

Food System Networks in Jefferson County, CO

Data Summary of the Jeffco CPRM

Fall 2023

Background

In partnership with the Colorado Gives Foundation, [Visible Network Labs \(VNL\)](#) launched a project in September 2023 to develop the Jeffco CPRM. A CPRM is a Community Partner Relationship Management platform. The Jeffco CPRM includes a database of organizations in Jefferson County working on various issues (e.g. social, economic, educational, mental health, health, and more), the services and resources they provide, and maps and measures the relationships among them.

This project began with a focus on four key areas: Workforce, Early Childhood, Older Adults, and Food Systems. Using a social network analysis (SNA), the Jeffco CPRM allows us to answer:

- what types of programs and resources are being provided and where,
- who is working collaboratively (or not) across various domains,
- what priorities, indicators, and outcomes community organizations are working towards,
- what gaps in resources and issues exist that are contributing to the larger problem, and
- how additional systems building can strengthen collective community efforts.

A subset of 119 organizations were invited to participate in the Jeffco CPRM data collection. Organizations identified as primarily Food System organizations were included in the second phase of data collection.

This report provides an overview of the results from the angle of Food Systems.

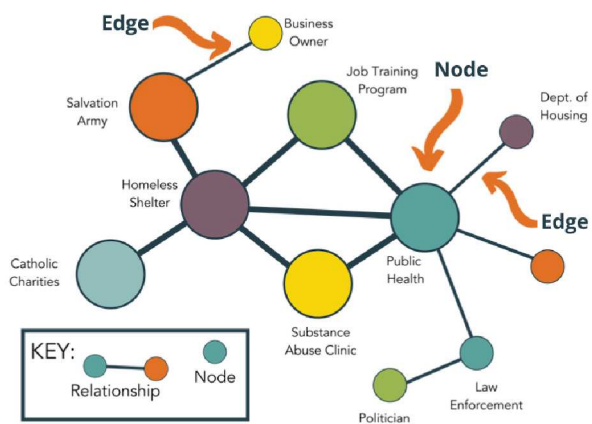
Total number of
organizations
providing food
security and
nutrition services

40

Food Systems Overview

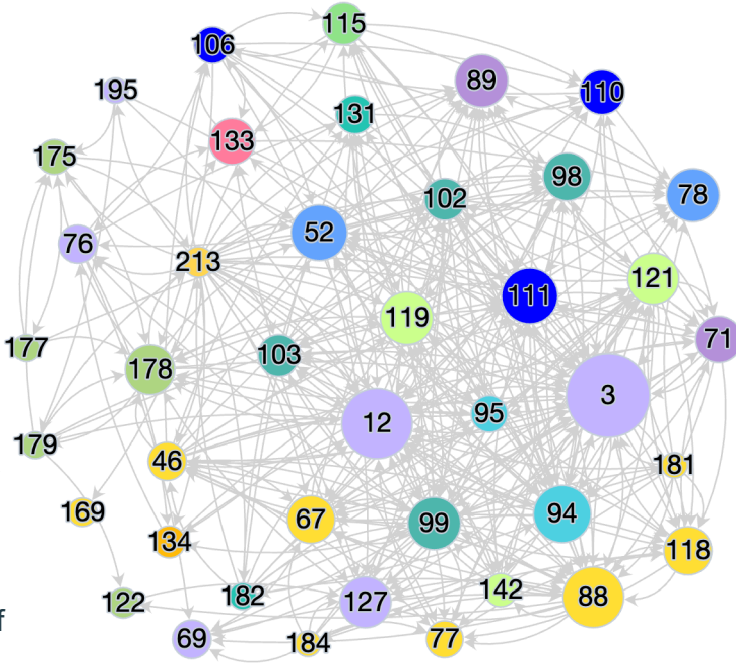
HOW TO INTERPRET A NETWORK MAP

In a network map, partnerships are visualized as “nodes” (circles) and “edges” (lines) which represent the network members and the relationships between them. Nodes may be color-coded by certain organizational characteristics, such as jurisdiction or sector. Nodes can also be different sizes with larger nodes indicating more relationships.



This network map shows the organizations that responded **Yes** to providing food security and nutrition services and colored by primary sector.

Each organization is represented as a circle (called a "node") and coded by its primary sector. The larger nodes were selected most often as a partner by the respondents. The nodes are labeled with a map label identification. The list of map labels and organizations can be found in the network report.



Primary Sector

Advocacy/Policy

Convene/Connect

Early Education/Childcare

Economic Development

Employment/Workforce

Faith Based

Family Services

Food Security/Food Access

Foundation/Funder

Health

Higher Ed

Housing Stability/Homelessness

Human Services

Library

Local Government

Mental/Behavioral Health

Older Adults/Aging

Parks & Recreation

Public Health

Schools K12

When broken down by corridor of poverty, we observed the same pattern in responses across all of the corridors.

	Yes	No
Arvada Corridor	28	15
Wheat Ridge, Edgewater and Lakewood Corridor	30	15
South Lakewood/Golden Corridor	28	13
Unincorporated- Rural Jefferson County	24	13
Other, please specify	4	4

Food Systems Overview

This map shows only the organizations that self identified as providing food security and nutrition services. The larger nodes were selected most often as a partner by the respondents (in-degree score). They are colored by their perception of the level of success around building collaborative networks. **Overall, there are several organizations with higher in-degree scores that believe there has been success at building collaborative networks.** However, there are a few larger nodes that selected **very unsuccessful or more unsuccessful than successful** for this question. Addressing why these organizations believe the building of collaborative networks has not been a success is important to the success health and effectiveness of the overall network.

Question 29: Collaboration is a core value among many organizations in Jefferson County. From your perspective, how successful have we been as a community of partners at successfully building collaborative networks to serve the people of Jefferson County? (Select one)

Very Unsuccessful

Unsuccessful

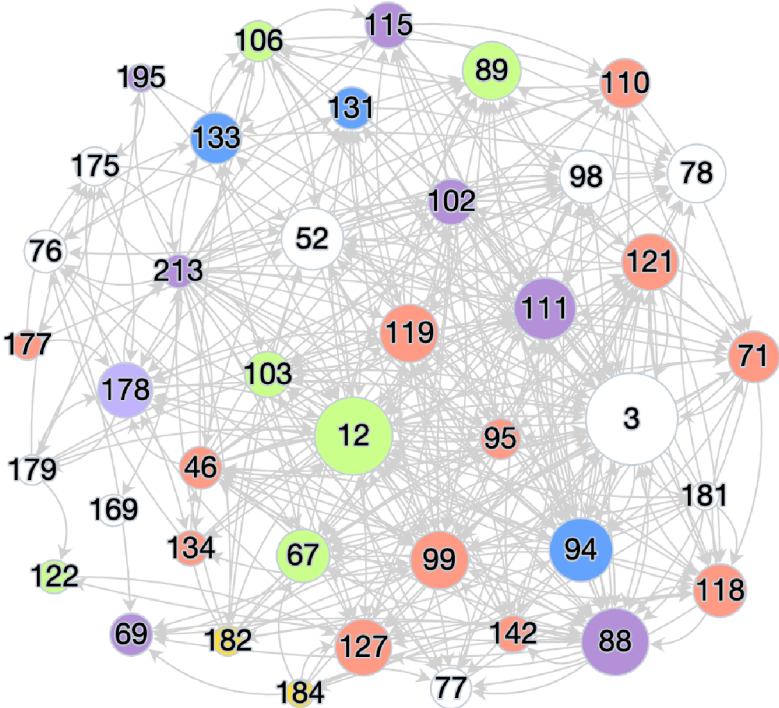
More Unsuccessful Than Successful

More Successful Than Unsuccessful

Successful

Very Successful

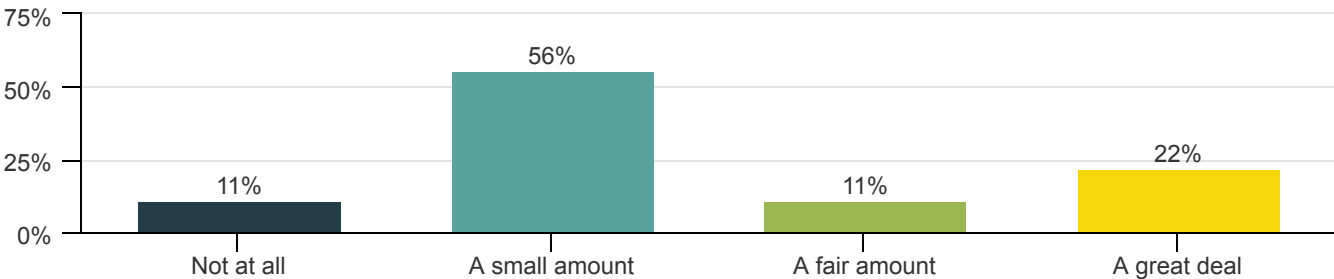
No Data



Respondent organizations providing food security and nutrition services were further asked to what degree they involve community members in their work. Over half of organizations (56%) involve community members in their work **a small amount** and only 22% involve community members **a great deal**. This may be an area to address and provide capacity building if there is this is a value of the network.

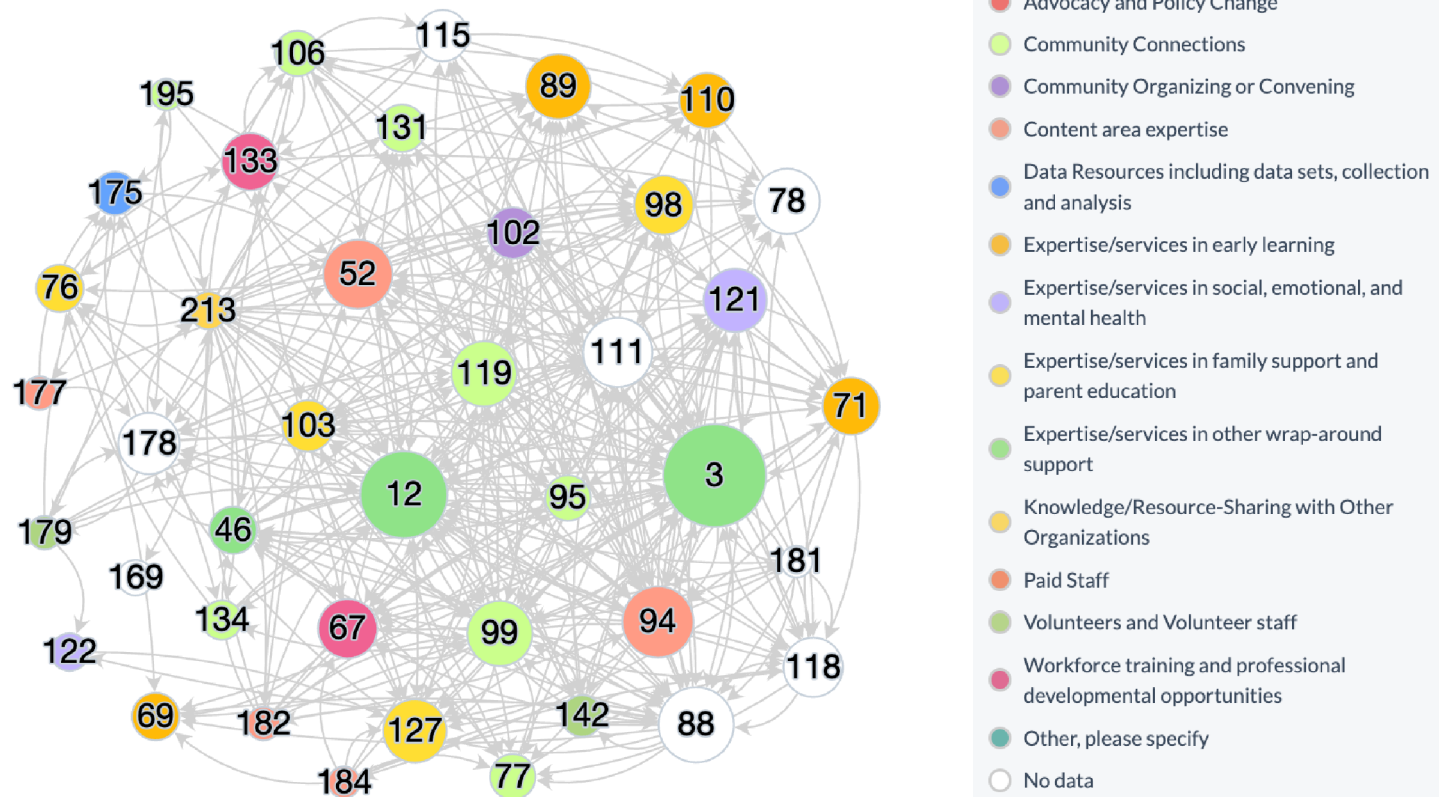
To what degree are you able to involve community members in your work providing food security and nutrition services?* N=9

**(This question was only asked in phase 2)*



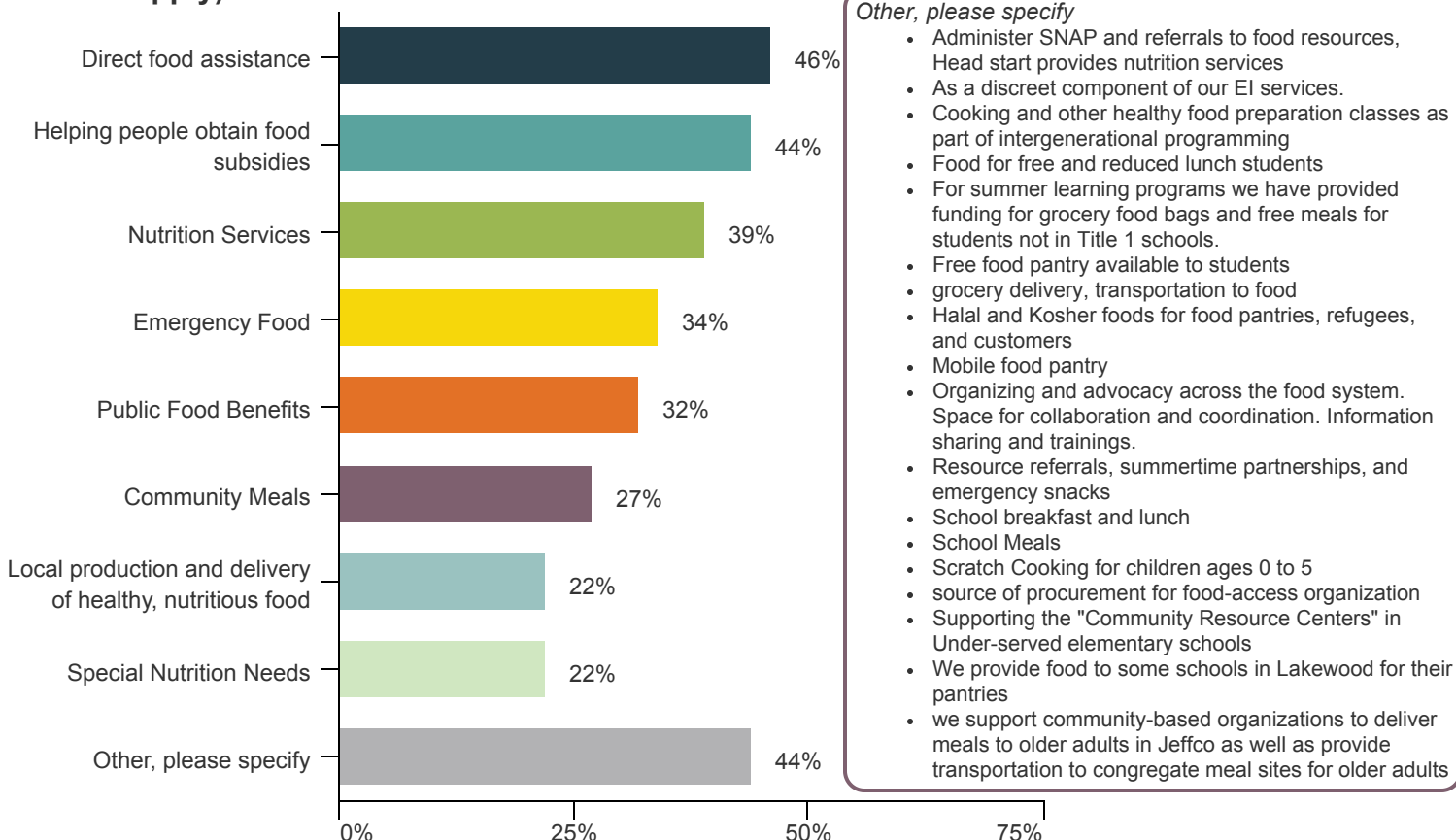
This map shows food security and nutrition respondent organizations and the most important resource they contribute. **Knowledge/resource-sharing** and **expertise/services in other wrap-around support** are among the most important resources contributed by respondent organizations.

What is your organization's most important resource contribution to providing services to people in Jefferson County?



Direct food assistance and **helping people obtain food subsidies** are the most common services provided. When broken down by cities where organizations provide services, there are a greater number of organizations providing **direct food assistance** in Lakewood. Whereas, these services are provided less in Littleton and Westminster.

Which types of Food Security/Nutrition services does your organization provide? (Select all that apply) N=41



Question 2: In what cities do you provide services? (Select all that apply)								
		Arvada	Edgewater	Golden	Lakewood	Littleton	Westminster	Wheat Ridge
Which types of Food Security and Nutrition services does your organization provide? (Select all that apply)	Community Meals	8	7	7	9	5	5	7
	Direct food assistance	14	12	12	15	11	11	13
	Emergency Food	9	7	8	11	5	7	8
	Helping people obtain food subsidies	13	13	13	16	11	10	13
	Local production and delivery of healthy, nutritious food	6	6	6	7	6	5	6
	Nutrition Services	10	10	11	12	11	8	10
	Public Food Benefits	9	9	10	11	7	8	9
	Special Nutrition Needs	5	5	5	7	5	5	5
	Other, please specify	15	14	14	16	13	13	14

When the organizations in the network were categorized by primary sector, there were 18 organizations in the network that primarily focus on food security and food access. The top organizations that are information exchangers and network brokers among these organizations are listed below. **Community Table** (highlighted in teal), **Jeffco Food Policy Council** (highlighted in orange), **GoFarm** (highlighted in purple), **Wheat Ridge Poultry and Meats** (highlighted in gray), and **Kaizen Food Rescue** (highlighted in yellow) are high in all categories which means they are key players in the network. **Jeffco Eats** (highlighted in green) was one of the most selected partners, but they are not ranked higher in the other categories because they did not take the survey.

Information Exchangers are people or organizations close to a large number of network members. Information exchangers can communicate more quickly and easily with others in the network compared to less central nodes.

Network Brokers are people or organizations with high betweenness centrality scores. They are in a position to serve as facilitators or gatekeepers of information and resources.

A possible limitation: the highest centrality organizations for out-degree, betweenness, and closeness were invited to participate in the survey during the first two phases. We should be able to refine these types of centrality findings as we get data from additional members in the network (betweenness and closeness are also more sensitive to missing data so we expect them to change with additional data).

Information Exchangers	Network Brokers	Most often selected as a partner	Selected the most partners
Community Table	Jeffco Food Policy Council	Jeffco Food Policy Council	Community Table
Wheat Ridge Poultry and Meats	Wheat Ridge Poultry and Meats	Jeffco Eats	Jeffco Food Policy Council
Jeffco Food Policy Council	Community Table	GoFarm	Wheat Ridge Poultry and Meats
East Denver Food Hub	GoFarm	Kaizen Food Rescue	East Denver Food Hub
Kaizen Food Rescue	Kaizen Food Rescue	BGOLDN	GoFarm
GoFarm	Integrated Family Community Services	Community Table	Kaizen Food Rescue
Integrated Family Community Services	East Denver Food Hub	Integrated Family Community Services	Integrated Family Community Services
Brown Bag Ministries	Brown Bag Ministries	Bondadosa	Brown Bag Ministries