### 2024 WESTERN WISCONSIN Food Pantry Survey

WE HEARD 630 FOOD PANTRY FROM 630 PARTICIPANTS

The 2024 Western Wisconsin Food Pantry Survey provides a critical opportunity to gather feedback from individuals visiting food pantries and food pantry managers in Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties. These voices have the ability to inform food pantry services and hunger relief system priorities. Key insights point to the current strengths, challenges, and needs for further investment in this essential community asset. Participant surveys were conducted from October 2023 through January 2024.

### BARRIERS TO ACCESSING FOOD **PANTRIES** The food pantry hours do not work for my schedule **25%** I have trouble accessing reliable transportation 21% Stigma/Embarrassment 44% The food pantry limits how often I can access food 8% Other 8%



### HOW OFTEN SPECIFIC FOODS ARE ALWAYS OR OFTEN AVAILABLE AT FOOD PANTRY

**79%** 

Meat, poultry, & fish

**78**%

Fresh fruits & vegetables

68%

Dairy

**53**%

Eggs

60%

Cooking & baking items

### PARTICIPANTS' PREFERRED METHOD TO RECIEVE FOOD

68%

18%

Shopping at the Food pick up food pantry

Delivery

Other

### MOST IMPORTANT NON-FOOD **ITEMS PARTICIPANTS WANT**

toilet paper, cleaning products, personal hygiene products

For more information, visit <a href="https://stcroix.extension.wisc.edu/western-wisconsin-food-pantry-survey/">https://stcroix.extension.wisc.edu/western-wisconsin-food-pantry-survey/</a>

**BROUGHT TO YOU IN** COLLABORATION BY:















### DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY AND HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION INFLUENCE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

### PARTICIPANT HOUSEHOLD TYPE





households with children

households with seniors



## LENGTH OF TIME VISITING FOOD PANTRY 1st time 1-6 months 1-2 years + 2 years 5% 31% 40% 23%



### VALUABLE PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCES WITH PANTRY SERVICES

# I can choose my own food 61% Volunteers or staff welcome me 50% The process of selecting my food is easy 47% Plenty of different varieties of food 47% Food looks fresh and appealing 25% The wait time is reasonable 16%





### TRADE-OFFS & RELIANCE ON FOOD PANTRIES: CHALLENGES FACED BY PARTICIPANTS



















