

**Community Health Services Advisory Committee**  
**CHIP | Health in All Policies Action Team**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 4, 2023**

**Members Present/Representation**

- Hannah Fairman | Co District 1
- Hongyi Lan | Co District 1
- Rajaram Swaminathan | Co District 1
- Lucy Arias | Co District 2
- Mark Traynor | Co District 2
- John Larkin | Co District 3
- Steve Nelson | Co District 3
- Carol Thunstrom | Co District 3
- Donna Oda | Co District 4
- Manoj Doss | Co District 5
- Sophia Vuelo | Co District 5
- Erica Morris | Co District 6
- Jennifer Arnold | Co District 7
- Hanna Getachew-Kreusser | City of Saint Paul
- David Muhovich | City of Saint Paul
- Sarah Osman | City of Saint Paul
- Regina Rippel | City of Saint Paul
- Kerri Elizabeth Sawyer | City of Saint Paul

**SPRCPH Staff:**

- Sara Hollie | Director
- Diane Holmgren | Deputy Director
- Tommi Godwin | Planning Manager
- Carissa Dillon | Planning Manager
- Julia Wolfe | Planner, Healthy Aging
- Cathy St. Michel | Support Staff

**Guests:**

The meeting was called to Order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice-Chair Manoj Doss. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made around the table.

A motion was made by Steve Nelson and seconded by Donna Oda to approve the minutes as written for November 7, 2022. Motion passed by affirmation of the committee. It was noted that the slides should be printed full page to make the font readable. Cathy will re-send the slides to committee members.

<p>Food Security Updates, Carissa Dillon, Planning Manager</p>	<p>Carissa is a Food Security Planner and works out of the County Manager’s Office. She last visited this committee in Nov 2021. She will present the assessment data today. Please see notes attached to these minutes.</p> <p>QUESTION: Have you considered how to provide culturally appropriate food? Ramsey County has a very diverse population.</p> <p>RESPONSE: A Request for Proposal was opened for local vendors to apply. The theme was for more culturally appropriate food to be provided to food shelves and organizations. These items cost more. Carissa is working with Second Harvest to purchase these foods for less money and educating people to make better donation choices.</p> <p>QUESTION: Why are seniors getting their SNAP reduced?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Carissa thought the benefit went up with the 200%, but some members disagreed. Carissa will research. It seems that seniors are not considered when determining benefits. Carissa will send an answer through Cathy.</p> <p>QUESTION: Why are numbers ahead in WIC and behind in SNAP?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Carissa is looking at the legislation to see if we need better communication to help people enroll in every program they qualify for, and cross-enrollment for county services.</p> <p>QUESTION: Is water part of Nutrition? Brooklyn Park has issues with their water and frequently issues boil notices. Some parents cannot afford bottled / purified water for children and babies.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Food shelves carry distilled water for babies. There is lead in plumbing, so tap water may not be safe. It is important to have clean water. We need to make sure that food shelves have bottled water. The Saint Paul Water Board has an initiative to replace lead pipe at their cost. John Larkin can look into this issue and bring info back. The EPA tests tap water and makes sure that tap water is safe to drink. Sara offered to invite Environmental Health to present on the lead program and testing for lead.</p> <p>QUESTION: There is incredible demand for food shelves. Is the county devoting more resources to the food security initiative?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Carissa feels that we can always do more. We do not have funding to fill all of the immediate needs. She is hopeful that we can provide relief for immediate needs. There is a push in the legislature to use the surplus for safety net programs.</p> <p>QUESTION: Seniors have a tough time waiting in line and having transportation. We should consider these barriers when funding. Kids get lunch at school, but seniors do not have that meal benefit. Some of the delivery services have benefits for seniors with disabilities. Carissa is looking at whether we can replicate programs like Door Dash in Ramsey County.</p> <p>QUESTION: Are there statistics available about black and brown residents using these benefits more than white residents?</p>
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	<p>RESPONSE: On the data portal there are many of these statistics and a breakdown by ethnicity. Some of the disparities are shocking. More specific data can be added if members let Carissa know what they would like to see. There are disparities within zip codes as well.</p> <p>Cathy will send Carissa's contact info.</p>
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<p>Public Health Budget Discussion  Diane Holmgren, Deputy Director  Tommi Godwin, Planning Manager</p>	<p>Today we will be focusing on the priority areas. We are anxious to get feedback on allocating resources.</p> <p>Resources dedicated to these priorities was not always equitable. The Trusted Messenger work focuses the voices they are hearing from community and is an innovative way to put the money back into community. It will be an application, not a Request for Proposal (RFP), which will lessen the burden to apply for funds.</p> <p>We are dedicating \$100K to the Birth Equity Community Council work through funding from MDH and looking for resources to address disparities in birth outcomes. We are committed to doing work differently.</p> <p>The application process is a direct result of feedback from the community. The RFP process is difficult and a real barrier. We are trying to make it a friendlier to work with the county.</p> <p>The premise of the Innovation Grants is to have synergy between the CHIP priorities and our grant awards.</p> <p>QUESTION: Are there connections between the staff working on Opioid response and Mental Health?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Yes, we are working to keep an internal group together, and work with a larger community group. There are a number of Social Services groups involved.</p> <p>QUESTION: Do we have a See Something - Say Something program to encourage people to report potential violence?</p> <p>RESPONSE: There is no program like this in Public Health. The Appropriate Response initiative is working to change 911 emergency response to include a community response.</p> <p>QUESTION: What does Making Authentic Connections (MAC) look like?</p> <p>RESPONSE: MAC creates youth-friendly spaces, such as a welcoming space at a library to reduce biases and train people to make good connections. Working with youth, if there is a caring adult in their life they know they can reach out for help. Sara will invite Kee to bring the MAC info forward. We sent a limited number of people to train other organizations, for a fee.</p> <p>QUESTION: Is there a way to take MAC further - into the courts, to educators? There are so many kids of color but no teachers of color. How do we take this to the judges who see young people so they will create connections with the youth they see?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Teachers at many levels were receiving this training, but not sure about courts. Grit and Darleen were amazing advocates for MAC, and have now retired. Diane has great institutional knowledge of what has been done in the past. We prioritize work beyond mandated scope. We have some areas of discretion. When we create the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and prioritize work based on the CHA, there was a higher focus on youth in schools, less in justice system. That was the context for MAC. There are roots in the native community for this program.</p>
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QUESTION: The Guardian ad Litem program really needs work. There is something in legislation now about families being broken up. The judicial system as a whole could be made stronger in the long run.

RESPONSE: Transforming Systems Together (TST), led by Danny Givens, consists of nine community leaders, and nine county leaders. TST discusses laws and policies that address the childcare and foster care systems.

Moving into the activity section, Tommi described the voting activity and how to vote for specific issues that members feel have the greatest disparities, the greatest impact, and should be the highest priority.

Diane shared the discussion prompts for members to comment on priority areas to focus efforts within PH to have the greatest impact.

Donna commented that having no home can lead to poor health, mental instability, feeling unsafe. Homelessness leads to many other issues that affect wellbeing. Children need a place to live and be safe, or they will not be healthy.

We separate out a racial equity (RE) lens. Through steering with this group and over the last decade of collaborative relationships, there was a debate over whether the RE lens should be its own priority, or if it should be intertwined with all other work. We have done both, through the fine work of our SPRCPH directors and leaders within the county. When we list it as both, we highlight the work we have done to advance the RE work for our residents.

Second round of voting: Opportunities for SPRCPH

Our relationship with Housing Stability will grow – it is new program. What is our role in SPRCPH with the new Housing Stability department? We can look at it as a Social Determinant of Health.

There is an organization in Frogtown for housing stability, but this discussion is regarding a new department within Ramsey County that can help people prepare for renting and/or buying a home.

It was noted that Hennepin County recently evicted people during a winter storm, when people who had court dates could not get to court due to the weather. It could be that COVID protections ended. Part of the ARPA funding was an influx of funds focused on housing. We can have the Housing Stability / House Calls programs present to this committee at a future meeting.

Please send notes to Tommi via Cathy if you have additional comments.

QUESTION: Communication is a big first step. Does SPRCPH have space on billboards or busses or trains to use as an educational tool? Could Ramsey County have dedicated billboards? Social media is not for everyone.

RESPONSE: We have resources with Communications and various platforms to create education campaigns and encourage various priorities – right now the focus is vaccination and Environmental Health

	promotion. We have considered radio, media groups, Minnesota Public Radio, local news.
Announcements	Please share the Innovation Grant info. Share widely and encourage people to apply.

Minutes taken by Cathy St. Michel.

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. passed by affirmation of the committee.

Next meeting: November 2, 2022.

Relevant comments from the chat are copied below.

From Carissa Dillon (she/her) to Everyone 05:41 PM

<https://data.ramseycounty.us/stories/s/Food-Security/9cfd-sn87/>

From Dave Muhovich to Everyone 06:09 PM

While listening I looked at "Participation Rates" for WIC & SNAP. 2019 WIC numbers were above national average (67.2% to 57.4%) but behind the national average for SNAP (76% to 82% - 2021 numbers). Low hanging fruit for WIC/Public Health to help DHS figure out how to increase participation?

From Dave Muhovich to Everyone 06:15 PM

Carissa: If water does come up as an agenda item for you and your team, invite a dentist to participate. There are some issues with some folk using so much bottled water that they are losing out in terms of fluoridation.

From Sara Hollie, Saint Paul Ramsey County Public Health to Everyone 06:16 PM

Agreed, Dave. Oral Health is important in that conversation. Wondering what MDH would have to say also.

From Dave Muhovich to Everyone 06:20 PM

Community gardening is a blast. Some urban soil is lead contaminated. However, straw bale gardening can easily overcome that issue. Availability of straw is starting to be an issue since so many of us are using them. Might be an area where County services could assist.

From Sara Hollie, Saint Paul Ramsey County Public Health to Everyone 06:31 PM

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/businesses/doing-business-ramsey-county/community-innovation-grants>

From Dave Muhovich to Everyone 06:37 PM

Over the next year "Mpox" is being used instead of "Monkeypox"

From Diane Holmgren/ Saint Paul - Ramsey Co PH to Everyone 06:38 PM

Thanks, Dave.

From Dave Muhovich to Everyone 06:47 PM

The proliferation of participation in "Nextdoor" and home security (e.g., Ring Cameras) points to a need for additional work on "Appropriate response" - IMHO . These sites can help but can be very toxic. Tough work.

From Sara Hollie, Saint Paul Ramsey County Public Health to Everyone 06:55 PM

Authentic Connections is a community-based violence prevention program that utilizes the six key principles of environment, bias, empathy, culture, power and connection which are rooted in improving social connection to support individuals, organizations, businesses and communities in reducing, addressing and de-escalating stressful situations in public settings. Authentic Connection principles are supported by research, which shows

when there is an increase in social connection, there is a decrease in incidents of violence. When individuals, families, community members or work colleagues feel secure and connected in their lives, they can better thrive in various environments and achieve positive health outcomes.

From Tommi Godwin to Everyone 07:09 PM

3 “post-its” twice: 1) Input on up to three priorities to indicate, What would you like Public Health to focus on to have the greatest impacts to improve?

<https://www.menti.com/ale9ru29zoy7>

From Diane Holmgren/ Saint Paul - Ramsey Co PH to Everyone 07:20 PM

What would you like PH to focus on to have the greatest impacts to improve health?

From Tommi Godwin to Everyone 07:21 PM

H: no home means poor health, poor everything. mental stability, and more. no safe place to be. I see homelessness tied to everything

From Mark Traynor to Everyone 07:21 PM

1. All work through racial equity lens
2. Opioid settlement and fentanyl crisis

From Erica Morris to Everyone 07:21 PM

Mental health wellbeing. Having the ability to make healthy decisions, guide your actions towards your overall health and wellbeing.

From Dave Muhovich to Everyone 07:22 PM

In terms of work on homelessness - housing issues that include access to one-stop services. Public Health maybe cannot take the lead but has to be ready to step in with all of the great activities that are available.

From Manoj Doss DO to Everyone 07:22 PM

MH: early intervention programs for children with trauma history.

From John Larkin to Everyone 07:22 PM

Continued/Improved interagency collaboration, as has been indicated for many of the priority areas.

From Erica Morris to Everyone 07:22 PM

The healthier the better and having access to services has the potential for a lasting impact.

From Mark Traynor to Everyone 07:23 PM

3. Agree with housing for overall county priority- mental health connection with public health.

From Steven Nelson to Everyone 07:24 PM

1. More food stamps and protection for Seniors, Foster children with guns, and Sexual violence.

From Manoj Doss DO to Everyone 07:24 PM

QUESTION: Works with a horizontal equity lens when creating policies/programs.

From Hongyi Lan to Everyone 07:24 PM

A healthy community is a collective effort.

From Tommi Godwin to Everyone 07:25 PM

Next 3 post-its: What opportunities do you see for Public Health?

From Donna Oda to Everyone 07:25 PM

No home: poor health,.....

From Manoj Doss DO to Everyone 07:25 PM

MH: Expansion of MAT programs.

From John Larkin to Everyone 07:26 PM

V: education (simple concepts) across the community to understand mental health issues and at-risk individuals.

From Donna Oda to Everyone 07:26 PM

Community Stabilization Program/ RU Rent ready

From Erica Morris to Everyone 07:26 PM

Continued partnering with mental health crisis response.

From Dave Muhovich to Everyone 07:26 PM

I don't think "return to the office" is going to be widespread - empty office building can be used for housing and these buildings can incorporate 'one-stop-shop.'

From Manoj Doss DO to Everyone 07:27 PM

Urban ag: vertical hydroponic farming uses little land.

From Dave Muhovich to Everyone 07:27 PM

Workforce development - mental health and CD counselors are in short supply (and under paid)

From Manoj Doss DO to Everyone 07:28 PM

MH: embracing ethnocentric methods of spiritual healing

From Erica Morris to Everyone 07:29 PM

Room for work with shelter dv, Youth (especially), adult shelters creating hubs to bring more resources to the hands of individuals.

From Dave Muhovich to Everyone 07:29 PM

Climate change doesn't emotionally feel like a high priority - we don't know what to do, won't be able to see the results for a long time - however, the negative impacts of climate change will hit the BIPOC folk the hardest.



# Food Security Assessment

Carissa Dillon  
Health and Wellness  
January 4, 2023

## Agenda for today

- Assessment Background
- Assessment results
  - Food Insecurity Data Story
  - Engagement Results
- Ramsey County Next Steps

## The impact of food insecurity

- People experiencing food insecurity are forced to make choices that impact health, such as:
  - Postponing or avoiding preventative or needed medical care
  - Purchasing inexpensive, unhealthy food
  - Not following special diets to prevent or control chronic health conditions
  - Not filling, skipping or reducing necessary doses of prescriptions
  - Choosing between food and other basic needs
- Other impacts of food insecurity on economic well-being:
  - Absenteeism
  - Decreased ability to perform effectively in the workforce
  - Decreased learning ability in children

# COVID-19 Food and Basic Needs Response

**Ramsey County dedicated \$10 million in CARES funding**

Three priority areas were supported based on community engagement and a Needs Assessment

1. Home-based meal delivery,
2. Food shelves and basic needs,
3. School meals for youth.

## Outcomes

- Over 500,000 home delivered meals were provided to those impacted by COVID
- Food shelf and food programs purchased culturally appropriate foods, basic hygiene products and enhanced infrastructure
- Youth-serving organizations were nimbler in their response

# Food Security Coordinator

- Conduct a broad systems assessment
- County position to serve as a coordinator/convener
- Increase collaboration, communication, and consistent messaging across the food security safety net system
- Prioritize food security within the county – funding, resources, alignment
- Continue to facilitate community engagement

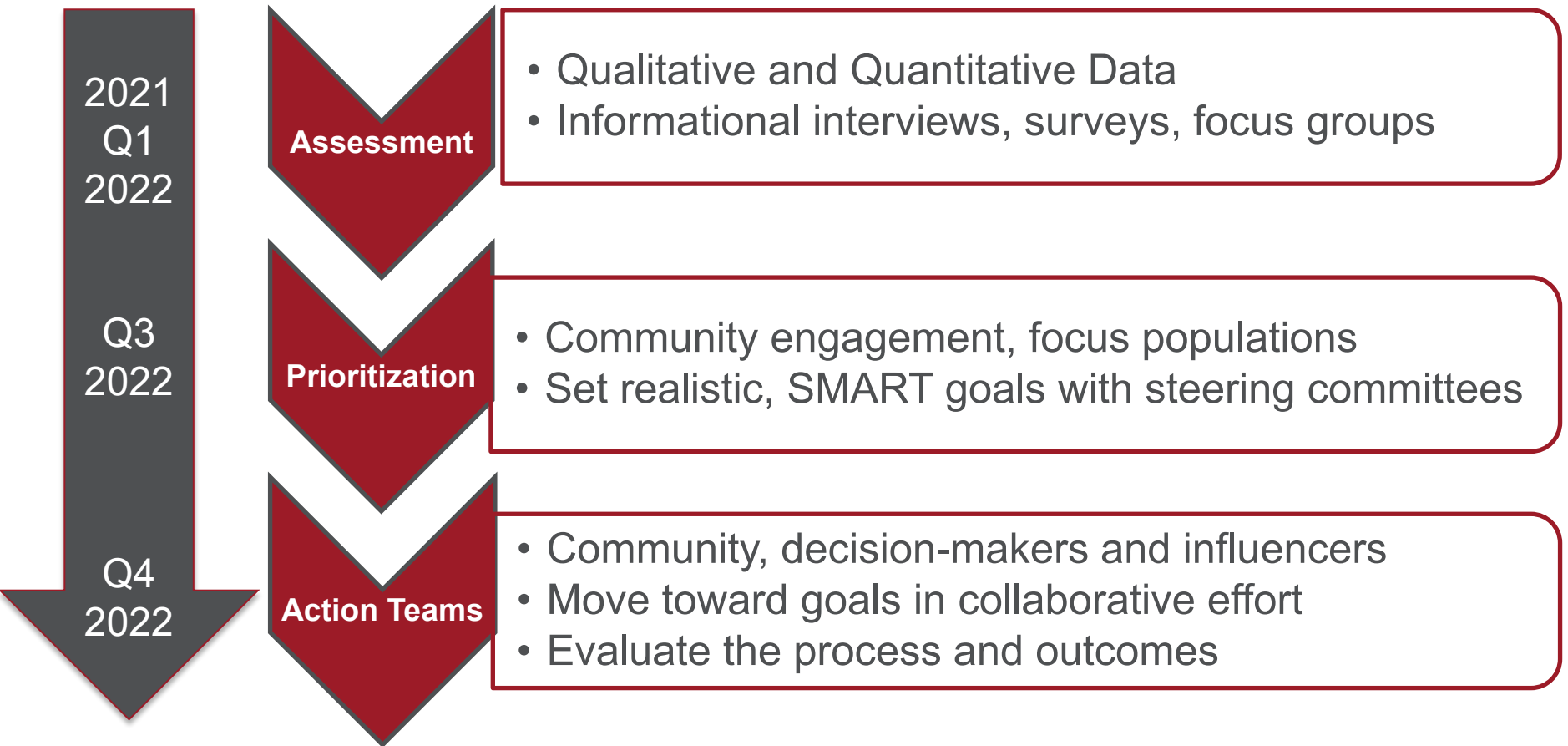
## HOW

- Involve community and organizational **engagement**
- Involve evaluation team to set measurable **outcomes**
- Facilitate work groups moving toward **strategic goals**

# Aligned Approach to Address Food Insecurity

- **Advancing a Holistic Approach to Strengthen Families**  
“Ramsey County will strengthen families by expanding access to quality consistent early childhood care, education, and access to nutritious foods, resources and opportunities.”
- **Urban Institute’s Upward Mobility**  
“Promote food security and access to nutritious foods.”
- **2040 Comprehensive Plan**  
“Work with community partners to eliminate food insecurity by 2040.”
- **Public Health Community Health Assessment**
- **Food Resources webpage**
- **Statewide Health Improvement Partnership**
- **Food and Nutrition Commission**
- **COVID relief efforts/CARES funding**

# Assessment and Prioritization Timeline



**Food Security Action Steps**

Strategic Direction of Action Team based on community input and current prioritization.

**Food Security Coordinator**  
Carissa Dillon

Provides oversight for evaluation, resources, advocacy, support, coordinates engagement, communications and alignment

**External Governance Team**

**Internal Steering Committee**

Sanneh Foundation, Fairview-Healtheast, Keystone Services, CLUES, Wilder (Promise Neighborhood), Mt. Olivet Baptist Church Food Shelf, Department of Indian Works- Interfaith Action, Food Shelf, White Bear Lake Food Shelf, Somali Farmers Association, Allina Health System, Health Partners

**Evaluation and Reporting**

WIC Division Manager, Interim FAS Director, Research and Evaluation, Racial and Health Equity Liaison, FAS Planning Manager, SHIP Health Educator, Policy and Planning

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## Assessment Data

- Quantitative Data
  - Analyzed proxy measures specific to Ramsey County
  - Developed Open Data Portal for Food Security Data Story
- Qualitative Data
  - Over 75 informational interviews with service providers
  - Community engagement in partnership with Imagine Deliver
  - Heard from over 300 community members at 6 events
  - Open ended questions analyzed into priority areas

# Assessment: Food Insecurity Data Story



Hunger is a challenge for many Ramsey County residents. We have higher rates of food insecurity than the Minnesota state average and this gap widened during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, 12% of Ramsey County residents were food insecure, while the state average was 10%. This trend continued in 2021 and the gap widened further during the COVID-19 pandemic. Children, older adults, and racially and ethnically diverse communities are the most impacted by food insecurity. The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed inequities among our most vulnerable community members.

Ramsey County is taking steps with our partners to continue to address food insecurity.

<https://data.ramseycounty.us/stories/s/Food-Security/9cfd-sn87/>

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## Assessment: Children, elders and racially and ethnically diverse community impact

- Ramsey County's food insecurity rate **higher than state average** – 8.6% statewide versus county's 10.9%. Estimated **60,000 residents** are food insecure in 2021.
- **20% of Ramsey County children** estimated to be food insecure in 2020, equals **more than 22,000** food insecure children in Ramsey County.
- In 2017-18, nearly 3 out of 5 children (**55.9%**) in Ramsey County received free or reduced lunch – one of the highest rates in the state (the MN average was 37.5%)
- Children under 18 are largest age group that benefits from SNAP comprising **38% of participants (31,000)** and **BIPOC children benefit from WIC**
- **20% Adults 55 and older** of SNAP recipients (are highest group after children)
- **Black and Asian** residents have higher participation rates in SNAP than White, American Indian, or Multiple Race residents (56,000)

# Summarized Community Insights by Theme

Theme	Insights	Description	In Their Own Words
Food choice & autonomy	<b>Gardens on every block: Localizing food production as a means of increasing access</b>	Community members dream of having more autonomy over the food they eat and the food production process. They are seeking opportunities to grow their own food either individually or communally, source ingredients locally, and support their community farmers. In order to actualize these goals, community members have suggested some possible solutions including urban farming opportunities, more educating and empowering residents on how to grow their own food, partnerships with local farmers at local grocery stores, and expanding farmers market seasons.	<p>“[I dream of a] lot more natural foods, gardens, people being able to grow their own foods. Using too many chemicals. Eating from the source.”</p> <p>“More farmers’ markets; a way of extending their season (enclosed spaces).”</p>
	<b>Community knows what’s good for them: Healthy foods build strong families and communities</b>	Access to quality, healthy, and fresh food is a top priority for community members. They are conscientious of how food can affect their health and have called for less processed foods, fresh/organic fruits and vegetables, fresh meats, and more nutrient-dense options. Engagement participants are conscientious of how food can affect their health and have called for less processed foods, fresh/organic fruits and vegetables, fresh meats, and more nutrient-dense options. Of those who expanded upon their barriers to accessing quality, healthy, and fresh food, affordability was the most pressing issue.	<p>“More fruits and vegetables, even more healthy options, train people to get healthy food not just what is cheap and to look at ingredients lists... Education on food health.”</p> <p>“Daily affordable, healthy, and sustainably sourced meals for families, plus snacks for kids. Community gardens, food processing resources, and educational resources for everyone.”</p>

# Summarized Community Insights by Theme

Theme	Insights	Description	In Their Own Words
Food affordability & supplemental assistance	<b>Our money doesn't stretch: Compounding factors push food affordability out of reach</b>	Affordability of food is a major issue for community engagement participants. High prices for fresh produce, increasing prices of food overall, and a need for more discounted food programs were among the issues most commented on. When asked what mattered the most to them when choosing food for themselves or their family, some participants noted food versatility as being important, which may indicate some concern over food waste and the impact it can have on their food budget.	<p>"First we lower our consumption to minimize the need but then ask family for help. If more yet is still needed, I work side jobs to be able to buy more."</p> <p>"I have a diabetic son but no low-cost resources exist that I have found."</p>
	<b>Barriers to stability: Unrealistic benefit requirements create a moving target for at-risk families</b>	Public benefits and the process of applying for them need to be more dynamic and flexible to meet the shifting needs of their users. Community members perceive public assistance requirements and their administration to be confusing and unaccommodating when it comes to families with incomes just above the qualification threshold, those who have unstable conditions such as being unhoused, and those with children who have aged out of programs such as WIC. Issues such as the benefits cliff and confusion around qualification requirements as key barriers to access.	<p>"We have no little kids at home and we make too much to qualify for benefits. But not by much. There's a middle group of people that don't qualify but could use a little assistance."</p> <p>"I currently get WIC, but based on income, I don't qualify for SNAP, which is frustrating."</p>

# Summarized Community Insights by Theme

Theme	Insights	Description	In Their Own Words
Filling gaps in food availability	<b>Keystones in the community: Formal programs and services step in where public assistance fails</b>	Food shelves are essential resources for those who need to fill gaps in their food availability. Community members seeking ways to stretch their limited dollars heavily utilized these resources. Some community members spoke of food shelves being so reliable for their monthly food planning that they didn't even consider themselves to be food insecure. Food shelves allowed them to stretch or conserve their monthly food budget. Although some food shelves also have administrative requirements, they generally have been more accessible for community members than more formal county and state programs like SNAP and WIC.	<p>"We've used SPPS lunches and EBT services. We also take on more work. We are also lucky to have a small garden and family nearby."</p> <p>"When I don't have enough food, I call and find some food from my caseworker."</p>
	<b>A community potluck: Leveraging social connections to bridge the gaps</b>	Community members utilize informal resources such as family, friends, and places of worship to access supplemental or culturally specific foods. Participants have used their networks to circumvent some of the issues they encounter with formal resources like visit limits and lack of transportation. Adding county resources behind the ways in which community members already access adequate amounts of food informally and access food that matches their cultural preferences could serve as a way to acknowledge an asset-based approach to food security.	<p>"[When I don't have enough food, I] go to taste of today or Gustavus Adolphus Church. Ask my mom or sisters if they have extra food."</p> <p>"[When I don't have enough food, I] ask family to borrow food stamps."</p>

# Food Security Actions

Immediate Actions

Enhancing  
Food Safety  
Net

Increasing  
Access to  
Public  
Benefits

Medium-term Actions

Urban  
Agriculture

Expanding  
Food  
Affordability

Foundational Actions

Resources &  
Communications

Advocacy

# Community Engagement Results



Enhancing  
Food  
Safety Net

- Food to People
  - Delivery services
  - Better public transportation infrastructure
- Less paperwork required to receive food
  - Fear of public charge
  - Reporting requirements
- Cultural, Fresh & Healthy Food options
  - Quality Assurance
  - Staff time and infrastructure
  - Medically appropriate
- Donation system upgrades
  - What to donate
  - Equitable distribution of donations



## Community Engagement Results



Increasing  
Access to  
Public  
Benefits

- New locations for applying for public benefits
- Eligibility increase to 200% FPG
- Expand the new MNBENEFITS platform
- Co-applications for Ramsey County programs (WIC, MA, SNAP, MFIP, childcare, housing)
  - Involve educational benefits in process
  - Continue to address workflow and internal referrals challenges
- Increase use and redemption
- Health care screening and referral

# Community Engagement Results



Urban  
Agriculture

- Food Sovereignty and community autonomy
  - Accommodate multi-year growing seasons
  - Easier processes to access land
  - Urban Planning to include green space for urban agriculture
  - Foster more farm-to-retail opportunities
  - Strengthen local economy through food system upgrades
  - Expand farm-to-food shelf programs

## Community Engagement Results



Expanding  
Food  
Affordability  
&  
Availability

- Inflation continues
- Continue to build on subsidy programs
- Farmers Market bucks
- Statewide Health Improvement Program Brightside effort

# Community Engagement: Resources/Communications

## TOPICS

- Local urban ag resources
- Local food system benefits
- Market bucks and other subsidized benefits
- SNAP and WIC benefits
- How to be successful when moving off benefits
- Donating to food shelves (direct funds and specific, desirable foods)
- Preservation, composting, other cooking skills
- Food Resource map update



## Resources/Communications

### HOW

- Focus on different languages and certain demographics
- Removing sense of shame to accessing benefits
- Multilingual campaign linking young adults and seniors
- Using Trusted Messengers
- Leverage social media to promote tools and resources by neighborhood, use informal connections

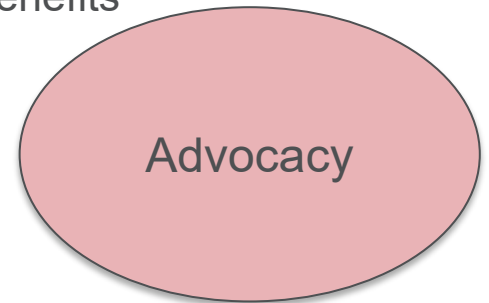


## Community Engagement Results

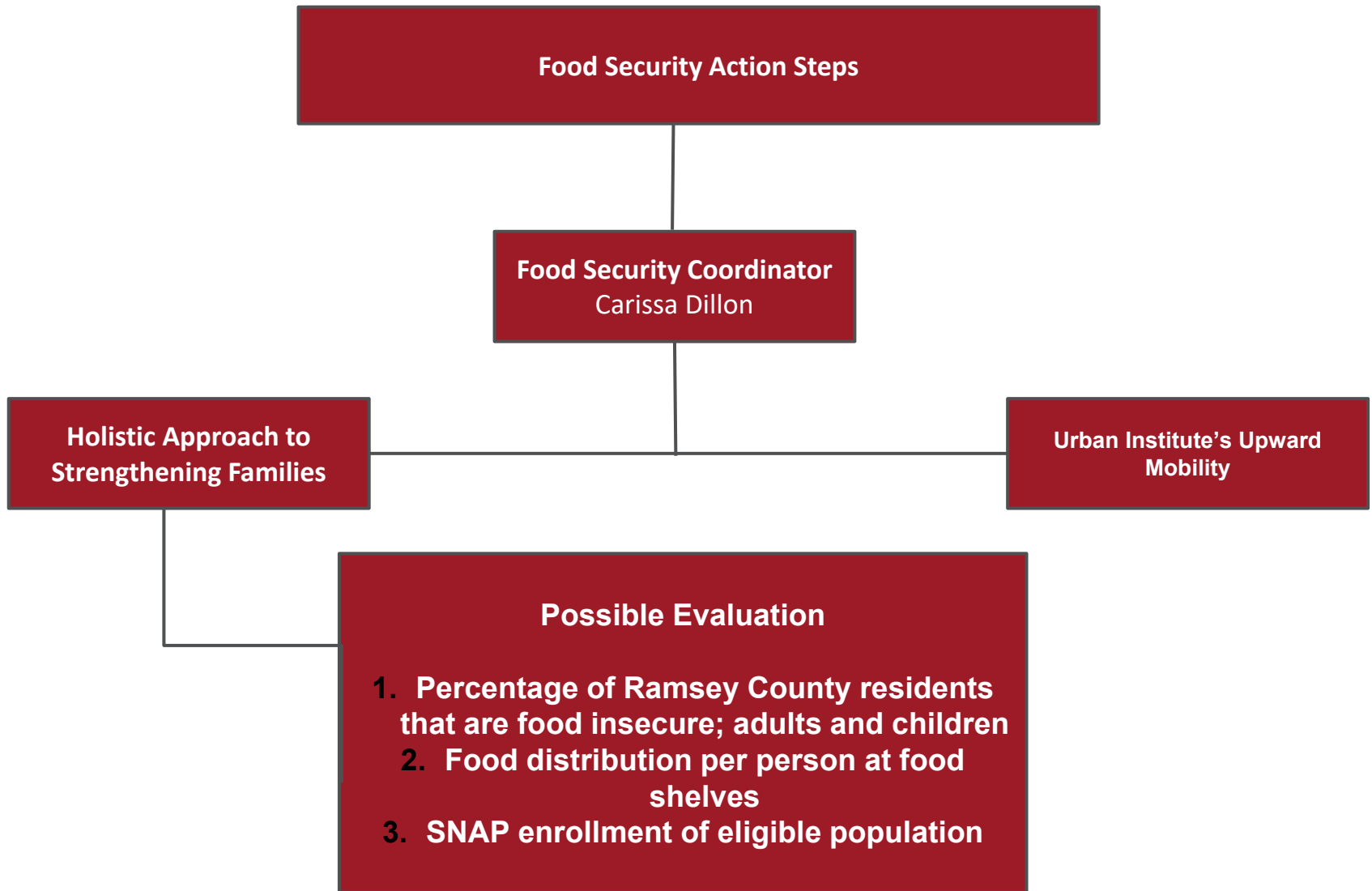
- Promote hunger and food-related support in legislative priorities

Encourage state agencies to work collaboratively

- Reduce barriers for benefit co-enrollment and data sharing
- State departments to cross collaborate for universal benefits
- Increase benefit worker pay
- Farm bill 2023
- Increase WIC age guidelines
- Universal free school meals



- Make existing urban agriculture land more accessible
- Include green space for urban agriculture in urban planning (zoning and development)
- Link food-related initiatives to resiliency and other county strategic priorities



## Next Steps and Alignment

- Continue to build action teams based on current work in community
  - Outcomes for each action team priority and action
  - Community-driven and identified
- Build alignment in communications and resources
- Have outcome measures for strategic planning
- Applying for grants and other funding support



# Questions

# Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health Budget

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Community Health Services Advisory Committee

January 4, 2023

## Agenda

- Strategic Directions
  - CHIP Priorities
  - Review of Programs/Services/Activities by Priority
  - Prioritization Activity
  - Discussion
  - Next Steps
-

## **2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan Strategic Directions**

1. Take Action to Advance Racial and Health Equity
  2. Partner to Champion Prevention Across the Lifespan
  3. Align and Leverage Resources to Support Priorities
  4. Create Responsive and Intentional Change
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## **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Priorities**

- Racial and Health Equity
  - Healthy Eating, Active Living, and Tobacco-Free Living (SHIP)
  - Access to Health Care Services
  - Mental Health and Well-being
  - Violence Prevention
  - Climate Change
  - Homelessness
  - Opioid Prevention and Response
-

## Prioritization Activity

- Designate three votes on those priority areas you believe to have the greatest disparities through a racial and health equity lens.
  - Designate three votes on those priorities that you identify to be the highest priorities to address.
  - Discussion to share input on up to three priorities to indicate:
    - What would you like Public Health to focus on to have the greatest **impacts** to improve health?
    - What **opportunities** do you see for Public Health?
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## Programs/Services/Activities by CHIP Priority

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## **CHIP Priority #1: Racial and Health Equity**

- Department leadership and coordination by the Racial and Health Equity Liaison (RHEL)
  - Department wide partnership and focused strategies supported by the Racial and Health Equity Leadership Team (RHELT)
  - Community engagement as a priority
    - Trusted Messenger Expansion
    - Community Innovation for Racial Equity Grants
    - Birth Equity Community Council
    - Club Mom/Club Dad
-



## **CHIP Priority #2:**

### **Healthy Eating, Active Living, and Tobacco-Free Living (SHIP)**

- Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) Grant
    - Commercial Tobacco and Smoking Ordinance (August 2022)
    - Ramsey County Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Task Force
    - Community Leadership Team (CLT)
  - Adult Health Assessment and Report
  - WIC - Peer Breastfeeding Support, CTC and Family Health referrals
  - *HWST – Food Security*
-

## **CHIP Priority #3: Access to Health Care Services**

- Immunization Clinic – Measles and Monkeypox
  - COVID Vaccine Clinics
  - Tuberculosis Control and Management
  - Correctional Health
  - Sexual Health Services
  - Home Visiting
  - Medication Assisted Treatment
  - Living At Home/Block Nurse Program
  - Funding for Community Clinics
-

## **CHIP Priority #4: Mental Health and Well-being**

- Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator
  - Mental Health & Wellness Action Team
  - Annual Cultural Health Summit
  - Cultural Healing Practitioners/Services
  - *Social Services – Mental Health Crisis*
  - *Appropriate Responses (New!)*
-

## **CHIP Priority #5: Violence Prevention**

- Violence Prevention Coordinator
  - Making Authentic Connections
  - Sexual Violence Services (SOS)
  - Domestic Violence Program Contracts
  - *Healing Streets*
  - *Appropriate Responses (New!)*
-

## CHIP Priority #6: Climate Change

- Hired a planning specialist dedicated to creating and implementing public health and county-wide health and climate change planning.
  - Building off the work of the Energy Governance Team, the Strategic Energy Plan, and Ramsey County's [2040 Comprehensive Plan](#)
  - Ramsey County expands its work to develop a comprehensive approach that combats climate change.
  - Responding to Climate Change & Increasing Community Resilience strategic priority (New!)
    - Partnering with community
    - Planning for public policy work
-

## CHIP Priority #7: Homelessness

- HouseCalls Program
  - COVID-19 Respite Care
  - *Department of Housing Stability*
    - *Housing services and support*
    - *Heading Home Ramsey*
-

## **CHIP Priority #8: Opioid Prevention and Response**

### Expanding services

- OERAC Grant Activities – staff capacity and community resources/services
- MAT Grant Activities
- Syringe Services Program

### Hired 1<sup>st</sup> Opioid Prevention Coordinator

- Building internal and external partnerships
- Develop and implement strategy for the county

### Opioid Settlements

- Public Health as Chief Strategist
-

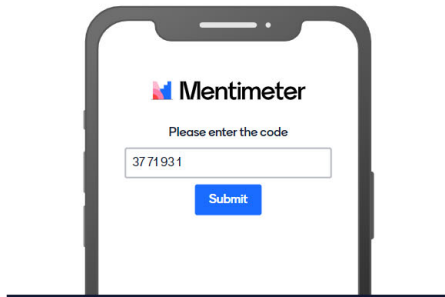
## Instructions for Prioritization Activity

- Take 3 minutes and think about, and make notes to yourself, on the following:
  - Three votes on those priority areas you believe to have the **greatest disparities** through a racial and health equity lens.
  - Three votes on those priorities that you identify to be **the highest priorities** to address.
  - Discussion to share input on up to three priorities to indicate:
    - What would you like Public Health to focus on to have the greatest **impacts** to improve health?
    - What **opportunities** do you see for Public Health?
-

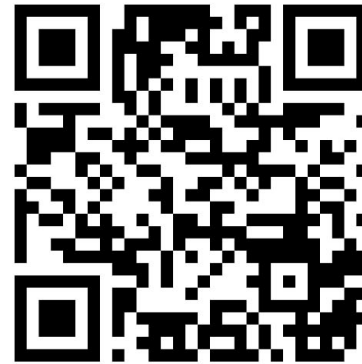


## Prioritization Activity

Go to  
**www.menti.com**



Enter the code  
**37 71 93 1**

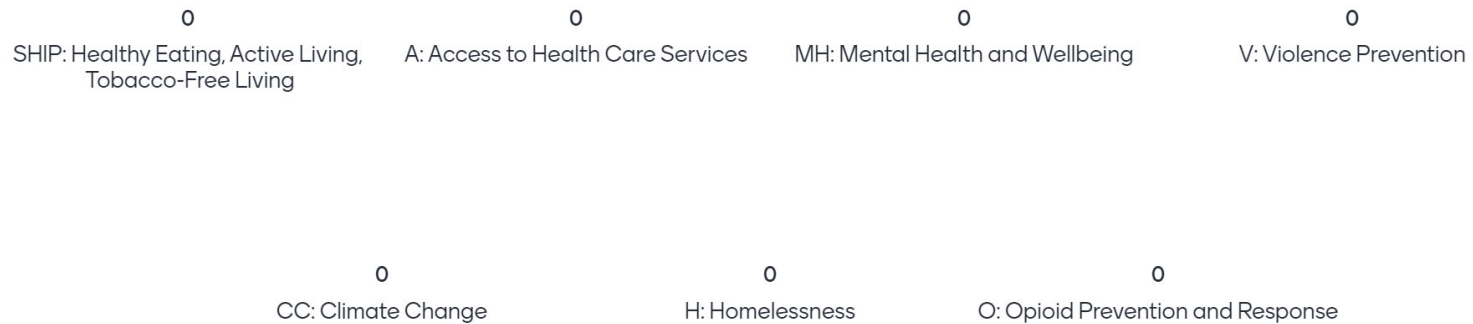


Or use QR code

×

Go to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and use the code 37 71 93 1

# Thinking through a Racial and Health Equity lens, which areas experience the greatest disparities (up to 3)?



Go to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and use the code 37 71 93 1

## Thinking about these priorities overall, which are your top three areas to address (up to 3)?



0  
EQ: Racial and Health Equity

0  
SHIP: Healthy Eating, Active Living,  
Tobacco-Free Living

0  
A: Access to Health Care Services

0  
MH: Mental Health and Wellbeing

0  
V: Violence Prevention

0  
CC: Climate Change

0  
H: Homelessness

0  
O: Opioid Prevention and Response



## **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Priorities**

EQ - Racial and Health Equity

SHIP - Healthy Eating, Active Living, and Tobacco-Free Living (SHIP)

A - Access to Health Care Services

MH - Mental Health and Well-being

V - Violence Prevention

CC - Climate Change

H -Homelessness

O - Opioid Prevention and Response

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## **Prioritization Insights – (virtual) “post-it” notes**

Discussion Prompt 1 of 2. Transcribe notes to yourself as “post-it” notes into the chat box here on zoom. Chat “Everyone.” Indicate the priority letter (EQ, CHIP, MH, etc.) with your comment.

Digging into public health efforts within each priority,

**What would you like Public Health to focus on to have the  
greatest impacts to improve health?**

---

## **Prioritization Insights – (virtual) “post-it” notes**

Discussion Prompt 2 of 2. Transcribe notes to yourself as “post-it” notes into the chat box here on zoom. Chat “Everyone.” Indicate the priority letter (EQ, CHIP, MH, etc.) with your comment.

Digging into public health efforts within each priority,

**What opportunities do you see for Public Health?**

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## Closing Discussion

- Based on votes, what do you see as areas of concern regarding disparities through a racial or health equity lens?
  - Based on votes, what do you see as high priority area?
  - Review of suggestions on notes.
-

## Estimated Timeline for Next Steps

**December:** Review personnel allocation; 2022 budget review with managers; discussion with CHSAC; discussion with PH supervisors and managers; review priorities

**January:** Town Hall Community Conversation with Public Health partners; CHSAC discussion; internal engagement with PH staff; Division meetings to share budget info; begin to develop 2024-25 revenue estimates

**February:** HWST Community Conversation anticipated; CHSAC discussion of funding by priority; ongoing PH internal and external engagement; aligning and leveraging resources to meet priorities; receive budget instructions and levy target

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**March:** Continued engagement as budgets are developed; CHSAC discussion; approaching finalized budget; internal HWST discussions and negotiations

**April:** Anticipated budget submission; anticipated HWST budget review with County Manager

**June/July:** Anticipated County Manager's Proposed Budget Presented to County Board

**September:** Anticipated HWST presentation to County Board

**December:** Final budget approved by Board of Commissioners

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## Budget Document Resources

### 2022 – 2023 Approved Biennial Budget

- <https://www.ramseycounty.us/sites/default/files/Budget%20and%20Finance/Ramsey%20County%20Biennial%20Budget%20Book%20-%202022-2023%20Approved%20Final-I.pdf>
  - Printed page 541, online page 546
  - 2023 Performance Measures and Supplemental Budget
  - <https://www.ramseycounty.us/sites/default/files/Budget%20and%20Finance/2023%20Supplemental%20Budget%20Book%20-%20INTERNET%20FINAL-2.pdf>
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