What is Food Insecurity?

• Dr. Frank:
  – access is “compromised” due to finances
  – concerns about running out, being forced to eat poor-quality products, deprivation

• Varying levels of food insecurity
  – Most measurements include moderate and severe food insecurity
Food Insecurity in Nova Scotia

- 1 in 5 Nova Scotians are food insecure – highest rate of any Canadian province
- 24,000 Nova Scotians visited a food bank in 2014, a 40% increase since 2008
- Food insecurity puts additional stress on the province’s health care system
- The cost of a nutritious diet in NS increased by 63% between 2002 and 2015

Canadian Student Food Insecurity

- Tuition Increases > Minimum Wage Increases
- 2016/2017 Tuition Increases
  – Nova Scotia average: 5% increase
  – National average: 2.8% increase
- Student food insecurity perceived as temporary, insignificant
Food Insecurity at Acadia

• Dr. Leslie Frank’s 2015 study
  – 38.1% of students experienced moderate to severe food insecurity in the past year
  – 49.5% of off-campus students
  – 1030 students participated
• Significant emotional, mental toll on students
  – Has forced students to drop classes, attend events offering free food, rely on credit cards, sell personal belongings, etc.

Barriers

• Wolfville Area Food Bank (WAFB)
  – Fewer than 1% of Acadia Students experiencing food insecurity at Acadia utilize the WAFB
  – The WAFB operates twice a month
  – Difficult to access for immediate support
  – Not tailored to students
• Acadia is one of the ONLY universities in Canada to not offer an on-campus food bank
The ASU Food Room

• Student Run
  – Paid part-time coordinator
  – Volunteers
• Lean Start-up
  – Non-perishables
  – Gift cards
• Growth
  – Community meals
  – Produce & meat
  – Textbooks
  – Pop-ups
  – Toiletries and living essentials

The ASU Food Room

• Location: Working out details and options
  – Accessible
  – Discreet Location
  – Spacious Room
• Operations: 3 days/week, 2 hours/day
• Accessibility: All students with a valid student ID
  – Limit to amount of use/student
The ASU Food Room

• Funding
  – Wellness Fund
  – Chartwells’ Campus Projects Grant
  – Town of Wolfville Community Partnership Program Grant
  – Other External Grants
  – Friday Axe Cover
  – Donation Campaigns
• Note: None of Acadia’s supports for the WAFB will be jeopardized by this service.

Countdown to Launch

• January, 2018
  – Set up room
  – Procurement (already underway)
  – Hire and train volunteers
  – Promote service
• Launch date: Monday, January 29, 2018
• Launch event: Community meal in the SUB
Moving Forward

• Hire Food Room Coordinator
• Part-time Coordinator to work with working committee
• Evaluate service, usage, offerings, operations throughout the semester
• Determine a more permeant model moving forward
• Co-op position for Fall, 2018 Semester

You Can Help

• Promote the service
• Encourage friends, colleagues, classmates to volunteer
• Attend Food Room Nights at the Axe
• Participate in donation campaigns
References (1)


References (2)


Questions?