else do you want us to know?
- 11:30 am Closing remarks, Feedback and Next Steps – Eric

Yadkin County Info

Through the end of 2023, our Yadkin County grocery assistance programs (food pantry) have **served over 14,500 neighbors**. This is a **33% increase** over the number of neighbors who were seeking grocery assistance during 2022.

FY 2020 – 2021

Pounds distributed: 433,306 lbs.

Capacity Building funds invested: \$10,652.

Direct Nutrition Education participants: 0

Indirect Nutrition Education participants: 0

FNS Applications Assisted: 12

FY 2021 – 2022

Pounds distributed: 408,154 lbs.

Capacity Building funds invested: \$7,826.

Direct Nutrition Education participants: 0

Indirect Nutrition Education participants: 0

FNS Applications Assisted: 18

FY 2022 – 2023

Pounds distributed: 354,807 lbs.

Capacity Building funds invested: \$7,226.

Direct Nutrition Education participants: 13

Indirect Nutrition Education participants: 0

FNS Applications Assisted: 3

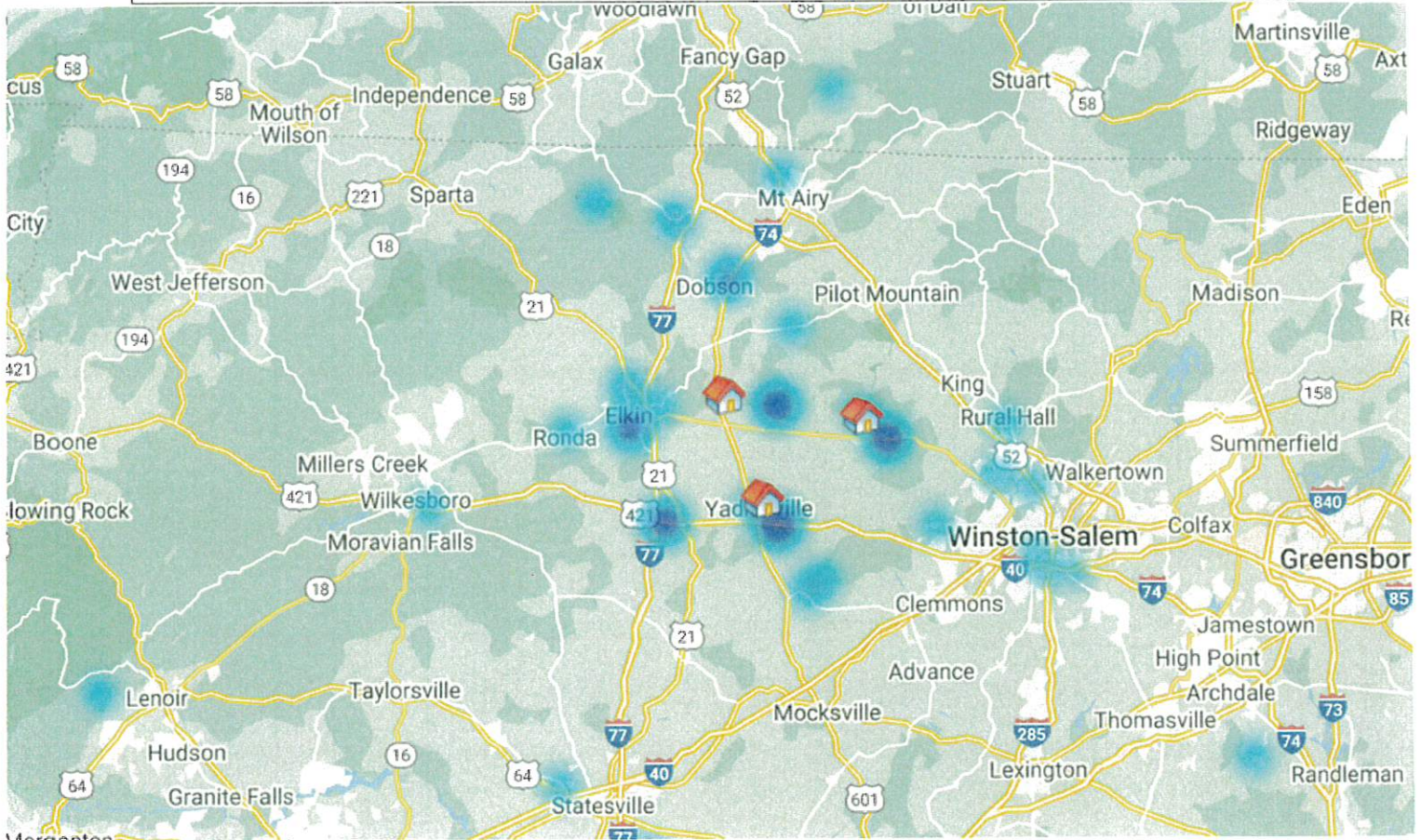
List of Yadkin County Programs (5 total)

Yadkin Christian Ministries	Yadkinville	PANTRY
Yadkin Christian Ministries - East Bend	East Bend	PANTRY
Divine Redeemer Catholic Ch	Boonville	PANTRY
Center UMC - Yadkinville Elem.	Yadkinville	BACKPACK
Deep Creek Baptist Church – Courtney Elem.	Yadkinville	BACKPACK

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Stef May	Partnership & Impact Admin	336.784.5770 Ext.14012	smay@secondharvestnwc.org

2023 Yadkin County Agency Heat Map

Served: Households (Unique)





SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF NORTHWEST NORTH CAROLINA POLICY STATEMENT & SUMMARY

Advocacy is essential to advance and achieve Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina's mission: With our community and partners, we will increase food security and create pathways that build a stronger Northwest North Carolina.

Public policy and government programs serve a vital role in promoting equity, increasing economic mobility, and ensuring families have the foundational support they need to reach their potential. These policies and programs complement Second Harvest's role in the community. For example, SNAP provides nine meals for every meal provided by Second Harvest. Critical school nutrition programs address food insecurity among children and also work in coordination with our services.

The Food Bank's Strategic Plan for FY2022 – FY2025 includes accelerating the Board's involvement in identified aspects of our work, including advocacy.

Establishing a Board-level Advocacy Committee will establish parameters for this important work, ensure buy-in on advocacy activities, and create the infrastructure to enhance our efforts for greater impact through the broader engagement of our volunteers, donors, and partners.

Providing opportunities for members of our community to thrive takes more than providing good food; it also requires advocating for effective policies at every level of government. Our policy agenda will focus on protecting and strengthening nutrition programs, the food system, and the health of our communities, as well as advancing equity in our work.

FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES

FARM BILL 2023: Protect and Strengthen SNAP, TEFAP, and Other Anti-Hunger Programs

The **Farm Bill** is a comprehensive piece of legislation that **authorizes most federal policies governing food and agriculture programs**. Approximately every five years, Congress reauthorizes the Farm Bill. This reauthorization process offers policymakers an opportunity to review programs included in the legislation and consider programmatic changes. **Title IV, the "nutrition title", authorizes several federal nutrition programs and comprises approximately 75% of the funding in the Farm Bill.**

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as "food stamps")

The nation's first line of defense against hunger. (In North Carolina, SNAP is known as FNS or Food & Nutrition Services.)

Our SNAP Ask:

- Increase SNAP's purchasing power by basing benefits on the Low-Cost Food Plan.
- Streamline SNAP eligibility and enrollment to improve access for older adults, college students, immigrants, and other people facing barriers.
- Better assist individuals seeking employment by bolstering support for effective state employment and training programs and ensuring people receive adequate SNAP benefits as they find work.
- Ensure parity in food assistance for U.S. territories by allowing them to participate fully in SNAP and sovereignty for Native communities in administering SNAP.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

The **cornerstone of the emergency food assistance program** and 38% of the product Second Harvest distributed in FY2022. The Storage and Distribution reimbursement for receiving, storing, and distributing TEFAP product covers only 24% of actual Second Harvest's costs.

Our TEFAP Ask:

- Reauthorize and increase to \$500 million per year mandatory funding for TEFAP food purchases, adjusted for inflation.
- Reauthorize and increase to \$200 million per year discretionary funding for TEFAP Storage and Distribution.
- Reauthorize \$15 million per year in discretionary funding for TEFAP infrastructure grants.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Provides nutritious food boxes to seniors aged 60 and above each month.

Our CSFP Ask:

- Maintain current level of funding (\$375 million).

CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION (CNR): Protect and Strengthen Child Nutrition Programs by Improving Program Access, Ensuring Nutrition Quality, and Streamlining Program Administration and Operation

The Child Nutrition Reauthorization is the process used to update child nutrition programs, including the School Breakfast Program (SBP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), summer and after school nutrition programs, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). CNR generally occurs every 5 years, but Congress has not passed a CNR since 2010 – leaving programs without significant improvements.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

A federally-funded, state-administered program that was **established to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session**. When school is out, SFSP provides free meals to kids and teens in low-income areas.

Our SFSP Ask:

- Streamline regulations for community-based providers so they can feed children year-round.
- Support USDA's efforts to examine ways to streamline the application process for SFSP and CACFP.
- Align the area eligibility requirement for summer feeding and educational programs to allow more learning programs to offer meals in the summer.
- Reduce the area eligibility threshold to allow more community providers to offer meals in the summer and more children to receive meals closer to home.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Provides healthy meals and snacks that help children fully develop and prepares them to be ready to learn at school. CACFP also provides high-quality, affordable childcare that supports parents' ability to work.

Our CACFP Ask:

- Allow for reimbursement of up to two meals and two snacks, or three meals and one snack, per child per day for children in care for at least eight hours per day.

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP)

Both programs guarantee that millions of children receive a healthy breakfast and lunch during their school day. High-need schools can offer meals at no charge to all students primarily through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). CEP allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications.

Our NSLP & SBP Ask

Expand community eligibility by lowering the CEP threshold from 40% to 25% to increase the number of high-poverty schools that offer free breakfast and lunch to all students.

CHILD TAX CREDIT (CTC)

The American Rescue Plan of 2021 expanded the Child Tax Credit. Studies showed the strengthened tax credit helped reduce child poverty to a record low in 2021. The legislation also fixed a flaw in the design of the benefit – families with the lowest incomes received only a partial credit or no credit at all, while families with higher incomes received the full credit.

Our CTC Ask:

- Renew the expanded Child Tax Credit to include families with very low or no incomes, who were previously ineligible for this benefit.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Tax policy plays a key role in addressing insecurity. Individual and corporate giving are critical to helping food banks meet the need and maintain services.

Our Ask:

- Support universal, non-itemizer tax deductions or credits for charitable contributions.

BENEFITS CLIFF

People face a benefits "cliff" as they secure promotions or new opportunities that raise their wages to support their families. Existing rules for many benefit programs disincentivize individuals from seeking improved incomes by eliminating this support as they are making strides to improve their situation for themselves and their families. The result maintains generational poverty, prevents company growth by discouraging worker's growth, and suppressing economic mobility.

Our Ask:

- Support changes to government support programs (such as SNAP, housing, childcare, and health insurance) that allow benefit amounts to taper off (creating a "slope" versus a "cliff") as individuals receive promotions or secure new opportunities in their careers to improve the quality of life for themselves and their families.

NC POLICY PRIORITIES

STATE FUNDING FOR FOOD BANKS

The North Carolina Food Banks have received funding that is authorized by the General Assembly in the annual state budget. This funding is used to purchase locally sourced foods to provide to our neighbors seeking food assistance. Since the onset of the pandemic, the numbers of households seeking food assistance has continued to increase. As experienced with the economic downturn of 2008, the demand is not expected to decrease in the near future.

Our Ask:

- Increase the funding authorized in the annual state budget from \$3 million to \$9 million.

PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN SNAP (FNS) BENEFITS

SNAP is proven to be one of the most effective anti-hunger programs in the United States. Congress made many temporary improvements to SNAP during the COVID-19 pandemic to take advantage of the program's ability to deliver benefits quickly in response to job and income losses, including authorizing emergency allotments and certain eligibility and administrative

changes. With the end of COVID waivers, North Carolina has significant opportunity to improve the reach and impact of the program.

Our Ask:

- Protect and expand SNAP (FNS) to support individuals and families most at risk for being food insecure.

MEDICALLY TAILORED MEALS

Millions of Americans are affected by food insecurity and diet-related diseases — including heart disease, obesity, and type 2 diabetes — which are some of the leading causes of death and disability in the U.S. The toll of hunger and these diseases is not distributed equally, disproportionately impacting low income communities. "Food is medicine" interventions can effectively treat or prevent diet-related health conditions and reduce food insecurity. Examples of "food is medicine" are medically tailored meals and groceries as well as produce prescriptions (fruit and vegetable prescriptions or vouchers provided by medical professionals for people with diet-related diseases or food insecurity).

Our Ask:

- Expand access to medically tailored meals that are funded by public healthcare plans.

School Meals for All NC

Providing school meals for all is positively associated with students' academic performance, attendance, and participation in the school meal programs. School meals for all also eliminates the stigma that arises from school meal debt. Meals served in school have been shown to be of higher nutritional quality than those brought from home. As 1 in 6 children in North Carolina is food insecure, school meals for all can improve food security for those students.

Our Ask

- Provide school meals at no cost for all students in North Carolina schools.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

Medicaid expansion will directly improve the health and well-being of 600,000 North Carolinians. It will be transformative for access to health care in rural areas; for better mental health; and for veterans, working adults, and their families.

Questions? Contact Jan Jones,
Director of Public Policy, at
janjones@secondharvestnwn.org

Farm Fresh Nourish!: Connecting Food, Farms, and Nutrition



Overview

Emergency food providers partner with local farms to expand a complementary approach that provides locally grown, fresh produce and health education. The *Farm Fresh Nourish!* program addresses three core barriers within low-resource, vulnerable communities:



Small-scale growers need reliable markets for fresh produce.



The #1 requested item by food-aid seekers is fresh produce and they are at increased risk for chronic diseases.



Individuals living in low-resource areas have challenges to transportation and accessing in-person health services.

Farm Fresh Nourish! connects the dots around challenges and opportunities in vulnerable communities by increasing access to healthy foods and education for food insecure families, while providing much-needed income for small-scale growers.

Goals

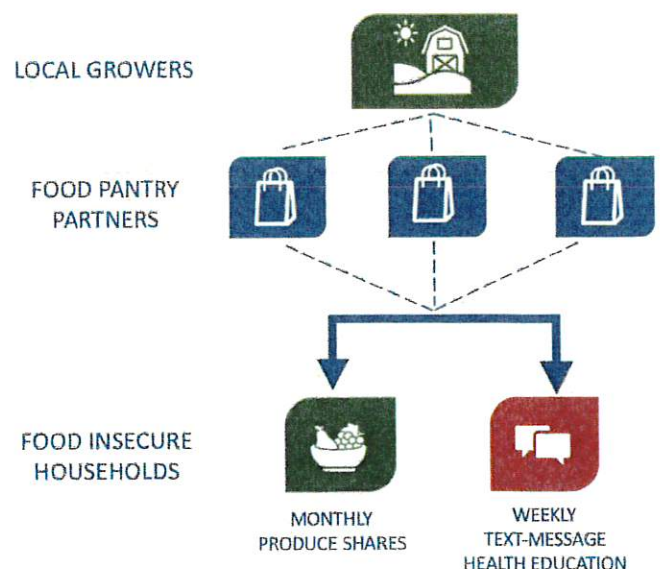
The *Farm Fresh Nourish!* program:

- Identifies barriers for food pantry partners to integrate the distribution of fresh produce shares¹ and health education into their established pantry services.
- Determines the capacity for small-scale growers across North Carolina to provide fresh produce shares to the food pantry network.
- Assesses the impact on the local economy, food and nutrition security, diet quality, and the health status of households.

Model

Farm Fresh Nourish! establishes direct, community-based partnerships between local farms and food pantries to purchase fresh produce shares from the farm at a fair market price.

Participants are offered **produce shares, recipes, and health education in the form of classes and an innovative weekly text-message program** focused on nutrition, healthy eating, and physical activity.



This program was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

¹ A 'fresh produce share' is a box of locally grown, fresh vegetables and includes around 6 - 8 different vegetables per share. It is built on the community supported agriculture (CSA) model that connects farmers directly with consumers.

The Nutrition Environment Food Pantry Assessment Tool, or NEFPAT, was developed by the University of Illinois Extension to easily assess how well a food pantry promotes health via distribution practices, healthy marketing strategies, and policies/guidelines. The NEFPAT evaluates the food pantry in the following areas:

- Food distribution style - (Increasing Client Choice for Nutritious Options)
- Promotion of healthful foods - (Market & “Nudge” Healthful Products)
- Variety of fruits and vegetables available - (Providing Various Forms and Types of Fruits & Vegetables)
- Access to information about community resources - (Promoting Additional Resources)
- Meeting the needs of a diverse clientele - (Planning for Alternate Eating Patterns)

The food pantry completes the intervention in five phases: engagement, pre-assessment, action plan development, implementation, and post-assessment. Pre- and post-assessment scores are compared to measure the improvements in the food pantry over time. The post-assessment score corresponds to a Nourishing Pantry level of bronze, silver, or gold.

NEFPAT Levels		
Bronze 0 - 20	Silver 21 - 41	Gold 42 - 61

Strategies

In 2022, Second Harvest enrolled six food pantries in the NEFPAT pilot representing the eastern, central, and western areas of its eighteen-county region. Each food pantry was assigned to a Nutrition Educator who completed the pre-assessment, guided the food pantry through action plan development and implementation, and finished the process with the post-assessment. Second Harvest provided the food pantries with resources such as nutrition education materials, signs, and recipes as needed to achieve action plan goals. For participating in the pilot program, the food pantries were given monetary credit towards the purchase of food at Second Harvest, a small kitchen appliance to use at the food pantry, and a framed certificate indicating their Nourishing Pantry level of gold, silver, or bronze.

Results

Pantry Name	Pre-Score	Gain	Post-Score	Level
Aggie Source Food Pantry	31	11	42	Gold
Alexander Central High School Food Pantry	35	7	42	Gold
Christ's Beloved Community	29	30	59	Gold
Community in Schools Thomasville	25	30	55	Gold
God's Closet at Lutheran Church of Our Father	26	25	51	Gold
Solid Rock Food Closet	38	4	42	Gold



Meal display at Aggie Source Food Pantry



“Nudge” signs at Alexander Central High School



Recipe cards at Christ's Beloved Community



Fresh produce at CIS Thomasville



Resource display at Lutheran Church of Our Father



Client choice sandwich board at Solid Rock Food Closet