



Collaboration Survey Results



BACKGROUND

A variety of organizations across Iowa work year-round to reduce food insecurity* among older adults. During 2016 and 2017, researchers from the University of Iowa studied how well the organizations work together. This report summarizes the findings.

** Food insecurity is defined as limited or uncertain access to enough nutritious and safe foods. USDA Economic Research Service.*

METHODS



Identified key partners that play a role in reducing food insecurity among Iowa seniors.



Discussed local efforts to alleviate senior food insecurity at community meetings.



Measured partner collaboration using a 20-item survey.

Key partners that help reduce food insecurity among older Iowans:

- AARP
- Area agencies on aging
- Community action groups
- Food banks
- Food security groups
- Health systems/hospitals/clinics
- Iowa Department of Public Health
- ISU Extension & Outreach
- Legislators
- Local public health departments
- Salvation Army
- United Way agencies

...and many more!

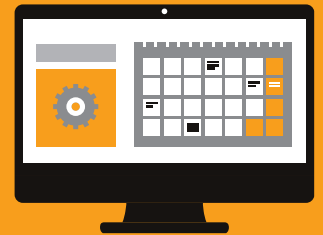
FINDINGS

While partners believed collaboration and communication were generally strong at the local level, **results revealed a need to be even more inclusive and engaged with each other.** Partners also expressed interest in joint programming and a marketing campaign promoting community-based nutrition services for older Iowans.



AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- **Meet cultural and language needs** of minority seniors.
- **Develop clear community action plans** to reduce senior food insecurity.
- **Inform community at large** of current programs for food insecure older Iowans.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1** Implement a statewide campaign promoting community-based nutrition services for seniors.
- 2** Provide technical assistance and resources to help community partnerships:
 - Develop local action plans to reduce food insecurity among seniors.
 - Identify needs of food insecure minority seniors.
 - Inform community members about activities to reduce senior food insecurity.
 - Increase engagement among key local agencies.
- 3** Identify resources to sustain community-level efforts and strengthen local partnerships.



Get engaged in this important work!

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