

COALITION TO END HUNGER IN LAKEWOOD

2018/2019 Status Report

Mission: To better serve the needs of the Lakewood community, particularly its people, by creating stronger individual coalition members, and leveraging the strength of the coalition members to conduct projects that will have a significant positive impact.

The Coalition to End Hunger in Lakewood (CEHL) was formed in June of 2018. The CEHL functions to coordinate and collaborate with the Lakewood community to increase awareness around the issue of hunger and create system solutions to end hunger in Lakewood.

Since the CEHL began, it has convened representative food resource organizations to discuss gaps and potential opportunities for collaborations. Below are the steps taken during the first year of discussion:

Action Teams: Due to the diversity of food resource providers represented in CEHL, it was determined that a targeted approach was needed to identify the specific needs and situations around food access. Action teams were formed and included the following discussion areas:

- Mobile food delivery
- SNAP/WIC benefits
- Child Nutrition
- Food Banks

Impact:

- a. Connections and collaborations among food resource providers were created
- b. Discussions with Emory Elementary on the food backpack program led to the Emory Hub concept and enhanced collaboration with the Lakewood Faith Coalition and the Lakewood Service Organizations Coalition – in progress
- c. Goals were established and a preliminary workplan was created which revealed that to improve foods systems in Lakewood, the first step was to develop an accurate report of the services currently offered and areas where services are lacking, difficult to access, or absent.

Community Foundation Grant: As a result of the identified need, a partner in the CEHL, Benefits in Action, submitted a grant on behalf of the group in 2019 and was awarded \$74,000. Funds are being utilized to hire an individual to conduct a community assessment of needs and gaps; and to ultimately develop an action plan and roadmap by which the CEHL can move forward more effectively.

Impact: Success in this effort will include meeting the objectives below.

- a. Completion of an environmental scan, client interviews, and focus groups to determine community needs and service gaps in Lakewood food systems
- b. Develop an implementation plan based on the information gathered that is community-informed and specific to CEHL's focus area (Lakewood) and resources

2020 Action Plans

- Convene the grant steering committee and meet regularly throughout the process (committee roster attached)

- Work closely with the Jeffco Food Policy Council and coordinate/collaborate with the grant project targeted in Lakewood that is in process. (See attached document with information on this project.)
- Continue hosting larger group meetings for the purpose of providing updates on the grant and networking
- Submit a grant proposal for implementation funding for the action plan expected at the completion of the Community Foundation Grant.
- Encourage food resource providers to utilize the group Facebook page for posting of activities, events and support needs