

# Resilience, Innovation & Dignity

INSIGHTS FROM COLORADO'S COMMUNITY FOOD GRANT  
REPORTING & APPLICATION DATA 2024-2025

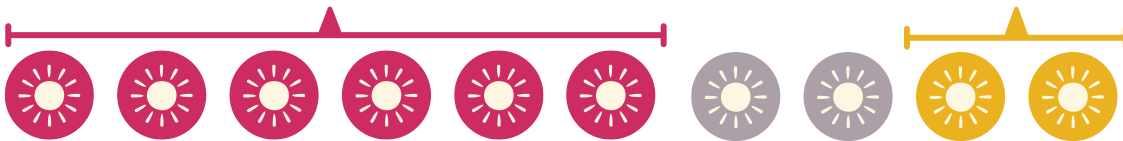
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## 6 in 10 food pantries

saw **increased demand** for their services **prior to the government shutdown**. These food pantries are serving **200 more people each month**, on average.

## 2 in 10 food pantries

saw **decreased demand** for their services before the government shutdown, most attributed this to **fear of ICE visibility and community distress concerning raids**.

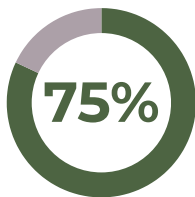


OF FOOD PANTRIES report being **affected by federal funding cuts or grant freezes**.



OF FOOD PANTRIES identify **supply challenges as their greatest concern**.

Food pantries are collectively moving away from the charity model and shifting toward hunger-relief models that center their community members as experts.



OF PANTRY VISITORS were **asked about their food needs** or preferences.

“

*Repeated, face-to-face interactions help build trust, an essential foundation for honest feedback... Through these trust-based relationships, we gather ongoing information and feedback about what's working, what's needed, and how it can better support the community.*

- Food Pantry, Denver Metro

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Most food pantries stock culturally significant foods – **DEFINED AS FOODS THAT PROVIDE NOURISHMENT BEYOND CALORIES** – based on community input to ensure dignity is at the heart of food access.

Food pantries' budgeting strategies reflect both short-term survival tactics and long-term resilience-building.

## #1

### PROTEIN IS THE MOST CITED INVENTORY GAP

because it's rarely available through traditional donation channels.

“

*Rather than front-loading or reacting to short-term spikes, we divided the funds evenly across the months of the grant period. We took care to monitor pricing fluctuations and food availability from our suppliers to make strategic purchases when prices were lower or bulk options were available. This helped us maximize quantity and quality without sacrificing nutritional value.*

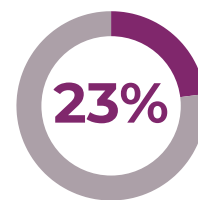
- Food Pantry, Denver Metro

Prioritizing local producers creates mutual benefit across the food supply chain and hunger-relief efforts.

“

*The beef producer we built a relationship with is now selling to two other businesses in our town, and he has since thanked us for introducing him to new markets.*

- Food Pantry, Southwest Colorado



OF FOOD PANTRIES identified **local food supply gaps** in their region.