Program Evaluation of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in two counties (Hinsdale & Mineral) supported by Care and Share Food Bank of Southern Colorado.

Organizational Context

- Care and Share is the Federal and State central distribution point for CSFP in 31 counties in Southern Colorado.
- Care and Share partners with 160 agencies which are comprised of Dept. Social Service offices, Senior service organizations, Food pantries, Community centers and Churches.

Background

- 7.7% of senior’s are food insecure, 2.9% are very low food insecure nationally. Translates into 4.9 million, and 1.8 million seniors, respectively (Ziliak, 2019) Academic research shows that even marginally food insecure seniors have poorer health outcomes.

Method of Study

Analysis was completed using a Survey provided to 160 partner agencies with a survey response rate of 48.63%. Partner agency interviews and agency data also used.

Findings

- 30.3% of the residence of Hinsdale CTY are 60+
- Only 6.5% participate in a food assistance program
- 31.2% of the residence of Mineral CTY are 60+
- Only 4.9% participate in a food assistance program

Takeaways & Recommendations

- Food assistance programs supporting senior citizens must balance between specificity and reach.
- Stronger collaborations should be developed between Care & Share Food Bank and County agencies to leverage opportunities to create new programs.
- Re-Brand food assistance programs for seniors to mitigate assumed stigmas with these social programs.
- Innovate ways to deliver food as an option for home bound seniors.
- Partner with other non-profits who share similar goal such as Children’s Farms of America.