

Issue Brief – Emergency Food Network

NUMBER EDHR-05-02

SUMMARY

Currently 10 agencies receive funding through the Emergency Food Network. Nine of these agencies are regional emergency food providers and the tenth is Utah’s Against Hunger. Funding is typically divided equally among the recipients.

OBJECTIVE

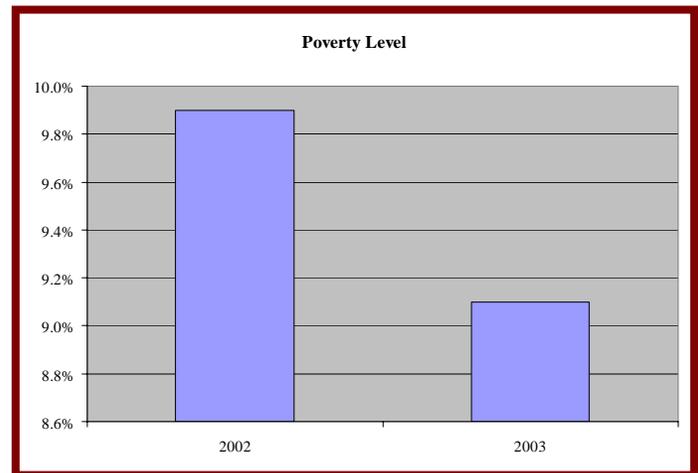
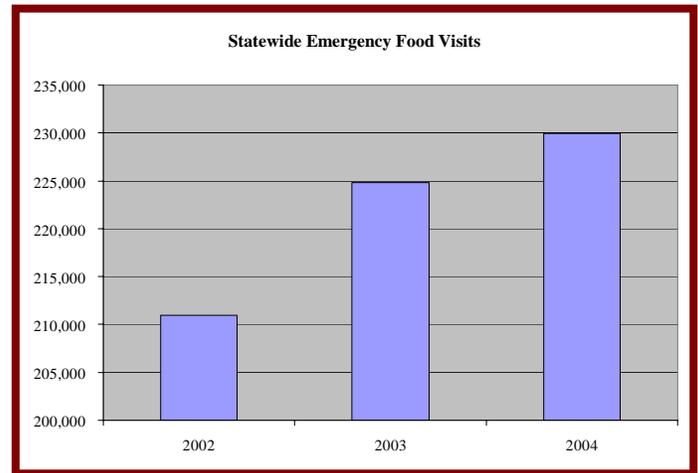
The purpose of this issue brief is to identify emergency food needs throughout the state.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The nine Association of Governments/Community Action Programs manage half of the emergency food pantries throughout the state. Funding is used for needs specific to pantries including: food purchases, equipment purchases, operational requirements. The remaining pantries are run by faith based organizations or private non profit organizations

Generally emergency food pantries distribute a few days worth of groceries to households who come to them for assistance. Each pantry is individually run with varying program and capacity sizes. Because of increasing demand there is a critical need to build capacity and purchase additional food statewide.

Many areas of the state are currently underserved. Unfortunately, operational resources and food donations are not keeping up with demand. From 2002 to 2004 the number of emergency food visits increased by 9 percent. Pantries who receive EFN funding also provide referral services to other resources in the community to help those they serve.



LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Analyst recommends that the Committee consider placing on a priority list \$130,000 General Fund for the Emergency Food Network. It is recommended that funding be used to purchase food and build operational capacity for pantries statewide. The Analyst recommends that a portion of this funding be used to expand the number of pantries eligible for funding.