

Food Pantry Group Interviews

Summary

A number of key issues were identified by six food pantries in Waushara County that were either interviewed or surveyed in the spring of 2010. Concerns that were raised included transportation needs for clients to get to and from food pantries; a lack of adequate cold and dry storage space; limited ability to repackage food products; lack of opportunities for client education about better nutrition, food preparation, and how to be financial independent; resource education for food pantry volunteers and staff; connection of food pantries to people who need the services; providing food for special diets; monetary donations to continue programming and volunteers to staff the food pantries.

Highlights of the results follow:

- Transportation for clients utilizing the food pantries is an issue at three out of the six food pantries interviewed.
- Cold food storage is a problem at four out of the six food pantries interviewed.
- Dry storage is insufficient at three of the food pantries interviewed.
- Space needs exist at three pantries, either for storage or distribution.
- The inability to repackage food into smaller quantities was identified by one of the food pantries.
- One pantry indicated that they only accept meat items that are processed professionally.
- Education of clientele about food preparation and finances was identified.
- Resource education for food pantries as well as methods to reach people in need of services was acknowledged.
- Special needs diets are not being provided.
- Monetary donations as well as volunteers are in short supply.