



South Shore Community Partners in Prevention

South Shore Community Partners in Prevention (CHNA 23) Mini Grant Outcome Report

Agency Information

Agency Name: South Shore Community Action Council, Inc.

Program Name: Food Resources Program Funding Amount: \$ 1,500

Agency Contact: Patricia Daly Contact Phone: (508) 747-7575

How many individuals were served with South Shore Community Partners in Prevention funding in this program?¹

COMMUNITY	# SERVED	COMMUNITY	# SERVED
Carver	12	Marshfield	15
Duxbury	8	Pembroke	1
Halifax	1	Plymouth	105
Hanover	0	Plympton	1
Hanson		Rockland	
Kingston	15		

Note: the count of people served in FY15 above represents the proportionate number of individuals served using SSCPP funding for our Bagged Food project.

We attest to the accuracy of the information shared in this report.

Linda Hunchak-Rohr
Program Coordinator, Date

Patricia A. Daly
Executive Director, Date

¹ If SSCPP funding represents a portion of funding for this program, calculate the proportionate # of individuals served (total # of persons served x SSCPP % of total program funding). Round to the nearest whole person.

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Serving the communities of Carver, Duxbury, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Kingston, Marshfield, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, and Rockland

What have been the greatest accomplishments of this initiative so far?

During the past year, the greatest accomplishment of the Food Resources Program has been our increased engagement of individuals, organizations, and businesses throughout Plymouth County in the effort to combat hunger and food insecurity. As a result of this deepened commitment among our community partners, the Plymouth County food relief system has been strengthened at a time when the need for food assistance continues to grow. This strengthened partnership and community response to hunger is evidenced by the following achievements—

* 3 new pantries became members of our Food Distribution Center, increasing to 45 members in FY15.

* In FY15, our Food Resources Program expanded a Backpack Initiative that was piloted in FY14 with the goal of developing additional distribution channels to fight children’s hunger and promote children’s health. With our Backpack Initiative, low income children at 5 Plymouth public elementary schools received a backpack of food each Friday to ensure they have enough to eat during weekends and school vacations. The foods are specifically selected by Center volunteers to be “child-friendly” and are picked up by PTA volunteers from our Food Distribution Center on a weekly basis. ***In 2015, we increased from 3 to 5 participating elementary schools and distributed 8,289 pounds of food.***

* We are particularly pleased with the contributions of our Food Recovery Initiative to our local food collection efforts over the past year. ***In FY15, we increased from 12 to 19 local restaurants, grocers, bakeries, and food manufacturers*** with which we collaborate to rescue prepared and fresh perishable food that otherwise would go to waste. Our Distribution Center volunteers picked up the recovered food and brought it back to the Center for inventory, storage, and distribution. In 2015, we recovered 79,118 pounds of food, a 138% increase over the 27,043 pounds of food recovered in FY14, thanks to the support of numerous local restaurants and businesses, including: Tribe Hummus, Blount Fine Foods, Tedeschi’s, Stop & Shop, Hannaford, Olive Garden, Panera, Starbucks, Bluewater Farms, Equal Exchange, Trader Joe’s, and more. The bounty of prepared foods, proteins, and fresh perishables collected from our Food Recovery partners is greatly appreciated by low income families who often cannot afford nutrient-dense fresh food, seniors who no longer cook for safety reasons, and developmentally disabled people in need of easy-to-heat prepared foods.

* **Healthy Harvest:** Understanding the importance of nutrient-dense food to overall health and the challenges many low income people face affording and accessing fresh food, our Food Resources Program collects and distributes farm-fresh produce from July to October. We are particularly grateful for our new partnership with Bramhall’s Country Store and the continued support of the Plymouth County Farm. Operated by the Plymouth County Sheriff’s Agricultural Program, the County Farm tripled the pounds of produce it donated to our Food Distribution Center from FY14 to FY15. ***Through our Healthy Harvest efforts in FY15, we collected a total 16,917 pounds of fresh produce from 6 local partner farms. This represents a 50% increase over FY14.***

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What have been the greatest challenges or barriers with this initiative?

As Massachusetts continues to recover from the recession, low-income people struggle with its lingering impact and have increasingly reached out for food assistance. Looking to the coming year, we will evaluate our program operations to streamline processes and maximize efficiencies so that we continue to meet the emergency food needs of hungry Plymouth County residents of all ages. Through observation, quantitative data collection, and qualitative feedback from staff, volunteers, and our non-profit partners, 3 challenges have emerged over the past year:

- 1) We continue to work with our COA partners to coordinate the grocery bag deliveries and to ensure they reach home-bound seniors in a timely fashion.
- 2) Few of our COA partners operate on-site food pantries to support their food insecure elderly clients. In fact, one of the few COAs in our region which operated a pantry was forced to cease operations late in FY13. In the coming year, we will continue to encourage our COA partners to run their own on-site food pantries, providing support and technical assistance as needed.
- 3) Recent changes to the trucking schedule of the Greater Boston Food Bank may have an impact on the annual total pounds of GBFB food brought to the South Shore. The food from the Greater Boston Food Bank is the main source of food distributed via our Bagged Food project for which we used SSCPP funds. We increased the amount of locally donated food that we collected and distributed to make up the shortfall that resulted in this service delivery model change.

Success Stories

As a result of receiving SSCPP Funding, **briefly** describe how your agency was able to have a positive impact on an individual's life or in the community. Submit a publishable photo and photo release if one is available.

Please do not use actual names, as these stories will be shared on social media, SSCPP website, etc.

Our Food Resources Program continues to be a driving force in opening up food collection avenues, targeting food distribution to particularly vulnerable populations, raising awareness, forging key collaborations, and leveraging resources throughout the region. Funding from SSCPP supported general operation of our Food Distribution Center and helped SSCAC purchase food from the Greater Boston Food Bank to supplement the free and purchased food we receive from the USDA that is distributed via our Bagged Food projects. Each month throughout the year, staff and volunteers at our Food Distribution Center pack grocery bags with non-perishable, locally donated food specifically selected for seniors and for families with very young children. For our Senior Access Bagged Food, these grocery bags are transported to COAs with Meals on Wheels programs for distribution to 219 frail, home-bound seniors in Plymouth, Carver, Hanson, Kingston, Middleboro, Lakeville, Wareham, Pembroke, and Duxbury. In FY15, volunteers packed **13,667 pounds of food into grocery bags, the equivalent of 10,276 meals, for these 219 home-bound elders.** For our Children's Access Bagged Food, the grocery bags are transported to low income families at a HUD, low income housing development in Plymouth, and Head Start centers in Kingston, Marshfield, and Plymouth. In FY15, we packed **1,572 bags with 23,580 pounds of food, the equivalent of 17,729 meals, for families with young children.** Through our monthly Bagged Food projects, non-ambulatory seniors and low income children receive a critically reliable and consistent food source throughout the year.

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Additional Information (optional)

Please feel free to add a narrative of milestones or outcomes for your SSCPP initiative that you have not been able to cover in your responses above.

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