

## Food Pantry Group Interviews

### ***Summary of Food Pantry Interviews:***

#### Transportation

According to the food pantries surveyed, for clients utilizing the food pantries, transportation to and from the pantries was an issue at three out of the six pantries interviewed.

#### Storage

Storage was broken down into refrigeration, root cellar, and dry storage.

- Refrigeration - Four out of the six food pantries interviewed, stated that refrigeration was an issue. Comments about refrigeration ranged from no space to store produce; no refrigeration so fresh produce is given out within a couple of days; to limited refrigeration available, and more is needed.
- Root Cellar - One food pantry stated that a root cellar was available, but that it was not large enough to handle large deliveries of fresh produce.
- Dry Storage – Three pantries commented on dry storage. One stated that there is enough dry storage to serve 30 families per month, while the two others said that dry storage is a problem. Specifically, one pantry mentioned that larger deliveries of products (from canneries) had to be turned down in the past due to inadequate storage. Another stated that even though dry storage is inadequate, room exists to expand this area of their operation.

#### Space

Three pantries commented on space needs. One stated that they did not have room for a refrigerator and another said that distribution space only allowed for two people at a time.

#### Processing

Processing was divided into two subcategories: repackaging and meat processing.

- Repackaging – One pantry commented and stated that they weren't set up to repackage and that they only accept items that are packaged for single families.
- Meat Processing – One pantry commented and stated that they do not process and can only accept items that are processed professionally.

#### Education

- Food Preparation – Two pantries commented on this issue. Pantries stated that there is a need to teach people better nutrition, food preparation and how to use products available at the pantry.
- Financial Education/Advising – One pantry commented that there is a need for financial education so that people learn how to budget and become financially independent.

#### Communication

Communication is needed to help food pantries find out about what resources are available for low income individuals and families and how to connect people to these resources. Additionally pantries are looking at ways to connect the pantries to people who need the help.

### *Appendix F3: Detailed Results*

#### Other

- Special Needs Diets – The biggest need that one pantry sees is providing low sodium foods.
- Food Shortage – One pantry stated that they do not have enough food to fill the need.
- Financial Assistance – One pantry stated that their greatest need is monetary donations.
- Staffing/Volunteers – Two pantries commented on this issue and stated that volunteers are needed. Volunteers are needed to help out in the office, and distribute food.