



Key Insights from Early Adopters of the Food Security Solutions (FSS) Prioritization Process

HUNGER FREE NORTHBROOK



Step 4: Prioritize Food Security Solutions

Hunger Free Northbrook assigned a financial estimate, impact score and uncertainty score to each of the suggested solutions that had emerged from the first three steps of the **Food Security Solutions (FSS) Prioritization Process**. In the final step, the values were compiled but the final ranking varied depending on how the list was sorted. For example, when sorting by impact score, a solution involving an online calendar to coordinate community efforts scored the highest. However, this same suggested solution also had the highest uncertainty score, primarily because it was a new approach. This example highlights the key message that there may be more than one best answer on how to move forward.

To create consensus on the final rank order, the question posed was, “Can anyone not live with the suggested solution being ranked as such? Why?” Because everyone’s perspective was included and the process was seen as fair and reasonable, support for the prioritized list of identified Food Security Solutions was built along the way.

Ultimately, Hunger Free Northbrook identified five key areas of need and prioritized several initiatives, each with an identified program lead and solutions team. The group plans to continue to track trends as new data emerge and the local environment shifts, catalogue new programs and opportunities and use the FSS Prioritization Process to re-evaluate at regular intervals, so dynamic adjustments can be made. This supports Hunger Free Northbrook’s mission to improve the food and nutrition security of those in need in their community.

Key Insights on Step 4 from Hunger Free Northbrook

The FSS Prioritization Process provided the structure and a framework for this organization to thoughtfully expand their approaches to addressing hunger. “Sometimes all a community needs is the process. This systematic process outlined the steps we needed to take to move forward.”

Hunger Free Northbrook has operationalized five initiatives, each with an identified goal:

1. Seniors - the first priority is to “Bring Seniors to Food” by providing transportation to the food pantry or other food sources.
2. Food recovery - the first priority is to connect any available excess food from local hospitals and businesses to the food pantry.
3. Students and their families - the first priority is to provide qualifying students and their families access to nutritious food during the weekends, holidays, school breaks and summer.
4. Research – the goal is to understand the food security, nutrition needs and Food Pantry eligibility of specific residents to inform and then track solutions.
5. Communication - coordinate and develop key messaging between different groups working on hunger in the community.

For more information, updates or to get involved, visit <https://www.hungerfreenorthbrook.org/>

Find the **Food Security Solutions Prioritization Toolkit** at www.eatrightFoundation.org/FSSToolkit or email FSS@eatright.org