



DCo Food Security Update & Plans

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Land Acknowledgement

Durham County occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary land of the:

- Eno, Shakori, Occaneechi, Cheraw, Saponi, Lumbee, and Tuscarora peoples.

“We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life.” - Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address

<https://native-land.ca/>

https://americanindian.si.edu/environment/pdf/01_02_Thanksgiving_Address.pdf



Agenda

- DCo Food Security Status
- FY23 Food Security Initiatives & Impact
- FY24 Food Security Plans
- Questions & BOCC Input



Food Security in Durham County



High Food Security

Households had no problems, or anxiety about, consistently accessing adequate food

Marginal Food Security

Households had problems or anxiety at times about accessing adequate food, but the quality, variety, and quantity of their food were not substantially reduced

Low Food Security

Households reduced the quality, variety, and desirability of their diets, but the quantity of food intake and normal eating patterns were not substantially disrupted

Very Low Food Security

At times during the year, eating patterns of one or more household members were disrupted and food intake reduced because the household lacked money or other resources for food.

Durham County Community Health Assessment

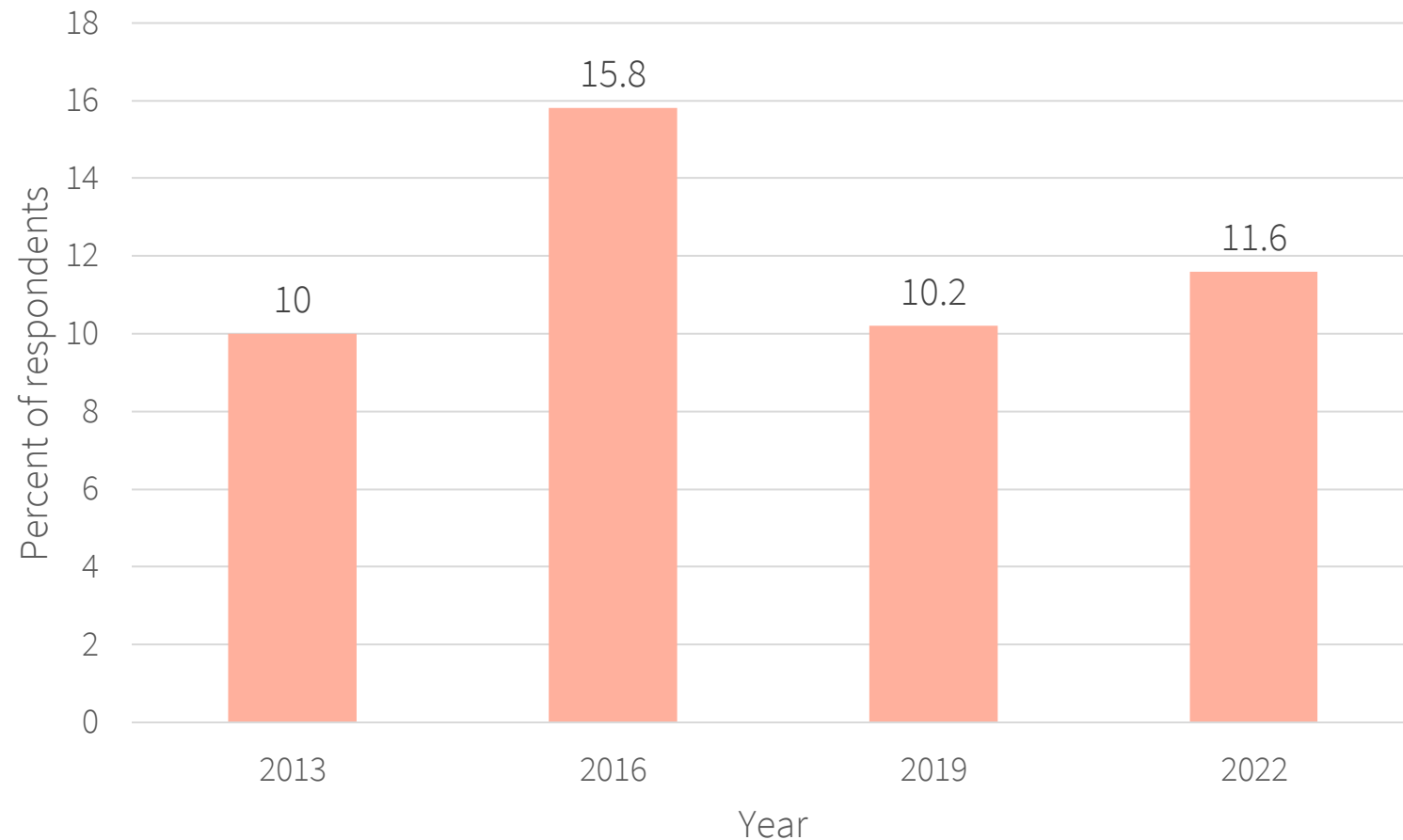
New Question:

In the past 12 months, did you ever worry your food would run out before you got money to buy more? (Indicator of marginal or low food security)

Yes, sometimes: 14.7%

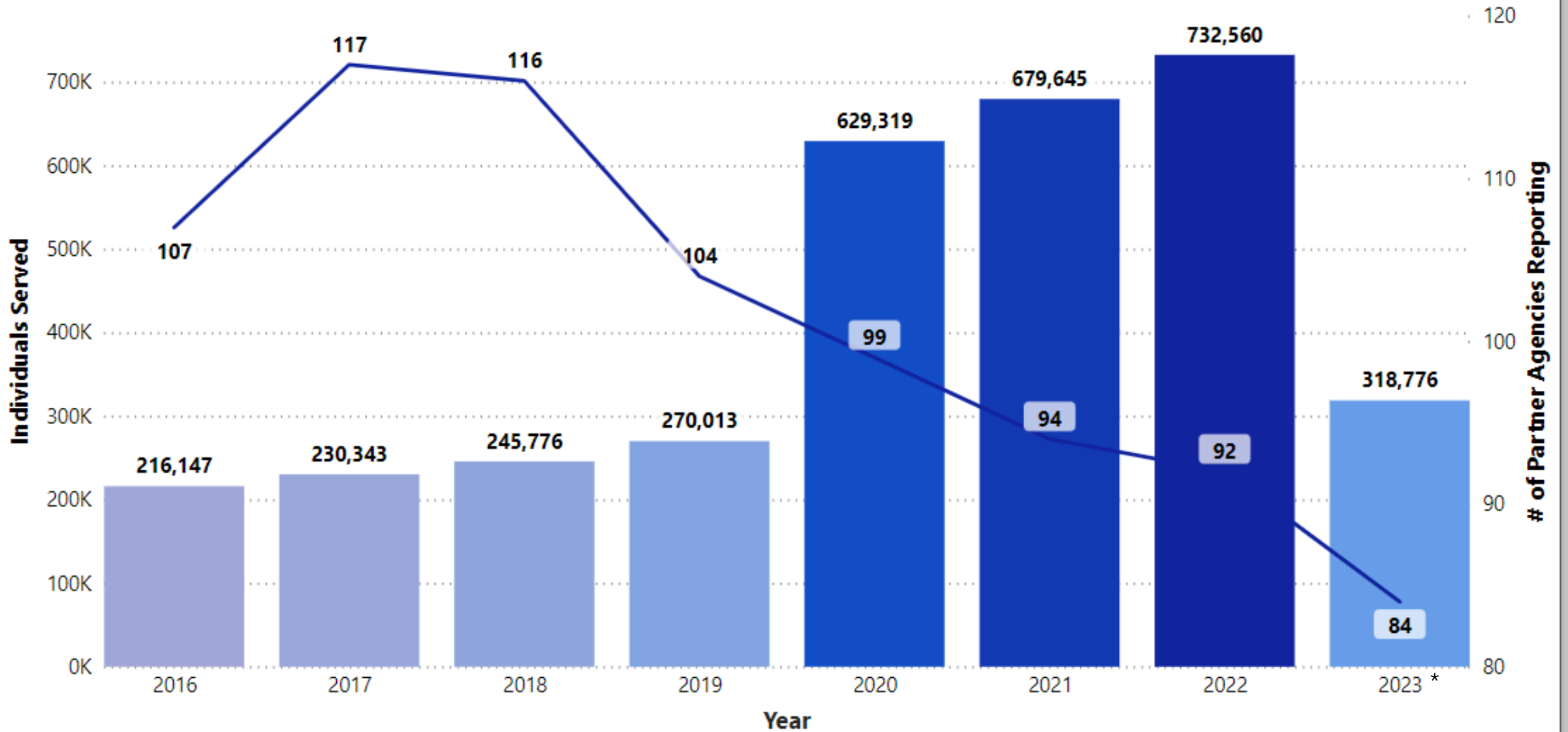
Never: 83.1%

In the last 12 months, did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?
(Indicator of very low food security)



Individuals Served by Food Pantries and Direct Distributions

Durham County



Source: Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. * January – partial May 2023

Continued Challenges



Negative economic impacts of COVID-19 (e.g., behind on bills, unhoused, etc.)



Increased cost of food, gas, and other essentials—in 2022, food-at-home prices increased by 11.4%



Increased housing costs



Decreased COVID-related federal assistance

Approach

- Enhance the social safety-net to meet current needs
- Work towards equitable, systemic change to improve long-term food security



The poster features a dark blue background with the title 'FOOD JUSTICE TRAINING SERIES' in large, bold, pink letters. Below the title, the phrase 'OPEN TO ALL' is written in white. In the top right corner, there are three logos: 'NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION' (with 'NC' in a red box), 'DURHAM COUNTY COOP' (with '1881' below it), and 'COMMUNITIES IN PARTNERSHIP' (with a colorful circular logo). A large white arrow points from the right side of the poster towards the title.

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

DURHAM COUNTY COOP 1881

Cooperative Extension

COMMUNITIES IN PARTNERSHIP

FOOD JUSTICE TRAINING SERIES

OPEN TO ALL



FY23 Food Security Initiatives & Impacts

Enhancing DCo's Social Safety-Net

\$1.6 Million+

Supported food security efforts with 78% invested in local organizations led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

\$185,000 to Extend Double Bucks

Leveraged our strong relationship with Duke Health to help ensure Double Bucks program continues

677,154 meals

Distributed to food pantries across Durham County to support SNAP recipients

28,000+ people

Provided food assistance via home delivered meals, hot community meals, food boxes, meal kits, and grocery gift cards





Durham County Nonprofit Grants

“One older lady told us that...her health had improved since coming to our food pantry. Another older gentleman tells us every week that he loves us, that we are his family, and that the food we give him has helped him recover from cancer surgery. “

“The Durham County community has a wide range of needs that are constantly evolving. This can be challenging as we focus on system improvements while also meeting immediate needs. By instituting the food giveaways we noticed the calls for emergency food assistance significantly decreased.”

DCo Efforts Toward Systemic Change

Collective Action

Food Security Network Steering Committee

Regional Food System Partnership

County-City Food Security Team

White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health

Shifting Power & Resources

Food Security Grants operated by a BIPOC-led, community-rooted™ organization

Farm Campus feasibility study to explore increasing access to land and resources for marginalized communities



A woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing a colorful patterned headband, glasses, and a red shirt, is smiling and holding a bunch of fresh green herbs. She is standing outdoors, possibly at a market or farm stand, with a wooden crate and a black handle visible in the foreground. The background is a blurred green landscape.

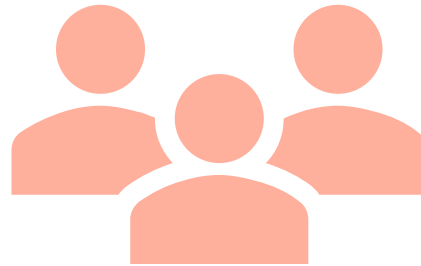
FY24 Food Security Plans

Enhancing DCo's Social Safety-Net



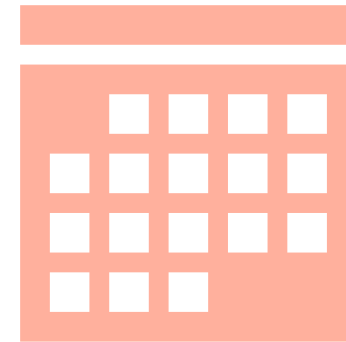
County Nonprofit & Food Security Grants

Nonprofit: \$176,000
Food Security: \$532,000;
Potential multi-year
commitment using ARPA
funds



Increased Support for Older Adults

Home-delivered meals,
connecting older adults
to needed services, social
connection



Extended Supports for Working-Class Families

1-year food supports for
pantries; 3-year
commitment to Double
Bucks

DCo Efforts Toward Systemic Change

Piloting Equitable Strategies

Community-accountable grocer in East Durham

Continue to explore community wealth building as food security strategy

Asset-based Community Development

Select contractor for Food System Assessment & Plan

Continue to Explore Dreams

Continue USDA Farm Campus Feasibility Study, with a focus on potential sites, governance, and community engagement





How Far We've Come

Overall DCo Food Security Investments

April 2021 – to date

\$7,092,859 in commitments, managing an average of 17 concurrent grants and contracts to enact food security strategies

1 annual large, community event, co-created with community members

3 cross-sectoral collaborative groups engaging over 335 people on a weekly basis

Leveraged county resources to secure \$363,165 in outside funding for food security efforts



What We Set Out To Do

- ✓ Provide stopgap funding and develop long-term capacity of emergency food providers, nonprofits, and other agencies addressing food security in Durham County.
- ✓ Provide sustained access to fresh produce for food insecure families, create a reliable market for Durham farmers, and build capacity for BIPOC aggregators by continuing a produce box initiative.
- ✓ Replace and replenish end-of-life DPS kitchen equipment to benefit over 50% of DPS students and support nutritious school meals and food safety.
- ✓ Increase fresh food access for food insecure groups, support farmers, and stimulate the economy by enhancing and extending the Double Bucks program.
- ✓ Support generational wealth development by helping women and BIPOC-owned food businesses recover from the negative impacts of COVID through the Thriving Community Fund.
- ✓ Invest in women and BIPOC farmers in Durham County to sustainably produce local food and recover from COVID.
- ✓ Inform food system priorities and recommendations by conducting community engagement to gain community input, build trust and rapport, and share power.
- ✓ Conduct a baseline food system assessment to understand the state of Durham County's food system after the negative impacts of COVID.

Create a sustainable, equitable community food system by building health and wealth in the community.



Summary

Equitable, place-based strategies that are designed by and for community members can support increased economic security, community leadership, and community assets. While navigating that path, we must support current needs to ensure a safe and healthy people.



Questions & Input

Supplemental slides

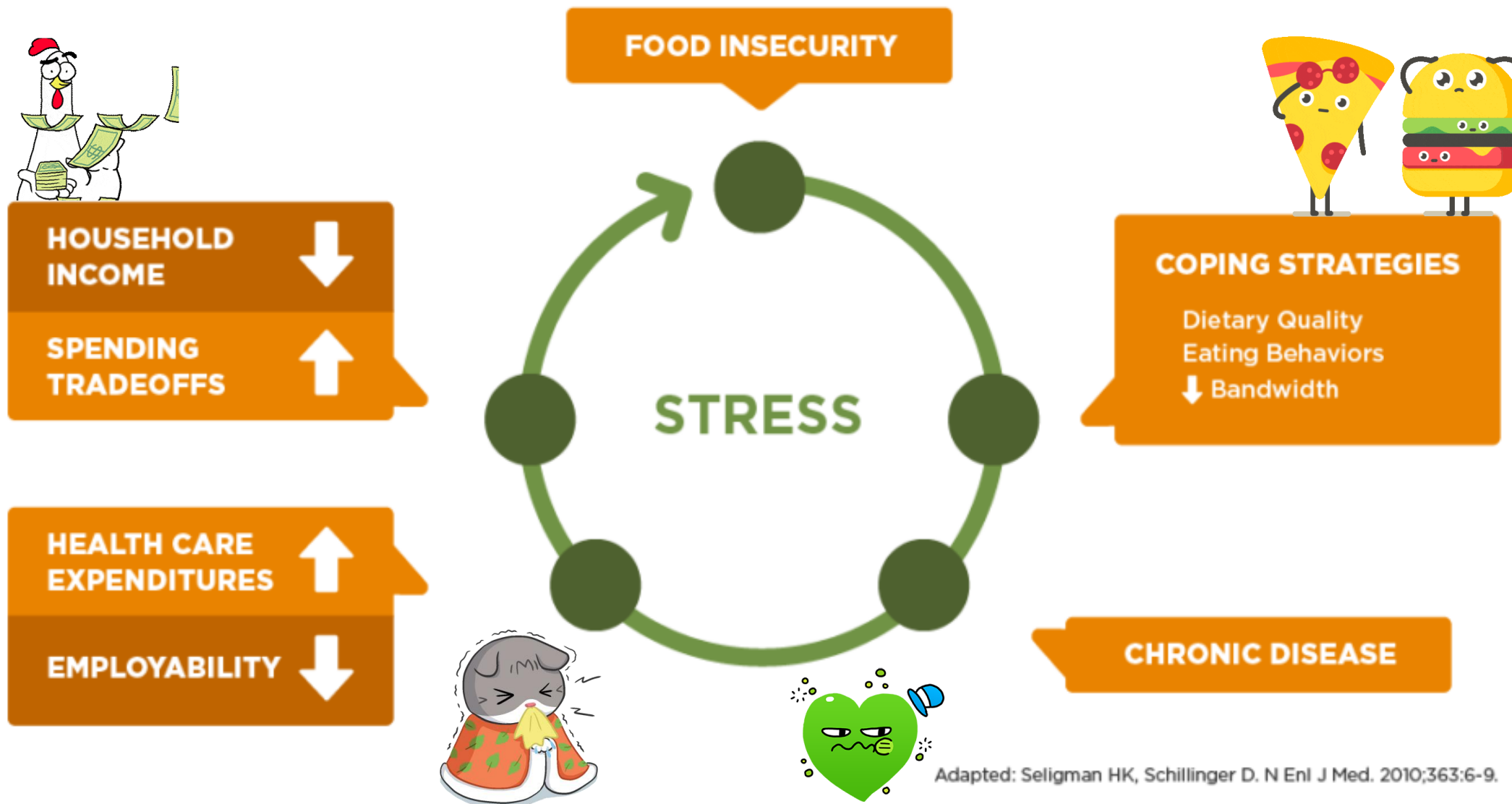
Food Insecurity by County

	Overall (%)	<18 years (%)	Black (%)	Hispanic (%)	White (%)
Durham	9.6	15.3	20	17	7
Wake	8.5	8.9	19	15	5
Orange	9.5	6.6	21	15	8

Durham has higher child hunger rates, comparatively

Source: Feeding America (2021). Map the Meal Gap: [Durham County, NC](#)

Food Insecurity Can Affect Your Health



FY22-23 Spending Summary

Project Name	Funding Amount
Emergency food supports	\$ 503,795.56
Food Security Grants	\$ 483,500.00
County Nonprofit Grants	\$ 176,000.00
Farm Campus	\$ 160,140.00
Double Bucks	\$ 28,258.57
Other	\$ 260,875.00
Total	\$ 1,612,569.13

2020 Durham County Community Health Assessment – Recommended Strategies

The following strategies are recommended to assist with improvements in food access for Durham County:

1. continue to address root causes of food insecurity,
2. assess equity and food system sustainability, adaptability and resilience,
3. foster wealth creation in BIPOC communities through food businesses; and
4. advocate for food policy changes.

Useful tools in implementing these strategies include:

- Food Insecurity Screening Toolkit
- Michigan State University Food System Racial Equity Metrics tool
- Food Policy Council Toolkits
- Best Practices for Technical Assistance Programs Serving Black and Hispanic Entrepreneurs and Small-Business Owners
- Principles of Equitable Food Oriented Development